

Senior Capstone: A Seminar in Latin Epigraphy



Instructor: Joey Williams
Contact: joey.williams@basistucsonnorth.org
Student Hour: Thurs., 3:45-4:45
Parent Hour: by appointment

Classroom: BTN Room 4
Meeting times: Mon. through Fri., 8:25 – 9:15 AM

Course description: This year's Latin capstone seminar will engage students in the everyday language of the 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%

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).

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):

Berard, F. et al. 1989. *Guide de l'épigraphiste: bibliographie choisie des épigraphies antiques et médiévales*. Paris.

Bodel, J. ed. 2001. *Epigraphic Evidence: Ancient History from Inscriptions*. London.

Cooley, A. E. 2012. *The Cambridge Manual of Latin Epigraphy*. Cambridge.

Gordon, A. E. 1988. *Illustrated Introduction to Latin Epigraphy*. Berkeley.

Hartnett, M. 2012. *By Roman Hands: Inscriptions and Graffiti for Students of Latin* (2nd edition). Newburyport.

Harvey, B. K. 2004. *Roman Lives: Ancient Roman Life as Illustrated by Latin Inscriptions*. Newburyport.

Keppie, L. 1991. *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*. Baltimore.

LaFleur, R. A. 2010. *Scribblers, Sculptors, and Scribes*. New York.

Lassère J.-M. 2005. *Manuel d'épigraphie latine*, 2 vol. Paris.

Susini, G. 1973. *The Roman Stonecutter: An Introduction to Latin Epigraphy*. Oxford.

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

Dow, S. 1969. *Conventions in editing: a suggested reformulation of the Leiden System*. Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies Scholarly Aids 2. Durham.

Krummery, H. and S. Panciera. 1980. "Criteri di edizione e segni diacritici." *Tituli* 2: 205-15.

Panciera, S. 1991. *Supplementa Italica* 8: 8-21.

Woodhead, A. G. 1992. *The Study of Greek Inscriptions*. 2nd edition. Norman.

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.

Supplementa Italica (SuppItal), 23 volumes from 1981-2007.

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.eda-bea.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 Lupa – 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.

Semester 1 Topics:

Introduction 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"

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

Semester 2 Topics:

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 – you will refer to this page often!

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

Please fill in the requested information below, sign, and return **only this page** to the teacher.

Attendance is essential to success. It is the student's responsibility to remember to turn in missed assignments and to make up missed quizzes/tests.

Students are expected to follow the rules outlined in the Student-Parent Handbook. If a student fails to follow the outlined policies, one or more of the following consequences may follow: note in the Communication Journal, re-education regarding the violated rule on the student's own time, exclusion from group activities, reassignment to a different seat, office referral, etc.

Students must exercise academic integrity at BASIS. Plagiarism, cheating, and all forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable, and subvert the purposes of academic coursework at BASIS. Any suspicion of academic dishonesty will be immediately referred to the Upper School Director, and treated as a discipline violation, resulting in a score of "0" on the assignment, quiz, or test.

Students who review notes nightly, study flashcards, seek help during student hours, and use the Communication Journal to document upcoming assignments or examinations will find success in this course.

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

This schedule is subject to change at any time.

I have read the course guide and understand its terms. This document is meant to provide a guide to student success in this course. The teacher reserves the right to change any policy or schedule in the course guide at his/her discretion. Anything not covered in this course guide is subject to the rules of BASIS Tucson North and/or the discretion of the teacher and BASIS Administration.

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____ / _____ / 2014