CLSL 101

Summer 2016

Prof. McNelis

cam72@georgetown.edu

Outline

This is an intensive Latin course that assumes the background of CLSL 001 and CLSL 002 (i.e. students will have worked the entirety of Moreland and Fleischer’s elementary textbook and then read some Caesar and Catullus). We will read, in Latin, the first and third Catilinarian speeches, delivered by Cicero, as consul, against Catiline for plotting against the Roman government. We will then turn towards Vergil’s *Aeneid* 11, a book that also contains forensic speeches and features great characters such as Camilla, as well as Aeneas himself as the battle to found the city of Rome comes to an end.

The intense focus is designed to increase students’ fluency with Latin. We will not merely translate the texts, but discuss and understand nuances of style and diction, and by the end of the course successful students will confidently read Latin texts with aplomb and sophistication.

The material covered in this class is equivalent to the full semester version of CLSL 101, and as such satisfies the College language requirement.

Books

All readings will be done via pdf files that will be posted on Blackboard.

Grading

Class participation 30%

Quizzes 30%

Midterm Exam 20%

Final Exam 20%

Class participation

Your baseline grade for showing up consistently is a 75, or a C. Based upon your performance in class, that grade will go up or down: slow and shoddy translation will result in a deduction, whereas swift and accurate performance will raise your grade substantially. Confusion about specific points of detail will not be penalized, nor will the occasional slip, nor forgetting the meaning of a word or two. But performance that indicates that you have not prepared carefully will result in losing your chance for that day and a failure for performance.

Each class you miss will also lead to a deduction from your overall grade; speak to me in advance if you know that you will miss a class.

In addition to translating, you must participate in discussions and show that you have thought about what you have read. The study of Latin is not simply about translating: it involves understanding the ideas and attitudes of ancient cultures through the languages. I do not expect that people will be experienced in this regard at the start of the class, but as we progress, students should improve substantially in their ability to talk about the material.

Quizzes

There will be random, unannounced quizzes that test students on passages of Latin as well as stylistic analysis of points that have been discussed in class.

Exams

The first exam will be on June 3rd. It will consist of translating and analyzing passages. The final exam will be a take home distributed on the afternoon of June 9th and due the following afternoon. It will require students to explain the grammar and diction of passages related to what we have been reading.