

21ST LATIN SUMMER SCHOOL

19th-23rd JANUARY 2015 Education Building, University of Sydney

LEVEL 4.2

Late Antique Latin

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This course has been designed to showcase the rich literature that emerged in the Latin West during Late Antiquity. Our survey stretches from Ausonius, an author of the mid to late fourth century, to Jordanes in the mid sixth century. During this period the Roman Empire in the West transitioned into the barbarian successor kingdoms of Europe.

New aesthetics developed commensurate with these political changes, evident most particularly in the art and literature of the period. The style that emerged reacted to the classical tradition by embracing and imitating it, and almost paradoxically, innovating it, creating what has been termed the ‘mannerist’ style.

Our selection also spans the different genres of this period; we will read history, biography, epistles, a panegyric, and love poetry. The pushing of boundaries which is so characteristic of the literature period devalues somewhat the utility of these categories: Claudian’s panegyric is imbued (more than normal) with the epic tradition, the epistle of Jerome embraces the invective of satire, Augustine’s *Confessiones* is part biography part proselytizing rhetoric.

To prepare these sections for class, little more is needed than access to a dictionary that covers Late Antiquity, such as Lewis and Short (not the O.L.D). This has been digitized at the Perseus Digital Library Latin word study tool.

Some suggested resources and reading are provided in the introduction to certain authors. For the course as a whole, I strongly recommend Michael Roberts, *The Jewelled Style*, 1989, and for some context for this period, Peter Brown, *The World of Late Antiquity*, 1971.

If you have any questions about the course content, feel free to send me an email before January at michael.hanaghan@sydney.edu.au

1. Jordanes, de origine actibusque Getarum, §38-39 (197-206).

Jordanes was a bureaucrat and a Goth who wrote in the mid sixth century a pro-Gothic history of the Later Roman Empire. His style is unique and exceedingly personal in tone. The text is Mommsen's taken from his 1882 edition. There is a translation available for free download by Mierow at www.archive.org search for "Jordanes Mierow." His commentary however is historically focused and hardly treats our passages.

Attila the Hun was one of the most feared barbarian leaders. He led a barbarian host, made up of numerous small groups, through north-western Europe, until in 453 he was defeated at the battle of Catalaunian plains by an alliance of Roman and Visigothic forces. This extract describes the layout of the battle ground, the initial clash between the two armies, and ends with Attila's speech to his men.

38. Convenere partes, ut diximus, in campos Catalaunicos. Erat autem positio loci declivi tumore in editum collis excrescens. Quem uterque cupiens exercitus obtinere, quia loci oportunitas non parvum beneficium confert, dextram partem Hunni cum suis, sinistram Romani et Vesegothae cum auxiliariis occuparunt, relictoque de cacumine eius iugo certamen ineunt.

[... Jordanes lists the leaders of both armies]

Reliqua autem, si dici fas est, turba regum diversarumque nationum ductores ac si¹ satellites notibus Attilae attendebant, et ubi oculo annuisset, absque aliqua murmuratione cum timore et tremore unusquisque adstabat, aut certe, quod iussus fuerat, exequabatur. Solus Attila rex omnium regum super omnes et pro omnibus sollicitus erat.

Fit ergo de loci, quem diximus oportunitate certamen.² Attila suos dirigit, qui cacumen montis invaderent, sed a Thorismundo³ et Aetio⁴ praevenitur, qui eluctati

¹ as if ...

² The prepositional phrase *de oportunitate* bridges the relative clause.

³ The Visigothic leader, who was murdered for the throne by his brother Theodoric II, who in turn was later murdered by their youngest brother, Euric I.

⁴ A fierce Roman commander who as a boy was given to the Huns as a hostage and raised by them.

collis excelsa ut conscenderent, superiores effecti sunt, venientesque Hunnos montis beneficio facile turbaverunt.

39. Tunc Attila cum videret exercitum causa praecedente turbatum, tali eum ex tempore credidit alloquio confirmandum:

“Post victorias tantarum gentium, post orbem, si consistatis, edomitum, ineptum iudicaveram tamquam ignaros rei verbis acuere. Quaerat hoc aut novus ductor aut inexpertus exercitus. Nec mihi fas est aliquid vulgare dicere, nec vobis oportet audire. Quid autem aliud vos quam bellare consuetum? Aut quid viro forti suavius, quam vindicta manu querere? Magnum munus a natura animos ultione satiare.”

“Adgrediamur igitur hostem alacres: audaciores sunt semper, qui inferunt bellum. Adunatas dispicite dissonas gentes: indicium pavoris est societate defendi. En ante impetum nostrum terroribus iam feruntur, excelsa quaerunt, tumulos capiunt et sera paenitudine in campos monitiones efflagitant. Nota vobis sunt quam sint levia Romanorum arma: primo etiam non dico vulnere, sed ipso pulvere gravantur, dum in ordine coeunt et acies testudineque conectunt.”

“Vos configite perstantibus animis, ut soletis, despicientesque eorum aciem Alanos invadite, in Vesegothas incumbite. Inde nobis cita victoria quaerere, unde se continet bellum. Abscisa autem nervis mox membra relabuntur, nec potest stare corpus, cui ossa subtraxeris. Consurgant animi, furor solitus intumescat. Nunc consilia, Hunni, nunc arma depromite: aut vulneratus quis aduersarii mortem reposcat aut inlaesus hostium clade satietur.

“Victuros nulla tela conveniunt, morituros et in otio fata praecipitant. Postremo cur fortuna Hunnos tot gentium victores adseret, nisi ad certaminis huius gaudia praeparasset? Quis denique Meotidarum iter maiores nostros aperuit tot saeculis clausum secretum? Quis adhuc inermibus cedere faciebat armatos? Faciem Hunnorum non poterat ferre adunata collectio. Non fallor eventu: hic campus est, quem nobis tot prospera promiserunt. Primus in hoste tela coiciam. si quis potuerit Attila pugnante otio ferre, sepultus est.”

His verbis accensi, in pugna cuncti praecipitantur.

2. Ausonius, de Bissula

Ausonius was a fourth century poet and rhetorician from Burdigala in Gaul (modern Bordeaux). His major work is a poem describing the river Moselle. Ausonius also wrote plenty of poems about every-day life, which provide an interesting glimpse into his society and its customs. This section contains Ausonius' *Bissula*, a series of poem that describes a Germanic girl allocated to Ausonius following Valentin I's successful prosecution of the Alemannic war (circa 368-372). There is a very good commentary in Harrington's *Medieval Latin* which Joe Pucci has revised – the relevant pages (83-88) are available through the Google books preview of this edition.

Pervincis tandem et operta musarum mearum, quae initiorum velabat obscuritas, quamquam non profanus, irrumpis, Paule carissime. quamvis enim te non eius vulgi existimem, quod Horatius arcet ingressu, tamen sua cuique sacra, neque idem Cereri, quod Libero, etiam sub isdem cultoribus. poematia, quae in alumnam meam luseram rudia et incohata ad domesticae solacium cantilenae, cum sine metu [laterent] et arcana securitate fruerentur, proferre ad lucem caligantia coegisti. verecundiae meae scilicet spoliū concupisti, aut, quantum tibi in me iuris esset, ab invito indicari. ne tu Alexandri Macedonis pervicaciam supergressus, qui, fatalis iugi lora cum solvere non posset, abscidit et Pythiae specum, quo die fas non erat patere, penetravit. Utere igitur ut tuis, pari iure, sed fiducia dispari : quippe tua possunt populum non timere ; meis etiam intra me erubesco. vale.

1. Praefatio

Ut voluisti, Paule, cunctos Bissulae versus habes,
lusimus quos in Suebae gratiam virgunculae,
otium magis foventes, quam studentes gloriae.
tu molestus flagitator lege molesta carmina.
tibi, quod intristi, exedendum est : sic vetus verbum iubet, 5
compedes, quas ipse fecit, ipsus ut gestet faber.

2. Ad Lectorem Huius Libelli

Carminis incompti tenuem lecture libellum,
pone supercilium.

seria contractis expende poemata rugis :
nos Thymelen sequimur.

Bissula in hoc scedio cantabitur, haut Erasinus : 5

admoneo, ante bibas.

ieiunis nil scribo ; meum post pocula si quis
legerit, hic sapiet.

sed magis hic sapiet, si dormiet et putet ista
somnia missa sibi.

3. Ubi Nata sit Bissula et Quomodo in Manus Domini Venerit

Bissula, trans gelidum stirpe et lare prosata Rhenum,
conscia nascentis Bissula Danuvii,
capta manu, sed missa manu dominatur in eius
deliciis, cuius bellica praeda fuit.

matre carens, nutricis egens, [quae] nescit herai 5

imperium, [domini quae regit ipsa domum,]

fortuna ac patriae quae nulla obprobria sensit,

illico inexperto libera servitio,

sic Latii mutata bonis, Germana maneret

ut facies, oculos caerulea, flava comas. 10

ambiguam modo lingua facit, modo forma puellam :

haec Rheno genitam praedicat, haec Latio.

IV. — De Eadem Bissula

Delicium, blanditiae, ludus, amor, voluptas,
barbara, sed quae Latias vincis alumna pupas,
Bissula, nomen tenerae rusticulum puellae,
horridulum non solitis, sed domino venustum.

V. — Ad Pictorem de Bissulae Imagine

Bissula nec ceris nec fuco imitabilis ullo
naturale decus fictae non commodat arti.
sandyx et cerusa, alias simulate puellas :
temperiem hanc vultus nescit manus. ergo age, pictor,
puniceas confunde rosas et lilia misce, 5
quique erit ex illis color aeris, ipse sit oris.

VI. — Ad Picturam de Bissula Pingenda

Pingere si nostram, pictor, meditaris alumnam,
aemula Cecropias ars imitetur apes.

3. Augustine, *Confessiones*, I.14.

Augustine was a formidable intellect of the late fourth and early fifth century. He received a classical Roman education, which culminated in his appointment as a professor of rhetoric in Milan in 384. In 387 he converted to Christianity from Manichaeism, a belief system of Persian origin which advocated for the duality of the cosmos. This extract is taken from his *Confessions* which provide a biographical account of his life, framed by his conversion.

cur ergo graecam etiam grammaticam oderam talia cantantem? nam et Homerus peritus texere tales fabellas et dulcissime vanus est, mihi tamen amarus erat puero. credo etiam graecis pueris Vergilius ita sit, cum eum sic discere coguntur ut ego illum. videlicet difficultas, difficultas omnino ediscendae linguae peregrinae, quasi felle aspergebat omnes suavitates graecas fabulosarum narrationum. nulla enim verba illa noveram, et saevis terroribus ac poenis ut nossem instabatur mihi vehementer. nam et latina aliquando infans utique nulla noveram, et tamen advertendo didici sine ullo metu atque cruciatu, inter etiam blandimenta nutricum et ioca adridentium et laetitia adludentium. didici vero illa sine poenali onere urgentium, cum me urgeret cor meum ad parienda concepta sua, et qua non esset, nisi aliqua verba didicissem non a docentibus sed a loquentibus, in quorum et ego auribus parturiebam quidquid sentiebam. hinc satis elucet maiorem habere vim ad discenda ista liberam curiositatem quam meticulosam necessitatem. sed illius fluxum haec restringit legibus tuis, deus, legibus tuis a magistrorum ferulis usque ad temptationes martyrum, valentibus legibus tuis miscere salubres amaritudines revocantes nos ad te a iucunditate pestifera qua recessimus a te.

4. Jerome, Epistola XL, Ad Marcellam de Onaso

Jerome was an important author in the fourth century and early fifth century. He wrote many different works which helped Christianity develop, such as his translation of the bible and biography of saints' lives. He was also a very clever writer of epistles, a genre which grew considerably during Late Antiquity. This extract is (a slightly truncated version of) the epistle that Jerome wrote concerning one Onasus whom he evidently did not like.

1. Medici, quos vocant chirurgicos, crudeles putantur et miseri sunt. An non est miseria alienis dolere vulneribus et mortuas carnes clementi secare ferro ? Non horrere curantem, quod horret ipse, qui patitur, et inimicum putari? Ita se natura habet, ut amara sit veritas, blanda vitia aestimentur. ...

2. Unde non mirum est, si et nos vitiis detrahentes offendimus plurimos. Disposui nasum secare fetentem : timeat, qui strumosus est. Volo corniculae detrahere garrienti : rancidulam se intellegat cornix. Numquid unus in orbe Romano est, qui habeat ' truncas inhonesto vulnere nares ' ? Numquid solus Onasus Segestanus cava verba et in vesicarum modum tumentia buccis trutinatur inflatis ? Dico quosdam scelere, periurio, falsitate ad dignitatem nescio quam pervenisse : quid ad te, qui te intellegis innocentem ? Rideo advocatum. qui patrono egeat : quadrante dignam eloquentiam nare subsanno : quid ad te, qui disertus es ? Volo in nummarios invehi sacerdotes : tu, qui dives es, quid irasceris ?

Claudum cupio suis ignibus ardere Vulcanum : numquid hospes eius es aut vicinus, quod a delubris idoli niteris incendium submovere ? Placet mihi de larvis, de noctua, de bubone, de Niliacis ridere portentis : quicquid dictum fuerit, in te dictum putas. In quodcumque vitium stili mei mucro contorquetur, te clamitas designari, conserta manu in ius vocas et satiricum scriptorem in prosa stulte arguis. An ideo bellus videris, quia fausto vocaris nomine? Quasi non et lucus ideo dicatur, quod minime luceat, et Pareae ab eo, quod nequaquam parcant, et Eumenides Furiae, et vulgo Aethiopes vocentur argentei. Quodsi in descriptione foedorum semper irascaris, iam te cum Persio cantabo formosum :

Te optent generum rex et regina, puellae

Te rapiant: quicquid calcaveris tu, rosa fiat.

3. Dabo tamen consilium, quibus absconditis possis pulchrior apparere : nasus non videatur in facie, sermo non sonet ad loquendum, atque ita et formosus videri potes et disertus.

5. Rutilius Claudius Namatianus, de reditu suo, Book I.439-465.

This poem describes Rutilius' journey home from Rome to Gaul in AD 416. The following extract is taken from the first book. Rutilius' style is clear and was no doubt heavily influenced by Augustan elegists. Lacus Curtius hosts the Loeb edition. Rutilius' poem reflects the growing interest in travelogues in Late Antiquity.

Processu pelagi iam se Capraria tollit;
squalet lucifugis insula plena viris. 440

Ipsi se monachos Graio cognomine dicunt,
quod soli nullo vivere teste volunt.⁵
Munera fortunae metuunt, dum damna verentur.
Quisquam sponte miser, ne miser esse queat?

Quaenam pervasi rabies tam stulta cerebri, 445
dum mala formides, nec bona posse pati?
Sive suas repetunt factorum ergastula poenas,
tristia seu nigro viscera felle tument.
Sic nimiae bilis morbum assignavit Homerus
Bellerophonteis⁶ sollicitudinibus; 450

nam iuveni offenso saevi post tela doloris
dicitur humanum displicuisse genus.
In Volaterranum, vero Vada nomine, tractum
ingressus dubii tramitis alta lego.
Despectat prorae custos clavumque sequentem 455
dirigit et puppim voce monente regit.

Incertas gemina discriminat arbore fauces
defixasque offert limes uterque sudes.
Illis proceras mos est adnectere lauros

⁵ Rutilius is referring to the meaning of the greek adjective *μοναχός* (alone).

⁶ Bellerophon ate out his own heart, Hom. // 6.202.

conspicuas ramis et fruticante coma, 460
ut praebente viam densi symplegade limi
servet inoffensas semita clara notas.
Illic me rapidus consistere corus adegit,
qualis silvarum frangere lustra solet.
Vix tuti domibus saevos toleravimus imbres: 465

6. Claudian, de consulatu Stilichonis, II. 424-452.

Claudian flourished in the late 4th century and early 5th century. He wrote panegyrics and epic poetry, and in so doing blurred the distinction between them. This extract comes from a panegyric he wrote for Flavius Stilicho, a Roman commander of mixed barbarian and Roman ancestry, who was appointed by the Emperor Honorius to be the guardian of his son.

Est ignota procul nostraeque impervia menti,
vix adeunda deis, annorum squalida mater, 425
inmensi spelunca aevi, quae tempora vasto
suppeditat revocatque sinu. complectitur antrum,
omnia qui placido consumit numine, serpens
perpetuumque viret squamis caudamque reductam
ore vorat tacito relegens exordia lapsu. 430
vestibuli custos vultu longaeva decoro
ante fores Natura sedet, cunctisque volantes
dependent membris animae. mansura verendus
scribit iura senex, numeros qui dividit astris
et cursus stabilesque moras, quibus omnia vivunt 435
ac pereunt fixis cum legibus. ille recenset,
incertum quid Martis iter certumque Tonantis
prospiciat mundo ; quid velox semita Lunae
pigraque Saturni ; quantum Cytherea sereno
curriculo Phoebique comes Cyllenius erret. 440
Illius ut magno Sol limine constitit antri,

occurrit Natura potens seniorque superbis
canitiem inclinat radiis. turn sponte reclusus
laxavit postes adamas, penetrare profundum
panditur et sedes aevique arcana patescunt. 445

hie habitant vario facies distincta metallo
saecula certa locis : illic glomerantur aena,
hie ferrata rigent, illic argentea candent.
eximia regione domus, contingere terris
difficilis, rutili stabat grex aureus anni : 450

quorum praecipuum pretioso corpore Titan
signandum Stilichone legit ...

7. Ammianus Marcellinus, 20.4.14-18

Ammianus Marcellinus wrote history, similar in style to Tacitus. He was a retired soldier and a Greek. His style is very precise and observant. In recent years scholarship has begun to assess Ammianus as worth of study as an author in his own right, not just as a useful source for this period. Gavin Kelly's book *Ammianus Marcellinus, the Allusive Historian* is well worth reading, or if time is limited, his article entitled "Ammianus Marcellinus: Tacitus' heir and Gibbon's guide" which is available for free download from academia.edu

This passage describes the ascension to power of the Emperor Julian (the Apostate) to the rank of Augustus by his soldiers.

14. nocte vero coeptante in apertum erupere discidium incitatisque animis ut quemque insperata res adflictabat, ad tela convertuntur et manus fremituque ingenti omnes petiverant palatium et spatii eius ambitis, ne ad evadendi copiam quisquam perveniret, Augustum Iulianum horrendis clamoribus concrepabant, eum ad se prodire destinatius adigentes expectareque coacti dum lux promicaret, tandem progredi compulerunt. quo viso iterata magnitudine sonus Augustum appellavere consensione firmissima.

15. Et ille mente fundata universis resistebat et singulis, nunc indignari semet ostendens, nunc manus tendens oransque et obsecrans, ne post multas felicissimasque victorias agatur aliquid indecorum, neve intempestiva temeritas et prolapsio discordiarum materias excitaret. haecque adiciebat tandem sedatos leniter adlocutus :

16. 'Cesset ira quaeso paulisper: absque dissensione vel rerum adpetitu novarum impetrabitur facile quod postulatis. quoniam dulcedo vos patriae retinet, et insueta peregrinaque metuitis loca, redite iam nunc ad sedes nihil visuri, quia displicet, transalpinum. hocque apud Augustum capacem rationis et prudentissimum ego competenti satisfactione purgabo^a.

17. Conclamabatur post haec ex omni parte nihilo minus, uno parique ardore nitentibus universis maximoque contentionis fragore probro et conviciis mixto, Caesar adsentire coactus est. inpositusque scuto pedestri et sublatius eminens nullo silente Augustus renuntiatus iuebatur diadema proferre, negansque umquam habuisse, uxoris colli vel capitis poscebatur.

18. eoque adfirmante primis auspiciis non congruere aptari muliebri mundo, equi phalerae quaerebantur, uti coronatus speciem saltem obscuram superioris

praetenderet potestatis sed cum id quoque turpe esse adseveraret, Maurus nomine quidam, postea comes, qui rem male gessit apud Succorum angustias, Petulantium tunc hastatus, abstractum sibi torquem, quo ut draconarius utebatur, capiti Iuliani inposuit confidenter, qui trusus ad necessitatem extremam iamque periculum praesens vitare non posse advertens, si reniti perseverasset, quinos omnibus aureos argenticque singula pondo, promisit.

8. Sidonius Apollinaris, *Ep.* 5.5

Sidonius Apollinaris was an active member of the Gallo-Roman aristocracy in the mid to late fifth century. He began his career as a secular politician then became a bishop. Sidonius wrote poetry, including three panegyrics, and epistles. His style is very ornate. This epistle is addressed to Syagrius, one of Sidonius' friends who worked with the Burgundians, a barbarian group to the north of Sidonius' bishopric.

Sidonius Syagrius suo salutem.

1. Cum sis consulis pronepos idque per virilem successionem (quamquam id ad causam subiciendam minus attinet), cum sis igitur e semine poetae, cui procul dubio statuas dederant litterae, si trabeae non dedissent (quod etiam nunc auctoris culta versibus verba testantur), a quo studia posterorum ne parum quidem, quippe in hac parte, degeneraverunt, immane narratu est, quantum stupeam sermonis te Germanici notitiam tanta facilitate rapuisse.
2. atqui pueritiam tuam competenter scholis liberalibus memini imbutam et saepenumero acriter eloquenterque declamasse coram oratore satis habeo compertum. atque haec cum ita sint, velim dicas, unde subito hauserunt pectora tua euphonia gentis alienae, ut modo mihi post ferulas lectionis Maronianae postque desudatam varicosi Arpinatis opulentiam loquacitatemque quasi de + harilao vetere novus falco prorumpas?
3. aestimari minime potest, quanto mihi ceterisque sit risui, quotiens audio, quod te praesente formidet linguae suae facere barbarus barbarismum. adstupet tibi epistulas interpretanti curva Germanorum senectus et negotiis mutuis arbitrum te disceptatoremque desumit. novus Burgundionum Solon in legibus disserendis, novus Amphion in citharis, sed trichordibus, temperandis amaris frequentaris, expeteris oblectas, eligeris adhiberis, decernis audiris. et

quamquam aequae corporibus ac sensu rigidi sint indolentesque, amplectuntur in te pariter et discunt sermonem patrium, cor Latinum.

4. restat hoc unum, vir facetissime, ut nihilo segnius, vel cum vacabit, aliquid lectioni operae impendas custodiasque hoc, prout es elegantissimus, temperamentum, ut ista tibi lingua teneatur, ne ridearis, illa exerceatur, ut rideas. vale.