

Latin On The Edge – Second Year Project

Aims

For this project, you will be preparing a text-commentary on a Latin text which focuses on the female experience of the Roman world. When this project is complete, if the standard of the commentary is high enough, it will be submitted to the editors of the *Online Companion to the Worlds of Roman Women* and considered for publication.

The purpose of this project is to:

- to increase your competence in Latin, specifically in the areas of vocabulary, grammar and syntax.
- to increase your confidence in interpreting Latin through reading, research, visualization and application.
- to contribute to intermediate-level Latin text-commentaries about women on the web.

The Project also aims to develop transferable skills in time management, working independently, and in the organisation, structuring, and composition of an extended piece of written work to a set deadline.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this Second Year Project, you should normally have begun to develop:

- A better appreciation and understanding of Latin grammar, vocabulary and syntax.
- An ability to digest critically large quantities of secondary literature.
- Skills for building basic bibliographies and locating appropriate bibliographical material for their research.
- An understanding of on-line bibliographical environments.
- Skills of self-organisation and self-motivation as well as the ability to organise, plan, structure, and execute a written task to a set deadline.
- An awareness of the range of skills necessary for independent study.

The Project

Choose one text from the following list:

- Apuleius, *Metamorphoses* 10.11-12
- Livy, *History of Rome* 2.40.1-12
- Livy, *History* 24.26.1-14
- Lucan, *Bellum Civile* 5.759-815
- Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 3.1-25, 115-142
- Ovid, *Heroides* 12 (Medea to Jason) 89-128

You need to produce:

- **An introduction** to the passage that contains information about the author's life and work, the genre of the selection, and an overview or outline of the work from which the passage is taken.
- **A reflection**, based on research, about the woman/women described in the passage and the circumstances in which she/they find themselves.
- **The Latin passage** you have selected.
- **Comments to the text** (glosses) arising from student reading, such as:
 - complete dictionary entries for less-common words with the recommended translation for the word, as it is used in the immediate context, placed first, followed by a range of possible meanings.
 - explication of grammatical forms, syntax, word order, rhetorical devices, meter.
 - identification of people, places, events, references.
 - interpretation of ideas in the text and meaning that is not readily apparent.
 - comments on textual variants and why you have chosen a particular version in the text you have provided.
- **A literal translation** of the Latin passage in your own words.
- **An appendix of images** that might be used to explain or illustrate the text, properly referenced according to the style guide.
- **A bibliography** of print and internet sources consulted.

Consult the *Online Companion to the Worlds of Roman Women* to examine the sort of details that an intermediate-level commentary might include and to see the sort of format that you could use – the website is at <https://www2.cnr.edu/home/sas/araia/companion.html>

You may also find the list of resources for translation and interpretation provided at <https://www2.cnr.edu/home/sas/araia/resources.html> useful for consultation, although note that you should also be looking for higher level secondary scholarship related to your chosen text and author.

The total length of your text-commentary should not exceed 5,000 words. Separate marks are not allocated for the individual sections but an overall percentage mark will be given for the whole project. The project is to be handed in by the advertised departmental deadline at the beginning of the Summer Term.

Assessment Criteria

The criteria that will be considered as part of the assessment are:

- Accuracy of understanding of the grammar, syntax and vocabulary used in the selected passage.
- Ability to collect appropriate bibliographical material.
- Evidence of relevant and appropriate secondary reading.

- Sound awareness of the place of the chosen passage within the larger work, genre and social context.
- Ability to succinctly incorporate scholarship into the text-commentary format.
- Ability to produce a coherent structure for the written assignment.
- Clarity, cogency, and independence of thought and the grammatical glosses.
- Clarity of presentation and standard of English.

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