Capstone: A Seminar in Latin Epigraphy

Instructor: Joey Williams
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Student Hour: Wed. 4-5 | Parent Hour: Mon. 3-4

Classroom: BTN Room 4
Meeting times: Mon. through Fri., 8:40-9:30 AM

**Course description:** This year’s Latin capstone seminar will engage students in the everyday language of the ancient Roman world. Rather than reading prose or poetry from a well-known author, participants will encounter the words of ordinary Romans as they analyze a wide variety of Latin inscriptions, graffiti, and other forms of writing. These texts will provide students with a unique window into public and private life throughout the ancient Mediterranean as well as first-hand experiences of ancient historical events both large and small.

Participants will first focus on the fundamentals of classifying, editing, and interpreting epigraphic texts. The seminar will cover the basics of studying inscriptions, the Roman epigraphic habit, the many different types of extant texts, and their manner of scholarly presentation. Students will be expected to engage with a wide variety of ancient texts presented in a number of different formats. This engagement will go beyond translation, and will introduce participants to some of the most rigorous elements of classical scholarship and scholarship in the humanities generally.

Next, students will gather a collection of inscriptions through the use of online databases and the scholarly work known as the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*. Students will transcribe, translate, and curate their selection of Latin texts. Seniors will gain experience in the analysis of a diverse set of evidence, in the use of a complex citation and annotation systems, and in the presentation of their work to their peers. The class will culminate in a research paper that incorporates accurate transcription, translation, description, and analysis of participants’ epigraphic collection in its historical and cultural context.

**Grading policy:**
- Participation: 10%
- Homework: 10%
- Rough Draft: 20%
- Presentations: 30%
- Final Paper: 30%
**Classroom policies:** Particular instructions for each assignment will be distributed during the class. Participants should expect to do a number of readings weekly and to translate epigraphic texts regularly.

Participants should expect to have their work read and edited by their peers, but all grades will be assigned by the instructor. It is essential that all assignments are submitted on time so that every participant has adequate time to read and comment on rough drafts.

Participants are expected to abide by the policies outlined in the BASIS Parent/Student Handbook, the BASIS Tucson North Guidebook, and any other policies implemented by the school.

**Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism is the representation of another’s words or ideas as one’s own in any academic work. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation and paraphrase/summary must be identified with proper citations, which students will be taught.

- Common forms of plagiarism may include:
  - Copying from the internet,
  - Copying from another student,
  - Failing to give credit for an author’s ideas that you have quoted, paraphrased, or summarized in your own words,
  - Re-using your own work for multiple classes or assignments,
  - Knowingly misrepresenting quoted evidence.

Any suspicion of plagiarism may be immediately referred to the School Director and treated as a discipline violation (See Parent-Student Handbook).

This syllabus is subject to change at any time. Students will be notified of any changes to grading policy, classroom policy, or course scheduling.

**Content notice:** Due to the nature of ancient art and text, some nudity, adult language, and adult themes may be present in some class materials. Any such content encountered is necessary for the proper contextualization of the course material.

**Course materials:** Participants in the seminar are expected to bring a notebook, pen or pencil, and a Latin dictionary (a suggested dictionary is included below).

Assigned readings should be collected in a binder, folder(s), or expandable file. Participants must bring relevant readings to class on the day(s) they are assigned.

Readings will be assigned from a number of books and articles, but these will be provided by the instructor. There is no need to students to purchase any of the following books save for a Latin dictionary!
Suggested dictionaries (but any Latin dictionary should work fine!):

J. Traupman, *The Bantam New College Latin & English Dictionary* (3rd edition) - (Online for $3 used, $5 new)

J. Morwood, *A Dictionary of Latin Words and Phrases* - (Online for $1 used, $12 new)

D. P. Simpson, *Cassell's Standard Latin Dictionary* - (Online for $9 used, $15 new)

The following books are *NOT REQUIRED*, but students seeking a deeper understanding of Latin grammar and syntax are encouraged to acquire:

James B Greenough, J. H. Allen, G. L. Kittredge and A. A. Howard, *Allen and Greenough's New Latin Grammar* - (Online for $8 used, $15 new; free electronic copies of earlier editions are available!)

N. Goldman, *English Grammar for Students of Latin* (3rd edition) - (Online for $10 used; $15 new)

C. E. Bennett, *New Latin Grammar* - (Online for $1 used, $10 new)

Readings for this course will be drawn from a number of sources, including but not limited to the following books (Foreign language sources will be provided in translation when necessary):


Information regarding editing conventions for epigraphic study will be drawn from:


Epigraphic collections will be accessed from the following books and databases:

**Printed collections of Latin epigraphy:**

*Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum* (CIL), 16 volumes.

*Ephemeris Epigraphica* (EphEp; EphemEpig), 9 volumes, 1872-1913.

*L’Année Épigraphique* (AE), previously a part of *Revue Archeologique* from 1888-1961, but an independent publication from 1962 to the present.

*Inscriptiones Italiae* (II), 14 volumes, 1931 to the present.


*Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae* (ILS; Dessau), 3 volumes in 5 parts.

*Inscriptiones Graecae ad Res Romanas Pertinentes* (IGRRP).

*Hispania Epigraphica* (HEp), 1989 to the present, possibly replaced by a website of the same name.
Internet resources for Latin epigraphy:

Epigraphik-Datenbank Clauss-Schlaby – over 350,000 Latin epigraphic texts: http://www.manfredclauss.de/

HispaniaEpigraphica – Latin epigraphy from Iberia (Spanish and English): http://www.edabea.es/

Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum Online (German and English): http://cil.bbaw.de/ & http://www.arachne.uni-koeln.de/drupal/

Electronic Archive of Greek and Latin Epigraphy (Italian): http://www.eagle-eagle.it/

Epigraphic Database Bari – late antique and Christian epigraphy (Italian): http://www.edb.uniba.it/

American Society for Greek and Latin Epigraphy – resources for epigraphers: http://www.case.edu/artsci/clsc/asgle/

U.S. Epigraphy Project – epigraphic collections located in the United States: http://usepigraphy.brown.edu/

Prosopographia Imperii Romani (German): http://www.bbaw.de/bbaw/Forschung/Forschungsprojekte/pir/

Ubi Erat Lvpa – several different databases (primarily German): http://www.ubi-erat-lupa.org/

AEICL – Societas Internationalis Epigraphiae Graecae et Latinae (French): http://www.aiegl.com

Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents: http://www.csad.ox.ac.uk/

Current Epigraphy – a blog focusing on epigraphic study: http://www.currentepigraphy.org

Lacus Curtius – an personal site with a useful section on epigraphy: http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/home.html
Schedule of Classes: The schedule of classes presented here is subject to change depending on the exigencies of our course and the interests of all participants. Topics not covered in Trimester 1 may instead be covered in Trimester 2 and vice versa. However, Trimester 2 will primarily be dedicated to the study of participants’ own epigraphic collections.

Trimester 1 Topics:

Introducton to Latin epigraphy, its study, and the history of the major collections

Editing conventions, the Leiden system, and difficulties in presentation

Ancient history from inscriptions

Pitfalls of epigraphic scholarship: “history from square brackets”

Everyday Latin: language and linguistics from inscriptions

The Roman “epigraphic habit”

Trimester 2 Topics:

The life and afterlife of Latin epigraphs: designing, cutting, reading, and viewing inscriptions

Categorizing texts: funerary, honorary, votive, and legal inscriptions

_Graffiti, dipinti, tituli picti, and other forms of epigraphy_

Epigraphy and archaeology: using inscriptions to establish chronology

The emergence of Christian epigraphy

The epigraphy of public and private life

Inscriptions relating to ancient religion

The epigraphy of identity, memory, and death

Inscriptions and the economy: texts of production, distribution, and ownership

The end of Latin epigraphy and the new symbols of commemoration

Epigraphy and modern life

Forming a research topic in Latin epigraphy: themes, methods, and practical considerations

Finding and editing published inscriptions

Navigating the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum (CIL)* and other *corpora*

The problem of forgeries

Presenting epigraphic collections in various media
## Standard editing conventions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sigla</th>
<th>Explanations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>Fragmentary letter, uncertain reading suggested by the epigrapher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>Badly damaged letter, impossible to identify</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>Letters are legible but impossible to interpret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abc</td>
<td>Letters identified previously but no longer visible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>âb</td>
<td>Ligature, circumflex indicates one letter is joined to the next, such as the diphthong “Æ”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[abc]</td>
<td>Letters missing because of damage, but supplied by the epigrapher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(abc)</td>
<td>Expansion of an abbreviation supplied by epigrapher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>((abc))</td>
<td>Letters or symbols represented differently on the stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>′abc′</td>
<td>Text corrected by the epigrapher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{abc}</td>
<td>Letters included on the stone but removed by the epigrapher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;abc&gt;</td>
<td>Letters omitted on the stone but added by the epigrapher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[[abc]]</td>
<td>Text erased in antiquity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>«abc»</td>
<td>Text inscribed over an erasure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[. . .]</td>
<td>Missing letters, usually from damage, with each dot representing one letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[- - -]</td>
<td>Missing letters of an uncertain number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(vac.)</td>
<td>Surface of the stone is blank – (vac. c. 5) indicates a space of approximately five letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/</td>
<td>Text inscribed on a different line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>//</td>
<td>Text inscribed on a different face of the stone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Common Abbreviations

A  annus
A A A F F  aere argento auro flando feriundo
ABN  abnepos
A C  aere collato
A D A  agris dandis adsignandis
AED  aedilis
AER MIL  aerarii militaris
A L F  animo libens fecit
ANN  annos annis or annona
A S F  a solo fecerunt
AUG  Augustus or augustalis or augur
AUGG  Augusti
AUG N  Augustus noster
B M  bene merenti
B R P N  bono rei publicae natus
B VIX  bene vixit
C  Caesar or centuria or cohors etc.
C A  curam agens
CAP  capitalis
C I  clarissimus iuvenis
C M V  clarissimae memoriae vir
COH  cohors
COL  colonia
COS  consul
C R  cives Romani
C R P  curator rei publicae
CVR  curavit
C V  clarissimus vir
D  dat or denarius or dominus or domo
decreto decurionum
datum decreto decurionum
domini nostri duo
decurio or decreto
dedit
designatus
de sua pecunia
de figlinis
dicatus numini maiestatique
deo invicto Mithrae
D M S dis manibus sacrum
D N dominus noster
D P P de pecunia publica
D P S P de pecunia sua posuit
D S de suo
EQ eques or equitata
EQ P quo publico
EX S C ex senatus consulto
EX TEST ex testamento
F fecit or faciendum or filius/-a
F C I Q P faciendum curavit idemque probavit
FAC COER faciendum coeravit
FEC fecit or fecerunt
FID fidelis
FLAM AUG flamen Augustalis
FR frater
F S ET S fecit sibi et suis
GEN genius
GER Germania
H heres or hic
H A I R honore accepto impensam remisit
H F heres fecit
H L D M A huic loco dolus malus abesto
H M hoc monumentum
H M H N S hoc monumentum heredem non sequitur
H M M honesta missione missus
H S E hic situs est
H S O T B Q hic situs ossa tua bene quiescunt
I D iure dicundo
IMP imperator
IMP P Q R imperium populusque Romanus
IN AG in agro
IN H D D in honorem domus divinae
IN FR in fronte
I O M Iupiter Optimus Maximus
IUS iussu
L libertus/-a or libens
L A libens animo
LEG legio or legatus
LEG AUG PR PR legatus Augusti pro praetor
loco dato decreto decurionum
libertus/-a
locus monumenti or libens merito
locus
menses or millia or municipium
mater
mater deum
menses
mulieris libertus
miles or militavit
millia passuum
monumentum
municipium
noster or nepos
natus
nepos
nostri
nobilissimus Caesar
ob honorem
officina
ossa hic sita sunt
optimus or optio
passus or pedes
ponendum curavit
pius in suos
pater patriae
parentes
pia fidelis
pontifex maximus
posuit
primus pilus
praeses provinciae Lusitaniae
praefectus
praetor
procurator or proconsul
proconsul
pronepos
provincia
pro praetore
pro salute
quaestor or quinquennalis
quinquennales
qui subscripti sunt
Romanus
restituit
res publica
sacrums or servus
sacerdos or sacrum
salus
senatus consultum
sua pecunia
Senatus Populusque Romanus
sit tibi terra levis
stipendia
testamentum
testament fieri iussit heres faciundum curavit
testamento poni iussit
tribunecia potestate
tribunus militum
tribunus plebis
tribunus
tribo praeteriens dicas
vir or vivus or vixit or vovit
vir clarissimus
vir egregius or vir eminentissimus
veteranus
vexillatio
vivus fecit
viator
vigiles
vis
vixit
votum
vivus posuit
urbana
votum solvit laetus libens merito
The Roman Voting Tribes

AEM - Aemilia  PAP - Papiria
ANI - Aniensis  POB - Poblilia
ARN - Arnensis  POL - Polia
CAM - Camilia  POM - Pompitina
CLA - Claudia  PVP - Pupinia
CLV - Clustumina  QVI - Quirina
COL - Collina  ROM - Romilia
COR - Cornelia  SAB - Sabatina
ESQ - Esquilina  SCA - Scaptia
FAB - Fabia  SER - Sergia
FAL - Falerna  STE - Stellatina
GAL - Galeria  SVC - Suburana
HOR - Horatia  TER - Teretina
LEM - Lemonia  TRO - Trontentina
MAE - Maecia  VEL - Velina
MEN - Menenia  VOL - Veltinia
OVF - Oufentina  VOT - Voturia

Praenomina

A – Aulus  AP – Appius  C – Gaius
CN – Gnaeus  D – Decimus  K – Kaeso
L – Lucius  M – Marcus  MA – Manius
N – Numerius  P – Publius  Q – Quintus
SER – Servius  SEX – Sextus  SP – Spurius
TI – Tiberius  T – Titus  V – Vibius

Imperial Titulature

Augustus (27 BCE-14 CE): IMP CAESAR AUG
Tiberius (14-37 CE): TI CAES AUG
Caligula (37-41 CE): C CAESAR AUG GERMANICUS
Claudius (41-54 CE): TI CLAUDIUS CAESAR AUG GERMANICUS
Nero (54-68 CE): NERO CLAUDIUS CAESAR AUG GERMANICUS
Galba (68-69 CE): SER GALBA IMP CAESAR AUG
Otho (69 CE): IMP M OTHO CAESAR AUG
Vitellius (69 CE): A VITELLIUS GERM IMP AUG
Vespasian (69-79 CE): IMP CAES VESPASIANUS AUG
Titus (71-81 CE): IMP TITUS CAESAR VESPASIANUS AUG
Domitian (81-96 CE): IMP CAESAR DOMITIANUS AUG
Nerva (96-98 CE): IMP CAES NERVA AUG
Trajan (97-117 CE): IMP CAESAR NERVA TRAIANUS AUG
Hadrian (117-138 CE): IMP CAES TRAIANUS HADRIANUS AUG
Antonius Pius (138-161 CE): IMP CAESAR T AELIUS HADRIANUS ANTONINUS AUG PIUS
Marcus Aurelius (161-180 CE): IMP CAESAR M AURELIUS ANTONINUS AUG
Lucius Verus (161-169 CE): IMP CAESAR L AURELIUS VERUS
Commodus (176-192 CE): L AELIUS AURELIUS COMMODUS
(after 180 CE): L AURELIUS COMMODUS AUG
(after 190 CE): M AURELIUS COMMODUS ANTONINUS AUG
(after 191 CE): L AELIUS AURELIUS COMMODUS AUG
Pertinax (193 CE): IMP CAESAR P HELVIUS PERTINAX AUG
Didius Julianus (193 CE): IMP CAESAR M DIDIUS SEVERUS IULIANUS AUG
Septimius Severus (193-211 CE): IMP CAESAR L SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS PERTINAX AUG
Caracalla (198-217 CE): IMP CAESAR M AURELIUS ANTONINUS AUG or IMP CAESAR SEVERUS ANTONINUS AUG
Geta (209-211 CE): IMP CAESAR P SEPTIMIUS GETA AUG
Macrinus (217-218 CE): IMP M OPELLIUS SEVERUS MACRINUS AUG
Elagabalus (218-222 CE): IMP CAESAR M AURELIUS ANTONINUS AUG
Alexander Severus (222-235 CE): IMP CAESAR M AURELIUS SEVERUS ALEXANDER AUG
Maximinus Thrax (235-238 CE): IMP CAESAR C IULIUS VERUS MAXIMINUS AUG
Gordian III (238-244 CE): IMP CAESAR M ANTONINUS GORDIANUS AUG
Philip the Arab (244-249 CE): IMP CAESAR M IULIUS PHILIPPUSS AUG
Valerian (253-259 CE): IMP CAESAR P LICINIUS VALERIANUS AUG
Gallienus (253-268 CE): IMP CAESAR P LICINIUS VALERIANUS EGNATIUS GALLIENUS AUG
Claudius Gothicus (268-270 CE): IMP CAESAR M AURELIUS VALERIUS CLAUDIUS AUG
Aurelian (270-275 CE): IMP CAESAR DOMITIUS AURELIANUS AUG
Probus (276-282 CE): IMP CAESAR M AURELIUS PROBUS AUG
Carus (282-283 CE): IMP CAESAR M AURELIUS CARUS AUG
Diocletian (284-305 CE): IMP CAESAR C AURELIUS VALERIUS DIOCLETIANUS AUG
Maximian (286-305 CE): IMP CAESAR M AURELIUS VALERIUS MAXIMIANUS AUG
Constantius Chlorus (292-306 CE): IMP CAESAR M (or C) FLAVIUS VALERIUS CONSTANTIUS AUG
Galerius (293-311 CE): IMP CAESAR C GALERIUS VALERIUS MAXIMIANUS AUG
Maximinus Daia (305-313 CE): IMP CAESAR GALERIUS VALERIUS MAXIMINUS AUG
Maxentius (306-312 CE): IMP CAESAR M AURELIUS VALERIUS MAXENTIUS AUG
Licinius (308-324 CE): IMP CAESAR VALERIUS LICINIANUS LICINIUS AUG
Constantine (306-337 CE): IMP CAESAR C (or L or M) FLAVIUS VALERIUS CONSTANTIUS AUG
Constantius II (324-361 CE): IMP CAES FLAVIUS IULIUS CONSTANTIUS AUG
Julian (355-363 CE): IMP CAES FLAVIUS CLAUDIUS IULIANUS AUG
Valentinian (364-375 CE): IMP CAESAR FLAVIUS VALENTINIANUS AUG
Valens (364-378 CE): IMP CAESAR FLAVIUS VALENS AUG
Gratian (367-383 CE): IMP CAESAR FLAVIUS GRATIANUS AUG
Theodosius (379-395 CE): IMP CAESAR FLAVIUS THEODOSIUS AUG

A larger index of abbreviations may be found online at the American Society of Greek and Latin Epigraphy: http://www.case.edu/artsci/clsc/asgle/abbrev/latin/