Major Authors - Caesar & Sallust

Latin 311 Spring Semester 2019

Class meetings: MW 3:00--4:30 PM (LA 420)
Instructor: Hayden W. Ausland (office: LA 424; tel. 243-2125)
Primary office hours: MWF 12

This is a course in historical prose of the Golden period of Latin literature. We shall read in Latin parts of (1) Caesar's Bellum Civile, and (2) Sallust's Catilinae Coniuriatio, or Bellum Catilinae. We shall also consult some more of the same three authors in English translation. The objects of the course include learning something about (a) Roman writing as pursued under conditions in the late first century, B.C. and (b) the grammar, style, and rhetoric of the named major writers.

Class will be conducted as a seminar that will call upon your powers of accurate translation, grammatical explanation, and thoughtful discussion. We shall proceed methodically through passages taken from the works mentioned above, careful advance preparation of which by all is expected. Our focus will be chiefly on grammar, but also on historical and other features of the writings.

In week seven or eight of the term, a written mid-term examination will test students' command of the readings covered during the preceding weeks. A two-hour comprehensive final examination will occur at the time and place announced in the official university schedule. Those concerned to do everything they can, in the case of any ambiguity, to secure the higher of two grades will have the option of preparing short oral reports to the class that will serve, in turn, as the groundwork for written papers exposing some problem of interest in the readings.

The basis for evaluation will include the quality and consistency both of class participation and of written work.

Texts will be made available electronically.