

LAT 0181-01: LATIN EPIGRAPHY

Syllabus

Class Meetings - EATN 123
Monday 4:30-5:45 pm
Wednesday 4:30-5:45 pm

Course Instructor

Monica Berti
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Office Hours

Tuesday 12:00-3:00 pm; or by appointment
Eaton 326

Textbook

LAWRENCE KEPPIE, *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*, The Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore 1991)
ISBN 0801843529

Other Readings and Texts

JOHN BODEL, *Epigraphic Evidence. Ancient History from Inscriptions*, Routledge (London and New York 2001)

ISBN 0415116244 (copies of readings from this book will be given to the students during classes)

ALISON E. COOLEY, *The Cambridge Manual of Latin Epigraphy*, Cambridge University Press (Cambridge 2012)

ISBN 052154954X (copies of readings from this book will be given to the students during classes)

* Other readings and texts listed in the syllabus will be given to the students during classes and posted on the course Trunk site (<https://trunk.tufts.edu>).

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the challenges of reading Latin texts preserved as inscriptions upon stone and will introduce Roman inscriptions as a critical source for aspects of Roman history and society that do not otherwise survive. It is an advanced Latin course whose goal is to practice and develop skills to read significant examples of Latin epigraphs, and to use modern techniques for encoding inscriptions and building digital corpora:

- Latin epigraphy and its contribution to linguistic and cultural knowledge. This part of the course will focus on characteristics and purposes of this discipline, addressing topics such as:
 - Development of Latin epigraphy in modern times; formation of epigraphic collections; the work of the epigraphists who discover and decipher inscriptions.
 - Alphabet, writing and texts of Latin epigraphs; classification of stones according to their content and language (sacred and sepulchral inscriptions, public and private inscriptions, juridical epigraphy, calendars, etc.).
 - The relationship between Latin epigraphy and other disciplines, such as history, philology, archaeology, and numismatics; difference between epigraphical and literary sources; contribution of Latin epigraphy to our knowledge of Roman language, history, society, religion, and law.
- Ancient Latium as a source book for reading and transcribing inscriptions. More than 5,000 epigraphs come from the so called Latium Vetus, by which the Romans meant the oldest part of Latium. During the course will be translated and commented a selection of inscriptions from this important collection, which is fundamental to know one of the most important regions of the ancient world, located in modern Italy around Colli Albani and Campagna Romana.

- Epigraphic documents and the World Wide Web. The course is meant also to teach modern tools for transcribing and preserving inscriptions in a digital environment. Particular attention will be given to EpiDoc, an international project for encoding inscriptions in XML.

Course Requirements and Expectations

- Preparation for attendance and participation in seminar discussions.
- Assigned Readings: to be read before class.
- Assigned Texts: to be read and translated in class with the instructor.
- Written assignments: weekly journaling exercises of roughly two pages double-spaced that engage with one of the Readings and/or Texts read in class during the week. A printed copy of the journal is due on Monday before class.
- One powerpoint presentation of 20 minutes. The aim of the powerpoint presentation is to analyze the text of one inscription with translation into English and brief commentary, and to discuss it in class with the instructor and the other students.

N.B. Written assignments that are submitted late will be penalized one-half letter grade per day late.

Examinations

- Midterm Examination (Monday, March 11)
- Final Examination (Monday, April 29)

Topics and Reading Assignments

WEEK ONE

1. Why Latin Epigraphy? Introduction to the Course

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

Readings: L. KEPPIE, *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*, The Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore 1991), pp. 9-11 (Introduction); A.E. COOLEY, *The Cambridge Manual of Latin Epigraphy*, Cambridge University Press (Cambridge 2012), pp. 117-127 (Defining epigraphy)

Text: The “altar of the scribes” (Rome, Terme di Diocleziano)

WEEK TWO

2. History of Latin Epigraphy

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23

Reading: J. BODEL, *Epigraphic Evidence. Ancient History from Inscriptions*, Routledge (London and New York 2001), pp. 1-19 (Epigraphy and the ancient historian. Definition and scope. The Roman epigraphic habit. Greek epigraphic cultures. Inscriptions, orality, and literacy)

Text: *CIL* 12.1 (the *Lapis Niger* in the Roman Forum)

WEEK THREE

3. Recording and Publication

MONDAY, JANUARY 28

Readings: L. KEPPIE, *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*, The Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore 1991), pp. 36-41 (Recording and publication. The corpus of Latin inscriptions. Handbooks. Modern selections. New material. Publication. Squeezes and replicas. Methods of display. The words and the stones); J. BODEL, *Epigraphic Evidence. Ancient History from Inscriptions*, Routledge (London and New York 2001), pp. 153-174 (Appendix. A brief guide to some standard collections); A.E. COOLEY, *The Cambridge Manual of Latin Epigraphy*, Cambridge University Press (Cambridge 2012), pp. 327-350 (A technical guide to Latin epigraphy. Finding published inscriptions. Guide to *CIL* and other corpora)

Text: *CIL* 6.3747 (honorary inscription for an emperor)

4. What is a Latin inscription?

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

Reading: L. KEPPIE, *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*, The Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore 1991), pp. 12-16 (The stonemason and his craft)

Text: *CIL* 10.7296 = *IG* 14.297 (a bilingual shop-sign from Palermo)

WEEK FOUR

5. Writing an Inscription

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Readings: L. KEPPIE, *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*, The Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore 1991), pp. 17-24 (Reading Roman inscriptions. The alphabet. Abbreviations. Roman names. Women and slaves. Ligatures, word-division and accents. Numerals. Fragmentary inscriptions. Erasure of letters in antiquity. The main categories of inscriptions); A.E. COOLEY, *The Cambridge Manual of Latin Epigraphy*, Cambridge University Press (Cambridge 2012), pp. 357-360 (Abbreviations)

Texts: *CIL* 12.2833 (dedication to Castor and Pollux); *AE* 1985, 70 (funerary inscription for Claudia Florentia Secundina).

6. The Epigraphist at Work

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Readings: L. KEPPIE, *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*, The Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore 1991), pp. 25-29 (Dating Roman inscriptions. Difficulties in dating. Letters of the alphabet); A.E. COOLEY, *The Cambridge Manual of Latin Epigraphy*, Cambridge University Press (Cambridge 2012), pp. 350-357 (Editorial conventions. 'History from square brackets')

Text: *CIL* 11.4170 (a local dating system at Interamna Nahars, Terni - Umbria)

WEEK FIVE

7. Roman Names

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Reading: O. SOLOMIES, 'Names and Identities. Onomastics and Prosopography', in J. BODEL, *Epigraphic Evidence. Ancient History from Inscriptions*, Routledge (London and New York 2001), pp. 73-87 (Prosopography. Onomastics. Names. Greek names. Roman names)

Text: *CIL* 6.1274 (the tomb of Caecilia Metella)

8. *Cursus honorum*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Reading: L. KEPPIE, *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*, The Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore 1991), pp. 70-79 (Administration of an empire. The hierarchy of command. Aulus Platorius Nepos. Celsus and his Library. An equestrian officer. Pontius Pilate. Julius Classicianus. Sutorius Macer. Helvius Pertinax)

Texts: *CIL* 12. 6-7; 6.1284-1285 (Scipionic sarcophagus with epitaph)

WEEK SIX

9. Reading Latin Inscriptions

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Reading: A.E. COOLEY, *The Cambridge Manual of Latin Epigraphy*, Cambridge University Press (Cambridge 2012), pp. 307-309 (Reading and viewing inscriptions)

Texts: *CIL* 10.6087 (the mausoleum of Lucius Munatius Plancus); *CIL* 14.292 (the sarcophagus of Marcus Annius Proculus); *CIL* 6.9732 (tombstone for Psamate); *CIL* 6.9980 (tombstone for Italia)

10. Sacred Inscriptions

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Reading: L. KEPPIE, *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*, The Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore 1991), pp. 91-97 (Temples and altars to the gods. The Roman temple. Altars. Prayers and vows. Religion and the army. Worshipping the emperor. The mystery religions)

Texts: *CIL* 11.139 (the tombstone of Publius Longidienus in Ravenna); Livy 6.29.9 (the dedication of Titus Quinctius Cincinnatus to Juppiter); Pliny, *Natural History* 7.97 (the dedication of Pompey the Great to Minerva)

WEEK SEVEN

11. Sepulchral Inscriptions

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Reading: L. KEPPIE, *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*, The Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore 1991), pp. 98-109 (Gravestones and tomb monuments. Cities of the dead. The Vatican Necropolis. The tombs of the rich. Burial of the poor. Sarcophagi. Epitaphs. Preparing for death. Deaths by misadventure. Lying in peace)

Texts: *CIL* 6.1958 (tomb of Eurysaces the baker); *CIL* 6.1374 (Pyramid of Caius Cestius); *CIL* 12.834 (monument of Caius Poplicius Bibulus)

12. Honorary Inscriptions

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Reading: L. KEPPIE, *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*, The Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore 1991), pp. 42-51 (The emperor. The titles of the emperor. The terminology of victory and power. The Arch of Titus. The Arch of Claudius. The ninth legion at York. The Arch of Severus)

Texts: *CIL* 12.721 (dedication to Sulla by the Vicus Laci Fundani); *CIL* 6.960 (column of Trajan inscription)

WEEK EIGHT

13. Honorary Inscriptions

MONDAY, MARCH 4

Texts: *CIL* 11.365 (the Arch of Augustus in Rimini); *CIL* 5.7231 (the Arch of Augustus in Susa); Pliny, *Natural History* 3.136 (the Victory Monument of the Alps); *CIL* 9.5894 (the Arch of Trajan in Ancona)

14. Public Inscriptions

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

Readings: L. KEPPIE, *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*, The Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore 1991), pp. 60-69 (The roads that led to Rome. Repairs to the road system. The risks of travel. Milestones. The spread of the road system); A.E. COOLEY, *The Cambridge Manual of Latin Epigraphy*, Cambridge University Press (Cambridge 2012), pp. 220-228 (Epigraphy in society. Monuments, not documents)

Texts: *CIL* 12.751; 6.1305 (the Fabricius bridge in Rome); *CIL* 6.945 (the Arch of Titus in Rome)

WEEK NINE

15. MIDTERM EXAMINATION - MONDAY, MARCH 11

16. *Instrumentum domesticum*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

Readings: L. KEPPIE, *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*, The Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore 1991), pp. 116-118 (*Populusque romanus*); G. PUCCI, 'Inscribed Instrumentum and the Ancient Economy', in J. BODEL, *Epigraphic Evidence. Ancient History from Inscriptions*, Routledge (London and New York 2001), pp. 137-152 (From production to distribution. Distribution. Vase signatures. Stamps. Amphorae. Barrels and glassware. Bricks and tiles. Kilns, claypits, and the organization of production)

Texts: *CIL* 12.3 (Fibula Praenestina); *CIL* 6.2146 (toll exemption for a vestal); *CIL* 6.36964 (toll exemption for Galla Placidia); *CIL* 9.6086.4 and 9.6086.6.42 (*glandes plumbeae*); *CIL* 11.6721.16 (*glans plumbea*); *CIL* 11.6721.17b (*glans plumbea*); *CIL* 15.262.3 (brick stamp); *CIL* 15.263 (brick stamp); *CIL* 15.269 (brick stamp); *CIL* 15.7241 (lead water-pipe); *CIL* 15.7497 (lead water-pipe); *CIL* 15.7567 (lead water-pipe)

WEEK TEN

17. Christian Inscriptions

MONDAY, MARCH 25

Readings: L. KEPPIE, *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*, The Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore 1991), pp. 119-124 (Christianity. Catacombs and cemeteries. Christian formulae); A.E. COOLEY, *The Cambridge Manual of Latin Epigraphy*, Cambridge University Press (Cambridge 2012), pp. 228-250 (The emergence of Christian epigraphy?)

Texts: *ILCV* 2.2921 (epitaph of a Christian child); *ILCV* 2.3058A (epitaph of three Christians); *ILCV* 2.2650 (epitaph of a Christian boy); *ILCV* 2.1469 (epitaph of Maxima)

18. The Inscriptions of Latium Vetus

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

Readings: H.H. SCULLARD, *A History of the Roman World 753 to 146 BC*, Routledge (London and New York 2003⁵), pp. 36-41 (Early Latium); C.J. SMITH, *Early Rome and Latium. Economy and Society c. 1000 to 500 BC*, Clarendon Press (Oxford 1996), pp. 239-255 (Appendix 2. Latin sites)

Texts: Pliny, *Natural History* 3.56-59 (Old Latium and extension of Latium); 3.68-69 (towns and Alban peoples of Latium)

WEEK ELEVEN

19. The Inscriptions of Latium Vetus and EDR

MONDAY, APRIL 1

Reading: F. FERAUDI-GRUÉNAIS, 'An Inventory of the Main Electronic Archives of Latin Inscriptions', in F. FERAUDI-GRUÉNAIS (ed.), *Latin on Stone. Epigraphic Research and Electronic Archives*, Lexington Books (Lanham 2010), pp. 157-160

Texts: *CIL* 14.2898 (Praeneste, altar to the *Pax Augusta*); *CIL* 14.2899 (Praeneste, altar to the *Securitas Augusta*)

20. The Inscriptions of Latium Vetus

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

Texts: *CIL* 14.2147; *EE* 9.632; *AE* 1955, 188 (funerary inscriptions from Lanuvium)

WEEK TWELVE

21. The inscriptions of Latium Vetus

MONDAY, APRIL 8

Texts: Granino 1994 (Praeneste, funerary inscription for the *catella* Aeolis); Granino 1995 (Tibur, funerary inscription for the *navarchus* C. Iulius Hilarus)

22. The inscriptions of Latium Vetus

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

Texts: Crea 2006 (funerary inscriptions from the *Albanum Domitiani*); Granino 2000 (dedications to Diana Nemorensis)

WEEK THIRTEEN

23. EpiDoc: Epigraphic Documents in TEI XML

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

Readings: H. CAYLESS - C. ROUECHÉ - T. ELLIOTT - G. BODARD, *Epigraphy in 2017*, in «Digital Humanities Quarterly», (3.1) 2009; G. BODARD, 'EpiDoc: Epigraphic Documents in XML for Publication and Interchange', in F. FERAUDI-GRUÉNAIS (ed.), *Latin on Stone. Epigraphic Research and Electronic Archives*, Lexington Books (Lanham 2010), pp. 101-118

Texts: Inscriptions of the Republic Tombs in *Via Statilia*, Rome

WEEK FOURTEEN

24. EpiDoc: Epigraphic Documents in TEI XML

MONDAY, APRIL 22

Reading: A.E. COOLEY, *The Cambridge Manual of Latin Epigraphy*, Cambridge University Press (Cambridge 2012), pp. 250-253 (The geography of epigraphy: a case-study of Tripolitania)

Texts: Inscriptions of Aphrodisias Project (InsAph); Inscriptions of Roman Cyrenaica (IRCyr); The Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania (IRT)

25. Conclusions

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

Reading: L. KEPPIE, *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*, The Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore 1991), pp. 30-35 (The survival of Roman inscriptions) and 125-134 (The later Roman empire. Conclusions: the value of Roman inscriptions)

WEEK FIFTEEN

26. FINAL EXAMINATION - MONDAY, APRIL 29