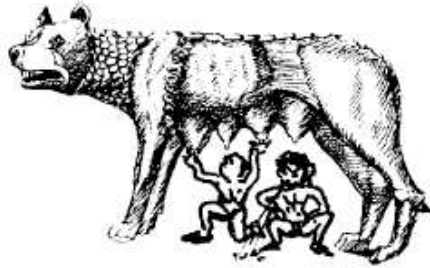


23rd Sydney Latin Summer School, 2017



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Level 3A iii

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Sydney Latin Summer School 2017

Selections from Suetonius, *Lives of the Caesars*

Welcome to the Sydney Latin Summer School 2017. For this class I have selected five memorable sections from across Suetonius' twelve Caesars that show some of the eccentricities but also the humanity of the emperors: a description of the way Augustus wrote and spoke, the omens of Tiberius' future greatness, Caligula riding across the Bay of Baiae to prove a point, Vitellius' enormous feasts, and the famous scene of the assassination of Julius Caesar. Some of these scenes are obviously exaggerated, revealing more about the Romans' attitudes to such things as astrology, luxury, and the role of the emperor than they perhaps do about the emperors themselves and historical 'truth.' Gaius Suetonius Tranquillus (ca. 69 CE – 130?) was a writer on many subjects, but most of his works are lost except for the *Lives of the Caesars*. He was in a unique position to write on this topic, as he worked in the palace and had access to the imperial archives in the early second century CE. Suetonius' work is more often 'used' than read- historians find him difficult to use, and the Latin is not the elegant Latin of Livy and Tacitus. Sometimes it is criticised for being so condensed as to be illegible! I hope you will find it is worthwhile to read, for the rounded picture we get of these emperors as human beings as well as the tales of fantastic decadence and gory murders. Suetonius' work has been very influential, especially as a model for later biographers, and has been a favourite book of readers for centuries.

You will find that Suetonius' Latin is unusual, and he tends to use technical vocabulary. With this in mind I have supplied more vocabulary than usual. You will only need this supplied material and a lexicon to take part in this class. If you are interested in going further, some of these texts have notes in Josiah Osgood, *A Suetonius Reader* (but it is by no means required that you should have looked at this before the class) and individual commentaries are available for each *Life*. I recommend that you read a translation of Suetonius' *Twelve Caesars*, such as the Penguin edition, if possible.

I have allocated a different *Life* for each day. I hope you will have time to prepare at least the vocabulary before the class, and if possible get an idea of what is going on in each passage before you come. Of course I know you will not always be able to do so, and I hope we have enough time to get through each passage anyway. In addition to the usual grammar, vocabulary, and syntax, I hope to be able to discuss some of the issues that surround Suetonius' text, such as political invective, and why he includes some of the more personal details like eating and daily habits that other authors don't like to use.

Monday

Tiberius 14: The signs of his future greatness

Rediit octauo post secessum anno, magna nec incerta spe futurorum, quam et ostentis et praedictionibus ab initio aetatis conceperat.

Praegnans eo Liuia, cum an marem editura esset uariis captaret ominibus, ouum incubanti gallinae subductum nunc sua nunc ministrarum manu per uices usque fouit quoad pullus insigniter cristatus exclusus est. Ac de infante Scribonius mathematicus praeclara spondit, etiam regnaturum quandoque sed sine regio insigni, ignota scilicet tunc adhuc Caesarum potestate. Et ingresso primam expeditionem ac per Macedoniam ducente exercitum in Syriam, accidit ut apud Philippos sacratae olim uicticium legionum arae sponte subitis conlucere ignibus, et mox cum Illyricum petens iuxta Patauium adisset Geryonis oraculum, sorte tracta qua monebatur ut de consultationibus in Aponi fontem talos aureos iaceret, euenit ut summum numerum iacti ab eo ostenderent, hodieque sub aqua uisuntur hi tali. Ante paucos uero quam reuocaretur dies aquila numquam antea Rhodi conspecta in culmine domus eius assedit, et pridie quam de reditu certior fieret uestimenta mutanti tunica ardere uisa est. Thrasyllum quoque mathematicum, quem ut sapientiae professorem contubernio admouerat, tum maxime expertus est affirmantem naue prouisa gaudium afferri, cum quidem illum durius et contra praedicta cadentibus rebus ut falsum et secretorum temere conscium, eo ipso momento, dum spatiatur una, praecipitare in mare destinasset.

Tiberius 14

secessus, -ūs, (m) [secedo] retirement	Macedonia, -ae, (f) Macedonia	Culmen, -inis, n. the highest point, the roof, culmination
ostentum, -ī, (n) [ostendo] sign, prodigy, portent	Syria, -ae, (f) Syria, the area between Asia Minor and Egypt	Assidō, ēdī, ---, -ēre, to take a seat, sit
praegnans, -antis [prae + gen-] pregnant	Philippi, n. pl., the people of Phillipi	Prīdiē, adv., on the previous day, the day before
mās, maris (adj.) male	uictrix, -icis (adj). conquering; assoc. with victory	Ārdeō, -sī, -sus, -ēre (intr.) burn, be on fire
ēdō, -didī, -ditus, -ere to put forth, give birth to, produce, publish	Subitus-a-um [subeo] sudden, unexpected, surprising	Contubernium, ī, n. companionship (spec. sharing the same tent on military service)
ōmen, ominis, n. sign, omen, harbinger	Illyricum, -ī (n) Illyria, east of the Adriatic	Admoueō, -mōuī, -mōtus, -ēre to move towards, to move to, to admit (into)
gallīna, ae, (f) hen	Patauium, īī a town (now Padua) in Cisalpine Gaul	Experior, -pertus, -īri (dep.) to try, test, experiment, endure, prove
minister, tra, trum (adj.) serving, subordinate; as substantive, m., a helper	Geryon, -onis (m) a mythical beast	Sēcrētum, -ī, (n) secret
(uicis), only gen. uicis, acc. uicem, abl. uice, pl. nom. uicēs, acc. uicīs or uicēs, dat/abl. uicibus, (f) change, turn (as in to take a turn), alternately.	Sors, -tis (abl. sorte or sortī), (f) a lot	Consci-us-a-um, knowing; as substantive, a confidant, witness
Foueō, fōuī, fōtus, -ēre, to keep warm	Trahō, trāxī, tractus, -ere to draw	Spatior, -ātus, -ārī, dep. To take a walk
Insigniter, adv. extraordinarily, extremely	Aponus, -ī, (m) a warm spring near Padua	Praecipitō, -āuī, ātus, āre, to cast headlong, throw down
crīstatus-a-um, crested	Talus, ī, (m) ankle, knuckle-bone, die (often made of a bone, with four numbers marked on sides)	Destinō, āuī, ātus, āre, to determine, decide
mathematicus, -ī, (m) mathematician; astrologer	Aquila, -ae, (f) eagle	
spondeō, spondī, spōnsus, -ēre to promise sacredly, vow, give assurance	Rhodus, -ī (f) the island of Rhodes	

1 Tuesday

2 *Augustus 87: Augustus' habits of writing and speaking*

3 Cotidiano sermone quaedam frequentius et notabiliter usurpasse eum litterae ipsius
4 autographae ostentant, in quibus identidem, cum aliquos numquam soluturos significare uult,
5 "ad Kalendas Graecas soluturos" ait, et cum hortatur ferenda esse praesentia, qualiacumque
6 sint, "contenti simus hoc Catone", et ad exprimendam festinatae rei uelocitatem, "celerius
7 quam asparagi cocuntur". ponit assidue et pro stulto "baceolum" et pro pullo "pulleiaceum" et
8 pro cerrito "uacerrosum" et "uapide" se habere pro "male" et "betizare" pro "languere", quod
9 uulgo "lathanizare" dicitur; item "simus" pro "sumus" et "domos" genetiuo casu singulari pro
10 "domus", nec umquam aliter haec duo, ne quis mendam magis quam consuetudinem putet.
11 Notauit et in chirographo eius illa praecipue: non diuidit uerba nec ab extrema parte uersuum
12 abundantis litteras in alterum transfert sed ibidem statim subicit circumducitque.

13

1 *Augustus* 87

Cotidiano, adv., daily

Ūsūrpō, -āuī, -ātus, āre seize, grasp, use

Autographus-a-um written by himself

Identidem again and again, often, now and then

Soluō, -uī, -ūtus, -ere to pay debts

ad Kalendas Graecas – on the Greek Kalends (the Romans called the first day of the month, but the Greeks didn't) = never

qualiscumque of whatever kind

hic Cato – ‘this Cato’ --be happy with what you have (the alternative is worse)

exprimō, -pressī, -pressus, -ere express, copy, push out, render

uēlōcitas, -ātis, (f) speed

asparagus, ī, (m) asparagus

baceolus-a-um effeminate

pullus-a-um dark

pulleiaceus-a-um darkish

cerritus-a-um [possessed by Ceres] deranged

uacerrosus-a-um [uacerra=wooden post] block-headed

“uapide” uapide se habere, to be flat (used of wine)

male se habere to be ill

languere be weak

“betizare” (see lachanizare)

"lachanizare" to be limp like a vegetable (replacing lachan- (Greek=vegetable) with a Latin root with the same meaning, beta-)

Menda, ae (f) a fault, blemish

Notō, -āuī, ātus, -āre notice

chirographum, -ī (n) handwriting

uersus, -ūs, m, line, verse

circumducō, dūxi, -ctus, -ere to draw around

Wednesday

Caligula 19: Caligula rides a horse across the bay

1
2
3 Nouum praeterea atque inauditum genus spectaculi excogitauit. Nam Baiarum medium
4 interuallum et Puteolanae molis, trium milium et sescentorum fere passuum spatium, ponte
5 coniunxit contractis undique onerariis nauibus et ordine duplici ad ancoras conlocatis
6 superiectoque terreno ac directo in Appiae uiae formam. per hunc pontem ultro citro
7 commeauit biduo continenti, primo die phalerato equo insignisque quercea corona et caetra et
8 gladio aureaque chlamyde, postridie quadrigario habitu curriculoque biiugi famosorum
9 equorum prae se ferens Dareum puerum ex Parthorum obsidibus, comitante praetorianorum
10 agmine et in essedis cohorte amicorum. scio plerosque existimasse talem a Gaio pontem
11 excogitatum aemulatione Xerxis, qui non sine admiratione aliquanto angustio-
12 Hellespontum contabulauerit; alios ut Germaniam et Britanniam, quibus imminebat, alicuius
13 inmensi operis fama territaret. sed auum meum narrantem puer audiebam causam operis ab
14 interioribus aulicis proditam, quod Thrasyllus mathematicus anxio de successore Tiberio et in
15 uerum nepotem proniori affirmasset non magis Gaium imperaturum quam per Baianum
16 sinum equis discursurum.

Cal. 19

Spectāculum, -ī (n.)
spectacle, show

Excōgitō, -āuī, -ātus, -āre
to think out, contrive,
invent

Baiae, -ārum (f) a town
on the bay of Naples

Interuallum, -ī (n) the
space between , interval,
distance

Puteolānus-a-um from
Puteoli, a town near
Naples

Mōlēs, is (f) pier, dam,
massive structure

Sescenti-ae-a 600

Passus, -ūs (m.) pace, in
the phrase mille passuum
a thousand paces

Onerārius-a-um, [onus] of
burden, of transport, for
freight

Ancora, -ae (f) anchor

Superiaciō, -iēcī, -iectus, -
ere to throw upon

Terrēnus-a-um, (made of)
earth

Dērigō, -rēxī, -rēctus, -ere
to make straight, arrange,
draw up (into a line of
battle), drive, steer

Citro in the phrase ultro
citra (and variants) to and
fro, hither and thither

Commeō, -āuī, ātus, āre
to come and come, to pass
back and forth

Bīduum, -ī (n) a period of two days	Xerxēs, -is (m) Xerxes, a king of Persia (son of Darius)	discurrō, currī and cucurrī, cursus, ere to run around, wander, roam
Phaleratus-a-um wearing phalerae, metal breast-plates	angustus-a-um narrow, brief, difficult	
Querceus-a-um, of oak	Hellespontus, -ī (also nom. -um) the Hellespont (now called the Dardanelles)	
Caetra, ae (f) [means 'Spanish'] a small Spanish shield	contabulō, -āuī, -ātus, -āre bridge over	
Gladius, -ī (m) sword	immineō, ---, ---, -ēre seek after, strive eagerly for, be intent upon	
Chlamys, -ydis (f) a Greek cloak, mantle	territō, --, --, -āre [freq. of terreo] to put in terror, frighten, alarm, terrify	
Postrīdiē on the next day	Auus, -ī (m) grandfather	
Quadrīgārius, -ī (m) the driver of a four-horse chariot [quadrigae, f, a four-horse chariot]	Interior, -ius (gen. ōris) inner, interior, middle (in substantive the inner parts, the middle) deeper, nearer, (on a race-course) nearer the goal	
curriculum, -ī (n) (dim. of currus) a small chariot	aulicus, -ī (m) a courtier	
biiugus-a-um yoked two together (Pl. as substantive m) two horses yoked abreast	prodō, -didī, -ditus, -ere put forth, exhibit, relate, hand down, transmit, discover	
Dareus, ī (m) Darius, the name of several kings of the Persians	mathematicus, -ī (m) astrologer	
Parthī, -ōrum (m. pl) the people of Parthia	anxius-a-um anxious, troubled, solicitous OR causing anxiety, etc; careful, prudent	
obsidium, -ī (n) a siege, blockade	pronus-a-um inclined, disposed, prone, bent over, easy	
comitō, -āuī, -ātus, -āre accompany, follow	sinus, -ūs (m) bay	
essedum, ī (n) a two-wheeled war chariot		
aemulātiō, -ōnis (f) rivalry, emulation, competition, (pl.) jealousies		

Thursday

Vitellius 13 Vitellius the glutton

1
2
3 Sed uel praecipue luxuriae saeuitiaeque deditus epulas trifariam semper, interdum
4 quadrifariam dispertiebat in iantacula et prandia et cenas comisationesque, facile omnibus
5 sufficiens uomitandi consuetudine. indicebat autem aliud alii eadem die, nec cuiquam minus
6 singuli apparatus quadringenis milibus nummum constiterunt. famosissima super ceteras fuit
7 cena data ei aduenticia a fratre, in qua duo milia lectissimorum piscium, septem auium
8 apposita traduntur. hanc quoque exuperavit ipse dedicatione patinae quam ob immensam
9 magnitudinem clipeum Mineruae πολιούχου dictitabat. In hac scarorum iocinera,
10 phasianarum et pauonum cerebella, linguas phoenicopterum, murenarum lactes a Parthia
11 usque fretoque Hispanico per nauarchos ac triremes petitarum commiscuit. ut autem homo
12 non profundae modo sed intempestiuae quoque ac sordidae gulae ne in sacrificio quidem
13 umquam aut itinere ullo temperauit quin inter altaria ibidem statim uiscus et <liba> farris
14 paene rapta e foco manderet circaque uiarum popinas fumantia obsonia uel pridiana atque
15 semesa.

Vitellius 13

Praecipuē (adv) chiefly, principally,
especially

Luxuria, -ae (f) luxury, excess,
extravagance

Saeuitia, -ae (f) cruelty, savagery

dēditus-a-um [dedo] given up, surrendered,
addicted, devoted, abandoned

epulae, -ārum (f) viands, sumptuous foods,
feast, banquet

trifāriam (adv) triply, on three sides, in
three places

quadrifāriam (adv) fourfold, in four parts

dispertiō, īuī, ītus, īre [dis + partio]
distribute, divide

iantaculum, ī (n) the morning meal

prandium, ī (n) the midday meal

comisātiō, -ōnis (f) revelry, a Bacchanalian
feast

uomitō, -āuī, -ātus, -āre vomit frequently
or continually (uomo + ito)

apparatus, ūs (m) preparation, providing

quadringēnī-ae-a 400

cōnstō, -stifī, statūras, -āre cost

aduentīcius-a-um foreign, strange	intempestiuus-a-um untimely, unseasonable
lēctus-a-um choice, excellent [lego]	gula, -ae (f) gullet
piscis, -is (m) fish	iter, itineris (n) journey
avis, -is (f) bird	temperō, -āuī, -ātus, -āre to be moderate, to restrain oneself
appono, -posuī, positus, ere serve, set before	altāria, -ium (n pl) a high altar
exuperō, -āuī, -ātus, -āre (also exsu-) surpass, exceed	uiscus, -eris = uiscera
patina, -ae (f) a broad, shallow dish	libum, -ī (n) cake, pancake
clipeum, -ī (n) (also clipeus, -ī m) shield	fār, farris (n) grain, meal, bread
Minerua, -ae (f) the goddess Minerva	focus, -ī (m) fire-place
πολιούχου 'holder of the city' an epithet of Athena [here applied to Minerva (genitive), with a pun on πολυούχος, holder of 'a lot'!]	popīna, -ae (f) cook-shop, tavern
dictitō, -itāui, -itātus, -itāre say often, assert	fumō, ----, ----, -āre smoke, fume
scarus, -ī (m) a sea-fish (a delicacy)	obsōnium, -ī (n) side dish
iocur, -ineris (n) liver	pridiānus-a-um of the day before
phāsiāna, ae (f) pheasant	sēmēsus-a-um half-eaten
pauo, -ōnis (m) a peacock	
cerebellum, -ī (n) brain	
lingua, -ae (f) tongue	
phoenicopterus, -ī (m) flamingo	
murēna, -ae a sea-fish (a delicacy) possibly the moray eel	
lactes, -ium (f pl) small intestines	
Parthia, -ae (f) Parthia, a country of w. Asia, to the south of the Caspian sea	
Hispanicus-a-um of Spain [Hispania]	
Nauarchus, -ī (m) ship's captain	
commisceō, -miscuī, -mīxtus, -ēre mix together	
profundus-a-um deep, bottomless	

Friday

The assassination of Julius Caesar, *Iul.* 81.4-82

1 Ob haec simul et ob infirmam ualitudinem diu cunctatus an se contineret et quae apud
 2 senatum proposuerat agere differret, tandem Decimo Bruto adhortante ne frequentis ac iam
 3 dudum opperientis destitueret, quinta fere hora progressus est libellumque insidiarum
 4 indicem ab obuio quodam porrectum libellis ceteris quos sinistra manu tenebat quasi mox
 5 lecturus commiscuit. dein pluribus hostiis caesis, cum litare non posset, introiit curiam spreta
 6 religione Spurinnamque irridens et ut falsum arguens quod sine ulla sua noxa Idus Martiae
 7 adessent, quamquam is uenisse quidem eas diceret sed non praeterisse.

8 [82] Assidentem conspirati specie officii circumsteterunt, ilicoque Cimber Tillius, qui primas
 9 partes susceperat, quasi aliquid rogaturus propius accessit renuentique et gestu in aliud
 10 tempus differenti ab utroque umero togam adprehendit, deinde clamantem, “ista quidem uis
 11 est!”, alter e Cascis auersum uulnerat paulum infra iugulum. Caesar Cascae brachium
 12 adreptum graphio traiecit conatusque prosilire alio uulnere tardatus est, utque animaduertit
 13 undique se strictis pugionibus peti, toga caput obuoluit, simul sinistra manu sinum ad ima
 14 crura deduxit quo honestius caderet etiam inferiore corporis parte uelata. atque ita tribus et
 15 uiginti plagis confossus est, uno modo ad primum ictum gemitu sine uoce edito, etsi
 16 tradiderunt quidam Marco Bruto irruenti dixisse, “καὶ σὸ τέκνον?”. exanimis diffugientibus
 17 cunctis aliquamdiu iacuit, donec lecticae impositum dependente brachio tres seruoli domum
 18 rettulerunt. Nec in tot uulneribus, ut Antistius medicus existimabat, letale ullum repertum est,
 19 nisi quod secundo loco in pectore acceperat.

20

Julius Caesar 81-82

Contineō, -tinuī, -tentus, -ēre stay home

dūdum (in the phrase iam dūdum) for a long time

opperior, pertus, ī, dep. wait, attend

dēstituō, -uī, -ūtus, -ere abandon, forsake, leave, put away, set down

ferē (adv) almost

insidiae, -ārum (f) trap, ambush

index, -icis (m/f) one who points out, a sign, an informer

obuius-a-um in the way

porrigō, -rēxī, -rēctus, -ere hold out, offer

sinister-tra-trum left

commisceō, -miscuī, -mīxtus, -ēre mix together

litō, -āuī, -ātus, -āre obtain favourable omens

curia, -ae (f) the senate house

sperno, sprēuī, sprētus, -ere despise, reject, spurn, scorn

religiō, -ōnis (f) devoutness, fear of the gods, sense of duty

Spurinna, a proper name

Irrīdeō, rīsī, rīsus, ēre laugh at

Noxa, ae (f) harm, injury

Idus Martiae – the Ides of March (15th)

Praetereō, īī, itus, īre pass by

Assidō, ēdī, ---, -ēre, to take a seat, sit

Cōnspīrātus-a-um conspiring

Officium, -ī (n) service, office, duty

circumstō, -stetī, ---, -āre stand around, surround, take possession of

ilicō in that very spot, instantly, directly

Cimber Tillius – a proper name

renuō, uī, ---, -ere reject, refuse, deny

gestus, -ūs (m) carriage, bearing, gesture

adprehendō, dī, sus, ere seize, take hold of,

uis, -- strength, force, violence, hostility

Casca a name (the name of two different people)

Infrā below

Iugulum, ī (m) throat, neck

Brachium, ī (n) arm

Adripiō, -ipuī, -eptus, -ere snatch, seize, grasp

Graphium, ī (n) stylus for writing

Prōsiliō, -uī, --, -īre leap forward, spring forth, rush, hasten

Pugiō, -ōnis (m) a short dagger

obuoluō, -uī, -ūtus, ēre cover, enfold, wrap around

īmūs-a-um lowest, deepest, last

crūs, -ūris (n) leg

uēlō, āuī, ātus, āre cover up, veil

plāga, ae (f) blow, stroke, wound

cōnfōdiō, -fōdī, -fossus, -ere to dig up,
transfix, stab, pierce

ictus, -ūs (m) wound, stab, cut

gemitus, -ūs (m) sigh, groan

irruō, -ruī, ---, -ere rush on, attack, seize

καὶ σὺ τέκνον; you, too, (my) child?

exanimis, e dead, lifeless

diffugiō, fūgī, ---, -ere disperse, scatter, fly
off in different directions

iaciō, iēcī, iactus, ere throw, cast, fling

lectīca, -ae (f) litter, sedan, portable sofa

seruolus, -ī (m) dim. of seruus, a young
slave

Antistius a proper name

medicus, ī (m) a medical man, physician

lētālīs, e, deadly, fatal, lethal

reperiō, repperī, repertus, -īre to find, find
out, discover, get, obtain

