

## CLAS 352: Cicero

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Office hour: MWF 10-11 and by appt.

Spring 2009  
MWF 1:45-2:35 (late start: 2:30)  
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### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

Writing at the end of the first century CE, Quintilian says that 'Cicero is held no longer the name of a man, but of eloquence' (...*ut Cicero iam non hominis nomen, sed eloquentiae habeatur*, 10.1.112). This pinnacle of eloquence was also a statesman who experienced success and failure, a glory-hound, a philosopher, an avid correspondent, a husband, father, brother, and a poet (of sorts). He began life about 70 miles southeast of Rome in Arpinum, a Volscian hill town; after his death at the instigation of Mark Antony, his head and hands were nailed to the rostra in the Forum. Cicero is too large a figure to cover in a single semester, but we will read two complete orations as our introduction to a prose style that came to represent eloquence itself to those who came after. The primary goals of this course are 1) to master the Latin vocabulary and grammar of Cicero's *First Catilinarian* and *Pro Caelio*, as well as the details, personalities, and circumstances of the speeches; 2) to learn the conventional rhetorical tropes and Cicero's use of them; 3) to learn the settings, audiences, and circumstances of Cicero's forensic and deliberative speeches; and 4) to acquire a working knowledge of the years 65-55 BCE and their place in end of the Roman Republic.

### TEXTS

#### Required:

§*Cicero, In Catilinam I&II* ed. Gould and Whiteley ISBN: 0-86292-014-0

§*Cicero, Pro Caelio*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition ed. R. G. Austin (Oxford) ISBN: 0-19-814062-2

§*Cicero, Selected Political Speeches*, trans. M. Grant (Penguin) ISBN: 0-14-044214-6

#### Optional

§*Oxford Latin Desk Dictionary*, ed. J. Morwood (Oxford, 2005) or *Cassell's*

#### Websites

§Latin texts are available online at:

[www.thelatinlibrary.com](http://www.thelatinlibrary.com)

#### **Requirements of the course:**

1. **Preparation:** Cicero is not a particularly difficult author, but every author is challenging at first and needs time to become familiar. At the beginning you should make a commitment to complete the assignments and to think about what you have read. I have set challenging but reachable limits for each class; you will translate a page or more per class, and I will also translate with you. The reading will take about 1-2 hours a day every day; but there can be no set limit on the time you spend digesting and contemplating and appropriating the material. The more it becomes a part of you, the more successful the class will be.

2. **Attendance:** Attendance is absolutely necessary for a successful class; absences should not occur except in extraordinary circumstances, that is, in true emergencies. Three absences will not be penalized, but after that, the following penalties accrue: for your fourth absence, your course grade will fall by 2 points; for your fifth, your course grade will fall by 4 points; and for your sixth, by 7 points; for your seventh, by 10 points; for your eighth, you will fail the course. Documented legal or medical emergencies *may* be an exception. **If it snows:** Either classes will be cancelled or operate on a delayed snow schedule (you can find this out by calling the Snow Line (828) 259-3050) or they will operate on a normal schedule. If you cannot attend, try to notify me *prior* to missing class. Weather may or may not be a legitimate excuse; however, if you live remotely and you do not feel safe to drive, do not drive. I'll work with you. Tardiness is frowned upon, and if excessive or chronic (i.e. more than 30 minutes late, or late repeatedly) will affect your participation grade and may be counted as an absence.

3. **Preparation/Participation:** This class is a both a translation and a discussion class, and it is vital that we share our work as well as our ideas and talents with each other. Never be afraid to ask a question, offer a comment, take a stand on an issue, or disagree with the professor or anyone else. It is through free and lively exchange that we refine our skills and our views. Several guidelines can help govern this exchange: enter this class intending to learn a great deal; bring an open and critical mind; a sense of humor; an interest in people of other times and places; a willingness to offer your own ideas and to comment respectfully on the ideas of others. You will be assigned a grade on your preparation and participation, which necessarily involves your attendance. Your preparation will be demonstrated by your translation in class; translators will be chosen by "fate" or will volunteer. If you would like to see how I apply a grade to participation, I will provide you with a grading scale on request.

4. **Translation:** Because there are more of you than can offer translations in class each week, each of you is required to submit a **typed** translation of one "chapter" every Friday. The chapter should be the first one of the assignment for that Friday (e.g. *In Catilinam* I.6 for Friday, 1/23). I will grade this assignment more on the apparent effort of the process (hence translations copied from others are discouraged) than on the refinement of the product. The ulterior goal is for me to help you with your translations. I do not, however, recommend that you write out *all* your translations.

5. **Journal (Recommended):** I recommend that each of you write out thoughts, ideas, responses, or, perhaps best, questions about the text read for each day. Keep this material collected in one notebook, designated specifically for that purpose. Write as much as you can; include reasons why you have your ideas or why you are interested in your questions. Your questions can be factual, if you wish, but preferably they will be interpretive (and we will talk about what that means throughout the semester).

6. **WRITING:** Writing is one of the most difficult aspects of any course. In this class, we will write one commentary and one scholarly paper. We will discuss the different types of commentary, and for the scholarly paper we will pay attention to the various stages of the process, especially to the challenge of establishing a question and to editing and polishing. The commentary is on *In Catilinam* I.27-29.

7. **Presentations:** Each of you will make one presentation once during the semester. The subject should be the focus of your scholarly paper. You should prepare to report for 10-12 minutes, clarifying your question, your evidence, and your conclusions.

8. We will have quizzes on vocabulary and factual material. There will be one take-home examination and a cumulative final. The final will include translation and discussion questions, and a general format of the final will be discussed in class prior to exam time. There will be one commentary (5-10 pages) due in the first half the semester and one scholarly paper (8-12 pages) due near the end of the semester. In addition to your written work, grades will be given for your preparation and participation.

All of you will be held to the standards of academic honesty as described in the 2008-2009 catalog, which can be found on UNC-A's website as Catalog, under the heading "Academic Regulations and Procedures" and subheading "Student Responsibilities", where academic misconduct is discussed. A breach of academic honesty will result in, at the very least, the unacceptability of the work under question; and at the very most, expulsion from the university. A breakdown of the grade distribution appears thus:

quizzes	- 5%
weekly translations	- 5%
commentary (due 2/16)	- 15%
take-home (due 3/6)	- 15%
scholarly paper (due 4/20)	- 15%
final exam (5/11)	- 15%
preparation/participation	- 30%

**Syllabus:** This syllabus is intended as a guide, not a straitjacket. You are responsible for every reading listed below, whether it is fully discussed in class or not. You are to read and prepare each passage thoroughly by the date beside which they appear; time permitting, we will then begin to read at sight the passage for the next class.

**Wk. I:** 1/14: Intro to course: syllabus, material, assignments. Intro to Cicero and the Roman legal system. Intro to *In Catilinam I*. In class, *In Catilinam I.1*

1/16: *In Catilinam I.2-3*

**Wk. II:** 1/19: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: No Class

1/21: *In Catilinam I.4-5*     **Quiz**

1/23: *In Catilinam I.6-8*

**Wk. III:** 1/26: *In Catilinam I.9-11*

1/28: *In Catilinam I.12-14*

1/30: *In Catilinam I.15-16*

**Wk. IV:** 2/2: *In Catilinam I.17-19* **Quiz**

2/4: *In Catilinam* I.20-21

2/6: *In Catilinam* I.22-24

**Wk. V:** 2/9: *In Catilinam* I.25-27

2/11: *In Catilinam* I.28-30 **Quiz**

2/13: *In Catilinam* I.31-33

**Wk. VI:** 2/16: Introduction to *Pro Caelio*. In class *Pro Caelio* 1-2. **Commentary due.** Read C. Craig, "Teaching Cicero's Speech for Caelius: What Enquiring Minds Want to Know" *Classical Journal* 90 (1995) 407-422. Available online through JSTOR.

2/18: *Pro Caelio* 3-5 **Quiz Take-home exam given out in class.**

2/20: *Pro Caelio* 6-8

**Wk. VII:** 2/23: *Pro Caelio* 9-10

2/25: *Pro Caelio* 11-13

2/27: *Pro Caelio* 14-15

**Wk. VIII:** 3/2: *Pro Caelio* 16-18

3/4: *Pro Caelio* 19-22

3/6: *Pro Caelio* 23-24. **Take-home exam due.**

**Wk. IX:** 3/9-13: **Feriae Vernae!** [consider a paper topic.]

**Wk. X:** 3/16: *Pro Caelio* 25-28 **Quiz**

3/18: *Pro Caelio* 29-31

3/20: *Pro Caelio* 32-34

**Wk. XI:** 3/23: *Pro Caelio* 35-36 (Have A. Leen, "Clodia Oppugnatrix: The Domus Motif in Cicero's *Pro Caelio*" *Classical Journal* 96 (2000-2001) 141-162 read by this class; available in JSTOR: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3298121>)

3/25: *Pro Caelio* 37-38 **Quiz**

3/27: Undergraduate Research Symposium Day: No Classes

**Wk. XII:** 3/30: *Pro Caelio* 39-41

4/1: *Pro Caelio* 42-43

4/3: *Pro Caelio* 44-46 (Have M. Leigh, "The *Pro Caelio* and Comedy" *Classical Philology* 99 (2004) 300-335 read by this class; available in Classics Suite.)

**Wk. XIII:** 4/6: *Pro Caelio* 47-49 **Quiz**

4/8: *Pro Caelio* 50-52

4/10: *Pro Caelio* 53-54

**Wk. XIV:** 4/13: *Pro Caelio* 55-56

4/15: *Pro Caelio* 57-58

4/17: *Pro Caelio* 59-61 **Quiz**

**Wk. XV:** 4/20: *Pro Caelio* 62-63 **Scholarly Paper Due.**

4/22: *Pro Caelio* 64-66

4/24: *Pro Caelio* 67-69

**Wk. XVI:** 4/27: *Pro Caelio* 70-73

4/29: *Pro Caelio* 74-77

5/1: *Pro Caelio* 78-80.

**Wk. XVI:** 5/4: Last day of class; final remarks; preview of final.

**Final exam:** Monday, May 11, 2009, 11:30-2:00pm