

CLCS4009: READING ANTIQUITY: A SURVEY OF ANCIENT LITERATURE
LECTURE 26 (WEEK 10) WORKSHOP: LIVING IN ROME
POETRY IN AND FROM CITY LIFE: MARTIAL AND JUVENAL

WORKSHOP: DEVELOPING YOUR RESEARCH AND WRITING SKILLS

The Workshop today consists of two tasks, both of which are designed to develop your research and writing skills and to prepare you for the examination in January. Task 1 involves visiting the library to undertake certain research tasks and should be completed now. Task 2 consists of practice for the examination in January and can be undertaken at any time in the next week.

WORKSHOP TASK 1: LIBRARY AND RESEARCH SKILLS

Task 1: Visit the library and undertake some research on Martial and Juvenal. You may want to look up both writers in the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, look up some editions and translations of their work (and read the introductions in them) and look for books containing commentaries on and interpretations of these authors.

Focus your research around the following questions (and ensure that you take detailed notes):

(Note: this research is essential for completing Task 2 below)

- 1/ Who were Martial and Juvenal? When were they writing and when did they live? Where were they writing? Why did they write, and what did they write about? (Hint: *The Oxford Classical Dictionary* would be a good place to start for questions 1-4).
 - 2/ What genre(s) are the works of Martial and Juvenal? In what form were their works originally published?
 - 3/ What are the main functions and purposes of the works of Martial and Juvenal?
 - 4/ How does the city of Rome feature in the works of Martial and Juvenal?
 - 5/ Any other relevant or salient information on these writers or their works?
 - 6/ Choose ONE passage from those listed under 'Workshop Task 2' below and research the content and context of the passage (Hint: it will help to look at editions and translations of the work as well as commentaries and other works on Juvenal and Martial)
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WORKSHOP TASK 2: ANSWERING 'GOBBET' QUESTIONS

Task 2: This task is intended to both develop your writing skills further and to prepare you for the January examination.

- 1/ Using the information and research gained from Task 1, spend about 20-30 minutes commenting on and writing about ONE of the gobbet passages below.
- 2/ Then, please upload your answer (a short paragraph or two) onto Moodle in Reading Antiquity: Week 10 Section (make sure that you include your name in the file name)

Discuss the context and content of ONE of the following passages:

- 1/ “Here spoke Umbricus: “Since there is no room,” quoth he, “for honest callings in this city, no reward for labour; since my means are less today than they were yesterday, and tomorrow will rub off something from the little that is left, I purpose to; go to the place where Daedalus put off his weary wings while my white hairs are recent, while my old age is erect and fresh, while Lachesis has something left to spin, and I can support myself on my own feet without slipping a staff beneath my hand. Farewell my country! Let Artorius live there, and Catulus; let those remain who turn black into white, to whom it comes easy to take contracts for temples, rivers or harbours, for draining floods, or carrying corpses to the pyre... What can I do at Rome? I cannot lie; if a book is bad, I cannot praise it, and beg for a copy; I am ignorant of the movements of the stars; I cannot, and will not, promise to a man his father’s death; I have never examined the entrails of a frog; I must leave it to others to carry to a bride the presents and messages of a paramour. No man will get my help in robbery, and therefore no governor will take me on his staff: I am treated as a maimed and useless trunk that has lost the power of its hands. What man wins favour nowadays unless he be an accomplice – one whose soul seethes and burns with secrets that must never be disclosed?”
(Juvenal, *Satire* III, 21-50 (extract)).

- 2/ “If you can tear yourself away from the games of the Circus, you can buy an excellent house at Sora, at Fabrateria or Frusino, for what you now pay in Rome to rent a dark garret for one year. And you will there have a little garden, with a shallow well from which you can easily drink water, without need of a rope, to bedew your weakly plants. There make your abode, a friend of the mattock, tending a trim garden fit to feast a hundred Pythagoreans. It is something, in whatever spot, however remote, to have become the possessor of a single lizard! Most sick people here in Rome perish

for want of sleep, the illness itself having been produced by food lying undigested on a fevered stomach. For what sleep is possible in a lodging? Who but the wealthy get sleep in Rome? There lies the root of the disorder. The crossing of wagons in the narrow winding streets, the slanging of drovers when brought to a stand, would make sleep impossible for a Drusus – or a sea-calf. When the rich man has a call of social duty, the mob makes way for him as he is borne swiftly over their heads in a huge Liburnian car. He writes or reads or sleeps inside as he goes along, for the closed window of the litter induces slumber. Yet he will arrive before us; hurry as we may, we are blocked by a surging crowd in front, and by a dense mass of people pressing in on us from behind: one man digs an elbow into me, another a hard sedan-pole; one bangs a beam, another a wine-cask, against my head. My legs are beplastered with mud; soon huge feet trample on me from every side, and a soldier plants his hobnails firmly on my toe.”

(Juvenal, *Satire III*, 223-248)

- 3/ Just here, where Nero's skyey colossus sees stars,
and the scaffolding towers up high, right in the way,
once shone the nasty halls of that cruel king,
and only the one Golden House in all of Rome.
Just here, where the Amphitheatre's honoured pile
rises, towering before our eyes, was Nero's lake.
Just here, where we gaze at Titus's thermal baths,
swift gift, proud acres razed the poor man's roof.
Where the Claudian colonnade spreads wide its shade,
that golden palace's outermost corner came to an end.
Caesar, Rome's back to herself, now you're in charge,
and the master's pleasures are the people's now

(Martial, *De Spectaculis 2: Rome Restored*)

- 4/ Here's the one you read, and you demand,
Martial, who is known throughout the land
for these witty little books of epigrams:
to whom, wise reader, you keep giving,
while he still feels, among the living,
what few poets merit in their graves.

(Martial, *Epigrams 1.1: He's here*)