MODULE SYLLABUS

Latin Epic: Further Advanced Latin

HPLA7022

Module Code: HPLA7022
Credit points: 30
Taught: Semester 1
Pre-requisites/restrictions: Advanced Latin verse
Lecturer: Prof. Ruth Parkes (module co-ordinator)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Students will study a selection of Latin epic poetry; this semester's texts comprise Statius *Thebaid* 4.345-850 (the set text is by Parkes and will be provided) and Silius *Punica* 14.462-688 (set edition is the 1934 loeb edition by J. D. Duff, available online via the library catalogue). All set text prescription should be translated and the rest of *Thebaid* 4 and *Punica* 14 should be read in translation. Students will submit set sections of translation and commentary for tutor comments. Detailed language work will be combined with the development of skills of literary criticism and attention to the historical context of the works studied. In order to help students translate with greater skill and accuracy the module contains an unseen translation component: there will be an unseen in the exam (there are passages on moodle which students are encouraged to do to broaden their translation skills, although this is not compulsory). Students in this module are taught in the same group as students in Advanced Latin Epic.

AIM(S)

To enable students:
• to translate accurately the Latin language of a selection of verse texts at an advanced level;
• to develop further knowledge of Latin grammar and syntax through translation of the verse text(s) studied and unseen translation work;
• further develop skills of literary analysis and interpretation, gain an understanding of the text's historical, cultural and literary context as reflected both in the text studied and relevant modern scholarship.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:
• demonstrate advanced knowledge of Latin grammar and syntax through translation of the text studied and unseen translation work;
• demonstrate sound knowledge of the text studied and modern scholarship on this text in literary and linguistic analysis.

OFFICE HOURS/HOW TO CONTACT ME

Please contact me if you would like to discuss any problems you may have concerning this module. It is best to email in the first instance (R. Parkes@uwtsd.ac.uk). You can also ask questions (not confidential) on the discussion board available in the Moodle space for this course.

COURSE MATERIALS AND MOODLE

I strongly encourage students to make active use of the Moodle forum that will be set up for this course. You may contact me via the forum, but more importantly, you will also have the opportunity to discuss aspects of the course with your fellow students there. Furthermore, all information regarding this course, including the module syllabus and assignment details will be available on the Moodle space.

STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

You are asked, supplementary to independent learning, to submit the following non-assessed assignments to me (via turn-it-in).

In addition, please feel free to ask my advice if you are stuck on, or have a question about, a passage not listed here. Even though only some of the translation is covered by the non-assessed assignments, you should aim to complete the required amount of text: this will prepare you for the exam which could contain any passage from this selection from the set text. Non-assessed work will usually be returned within one week.

Non-assessed formative assignments for distance learners:

Assignment No.	**Translation**	**Comment**	**Submission Date**
1	translation of *Theb*. 4.406-18	commentary on *Theb*. 4.473-87	20/10/2024
2	translation of *Theb*. 4.652-62	commentary on *Theb*. 4.697-710	3/11/2024
3	translation of *Pun.* 14.353-365	commentary on *Pun.* 14.444-61	1/12/2024
4	translation of *Pun.* 14.580-589	commentary on *Pun.*14.590-608	15/12/2024

Please submit non-assessed work by the turn-it-in links.
Ensure that you download all submitted work, and marker's comments, from Moodle before June 2025. All such material will not be available to you after you graduate or progress to the next level of study.

There will also be reading classes (times to be confirmed).

ASSESSMENT
1. *Coursework* (50%):
One 3,750 word critical commentary.

2. *Examination* (50%)
One two-hour exam

Coursework
One 3,750 word essay (the exercise is worth 50%).
To be submitted by 15/11/2024 by 11.59 pm; return date of provisional marks to be within twenty working days.
You will also need to retain a second electronic copy of your work to be submitted, if deemed appropriate, to the module convenor.

Choose ONE of the following questions:

1.Write a comprehensive, critical commentary on Statius *Thebaid* 4.592-645
2. Write a critical commentary on Statius *Thebaid* 4.793-50.
3. Discuss critically the ways in which Statius exploits epic intertexts in Book 4 and the effects achieved by this.
4. "A celebration of adult male heroism." How applicable is this description of epic to *Thebaid* Book 4?

Word count
Please be aware that If the specified word limit for an assessment has been exceeded, the following

penalties apply: The penalty cannot take the work into the fail category.

- Up to 10% above the word limit – No deduction off final mark
- Between 10% and 25% above the word limit – Deduction of 5 marks off final mark (or reduce the mark to the capped mark, whichever is greater)
- Between 25% and 50% above the word limit – Deduction of 10 marks off final mark (or reduce the mark to the capped mark, whichever is greater)
- 50% or more over length – Maximum mark of capped mark

Likewise, a failure to meet the maximum word limit may result in lower marks based on the quality of the work because they may not have included the necessary information required for the assessment and met the stated learning outcomes.

The feedback on the assessment should explicitly mention any mark deduction and the reason for it.

REMEMBER that the word count includes everything apart from the bibliography, titles or captions. You must provide the word count clearly.

Some extra assignment/essay guidelines
Please consult the reference guide written by the library.
Marks will be deducted if your piece of coursework is not presented properly (e.g. double-spacing, font 12 is needed). Note that all coursework needs to be word-processed; hand-written work will not be accepted. Assessment criteria can be found via Turn-it-in.

***** You need to watch plagiarism whenever you use secondary literature (please read carefully the plagiarism section in the Student Guide – ALL coursework will be submitted to a Turn-It-In analysis).** Please consult the library reference guide for advice on how to reference secondary literature.

In case of problems….
Do contact me if you have any problems with the writing or planning of your piece of coursework. Please note that individuals cannot give deadlines (please use the extenuating circumstances procedure).

EXAM
The exam, which constitutes 50% of your final mark, will last 2 hours and will occur during the Semester 1 exam period in January. It will be done online. It will comprise of seen translation and critical comment on the *Punica* 14 set portion. Please bear in mind that the exam may be scheduled any time during the exam period, though I will do my best to find a convenient time. Further information about the format of the exam will be given during the course.

Bibliography
Bibliography will be referenced in the Moodle space for this course. Please note that the books/articles mentioned there are only recommendations. You should also make use of any relevant class material and vidcasts and do some independent research. The loeb translations of Statius *Thebaid* 4 (Mozley and Shackleton Bailey: watch out for textual variations) and *Punica* 14 may provide a guide. There is also a more modern translation of the *Punica* by Augoustakis and Bernstein. You can access some dictionary support through clicking on words in the texts of these works in the online Perseus project but do check the results.

Essential
The set texts of *Thebaid* 4 and Silius *Punica* 14.

A dictionary (the biggest available to you: the *Oxford Latin Dictionary* (*OLD*) is the biggest but prohibitively expensive!) e.g.:
Morwood, J. (2005), *Oxford Latin Desk Dictionary*, Oxford.
Smith, W. and J. Lockwood (1992), *Latin-English Dictionary*, Chambers.
Lewis, C. T. (1962), *Elementary Latin Dictionary*, Oxford.

Recommended
Lewis, C. T. and C. Short (1956 or later) *A Latin Dictionary*, Oxford.
Glare, P. (1983 or later) *Oxford Latin Dictionary*, Oxford.

Welsh First language
If your first language is Welsh and you would like to submit any assessed coursework in Welsh, please see the Faculty Office as soon as possible to make arrangements for this.

Special needs / requirements
If you have any special needs (e.g. dyslexia, visual impairment) that need to be taken into account for the teaching of this module, please make sure that your level 7 Welfare Officer is made aware of this so that we can make sure that we fully support you in your studies.

Returning of work
Details of the assignment deadlines and return dates are given above. Detailed feedback is given with the returned work but if you would like to discuss your work in more detail, do contact me e.g. by email.

Passages for comment

Candidates should always ask themselves: 'Why has the examiner chosen *this* passage? What requires explanation in it?' In addition, things which will usually, or may, require comment or analysis include, but are not limited to (they will clearly vary from text to text, author to author, and genre to genre).

Context:
- What has just happened?
- What is happening?
- What is about to happen?
- Are there any clues in the passage which relate to its context?
- Who is speaking/narrating?
- To whom are they speaking/narrating?
- Why are they speaking/narrating to them?

Content: (normally carries more weight)
- Themes (metamorphosis, murder, love, etc.)
- Language, metre, style, points of grammatical interest
- Characterisation
- Tone (humorous, tragic, etc.)
- Imagery (fire, colours, etc.)
- How do the contents of the passage compare/relate to those of the wider text?