

Advanced Latin Poetry

The Second Week with Lucan

Issues covered

- The importance of using the commentary
- The historical background: Battles of Cannae and Trebia
 - Livy Book 22
- The historical background: Marius and Sulla

Points of interpretation

- Lucan's fondness for paradox
 - 'tales pietas peritura querellas egerit' (Luc. 2.63)
 - 'at miseros angit sua cura parentes, / oderuntque gravis vivacia fata senectae / servatosque iterum bellis civilibus annos.' (Luc. 2.64-66)
- The importance of exempla in rhetorical declamation
- Scansion (along with scansion and interpretation)

The hexameter line

- Difference between Latin and English verse
 - Word stress and quantity
 - Quantity by position
 - Elisions
 - Finding information on quantity in the dictionary
 - Cf. Reading Latin (Grammar) p. 319
 - The usefulness of --- and ~
- Make-up of the hexameter line
 - Six-foot line
 - Alternation of dactyls and spondees
 - ~ ~ ~ | ~ ~ | ~ ~ ~ | ~ ~ | ~ ~ ~ | ~ ~
 - Either: ~ ~ ~ (dactyl) OR ~ ~ (sponde) in all but the penultimate foot
 - Caesurae
 - Penthemimeres
 - Trithemimeres and ephthemimeres

First line of Lucan

lamque irae patuere deum, manifestaque belli

lamque irae patuere deum, manifestaque belli

- ? ? - ? ? - ? ? - ? ? - ? ? - ?

lamque irae patuere deum, manifestaque belli

-- | - ~ ~ | - ~ ~ | - ~ ~ | - ~ ~ | --

SDDDDS

Second line of Lucan

Signa dedit mundus, legesque et foedera rerum

Signa dedit mundus, legesque et foedera rerum

Signa dedit mundus, legesque-et foedera rerum

DSSSDS

- ~ ~ - - | - - | - - | ~ ~ | - -

Signa dedit mundus, || legesque-et foedera rerum