

**Instructor:** Deborah Beck (deborah.beck [at] mail.utexas.edu)

**Office location and hours:** WAG 223, Tue 3:30-5:00 p.m., Th 9:15-10:45 a.m., and by appointment

**Prerequisite:** Grade of C in Latin 312

**Description:** Vergil's *Aeneid* is one of the most important texts in Latin and in Western literature as a whole. We will be focusing on books 7-8 this semester, where in some sense the poem has a second beginning that both builds on and goes beyond the "first" beginning at the start of the poem. In addition to careful reading of particular sections of the *Aeneid*, we will read the whole poem in English as well as relevant works of modern scholarship. Topics include

- **techniques** of Vergil's epic poetry
- Vergil's **life and other works**
- his relationship to contemporary historical and literary events
- the role of Vergil in **literary history** as a writer who both drew heavily on earlier poets and became a foundational text for later ones.

**Course goals:** To improve your proficiency at both literary analysis of the poetry of Vergil and at Latin translation.

Our time in class will be devoted mainly to translating assigned readings in aid of these goals. Sometimes our discussions will be more oriented towards one and sometimes more towards the other; you should come to class each day prepared for either or both. A subsidiary goal will be to make you more familiar and comfortable with scholarly approaches to the *Aeneid* and Latin poetry.

**Components of course grade:** overall, your grade is made up of several different kinds of activities (speaking in class, writing both for a grade and more informally, taking tests and quizzes). This is designed to give you several different ways to show your mastery of the material.

1. *Class attendance and participation*

20%

Each student gets two "free" absences. Your attendance grade then drops for each additional unexcused absence (a little bit for one additional absence, quite a lot for consistent skipping). In order to get full credit for participating as well as attending, you should come to class having done the reading and ready to discuss it. You should contribute regularly to class discussion by knowing the answer, by framing good questions about things you do not know, and/or by reacting to other students' comments. *Knowing the answer all the time is neither expected nor desirable.*

2. *Regular quizzes* 15%  
These will be both announced and unannounced. Announced quiz dates:  
Thursday 2/4  
Tuesday 3/9  
Tuesday 4/22
3. *Two midterm exams* 10% each  
Exam #1, Tuesday 2/23  
Exam #2, Tuesday 3/30 (covers primarily material since exam #1)
4. *Ungraded assignments* 10%  
These will include short informal writing assignments, required emails to do with the final paper, and an in-class oral presentation. There will be approximately 3-5 of them, including the oral presentation.
6. *Final paper*, due Fri. 5/7 at noon 15%  
This assignment will have two components: a graceful, idiomatic, and polished translation of a passage of 15-20 verses of your choice from the *Aeneid*; and analytical comments on a few features of that passage.
7. *Final exam*, date TBA 20%  
The exam will be cumulative but weighted toward the material covered in the last third of the class.

Plus/minus grades will be used according to the following scale:

- 98-100, A+
- 93-97, A
- 90-92, A-
- 87-89, B+ [and so forth]

**Course Web site** is on Blackboard

### **Course books**

The *Aeneid* text below is available at the Co-op:

R. D. Williams (ed.), *The Aeneid of Vergil, Books VII-XII*

Modern scholarly articles will be available electronically from the “assg’s and readings” tab on the course Blackboard page. There will be a selection of books about Vergil and the *Aeneid* on reserve at PCL, including the assigned course text and an English translation of the *Aeneid*. A link to the list of PCL reserves is also available at the “assg’s and readings” tab.

You should have a Latin lexicon and a grammar book, but I assume that you have already acquired these in previous Latin classes. If not, Cassell’s Latin-English dictionary and Allen and Greenough *New Latin Grammar* are available from the

Co-op as recommended books.

Useful reference work for library-only use in the Classics Library (located in WAG 1):

Warwick, H. H. and R. L. Hotchkiss, *A Vergil Concordance* (University of Minnesota Press)

call number: Classics Library Ref PA 6825 W37

**Reading schedule** will depend on how fast you are able to read. We will begin the first couple of classes by reading for a set period of time between classes (e.g. two hours) and covering in class all the Latin read for homework. Gradually as the semester progresses, we will increase the amount of Latin we read per assignment. Accordingly, I will hand out reading schedules that cover just a few weeks several times during the course of the semester. These will include both readings in Vergil and modern scholarly readings.

### **Policy statements**

If you have a disability or special needs: UT Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present documentation to me as close to the beginning of the semester as possible. For more information, contact SSD at 471-6259, or go to <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

UT Honor Code: The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Academic dishonesty: Cheating, plagiarism, or any form of academic dishonesty on any assignment will result in a zero on the assignment with no make-up work permitted, a maximum grade of C for the semester in the course, and a report of the incident to the Student Judicial Committee. Scholastic dishonesty includes any kind of cheating or collaboration on tests, or submitting work that is a) is not your own and/or b) not accurately attributed to its source. It does *not* include informally talking to other students about assignments, but make sure that whatever you write down and hand in as your work is either a) your own work or b) properly attributed to the source you got it from (me, a classmate, a Web page, a book). If you are not sure whether or how to cite something, ask! For more information, contact Student Judicial Services at 471-2841, or go to <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php>

Religious holidays: If you need to miss a class or other required class activity for the observance of a religious holiday, you must notify me at least 14 days in

advance so we can make alternative arrangements.

Note: the University's Religious Days Policy is online:

[http://www.utexas.edu/provost/policies/religious\\_holidays/](http://www.utexas.edu/provost/policies/religious_holidays/)

Late work: I do not accept late work for ungraded assignments. For graded assignments, your work must be handed in at the date and time due to be considered on time. It will be docked five points for each day late, including weekends. Make-up tests are not normally rescheduled except for a religious holiday, unavoidable family absences, or severe illness. Talk to me as far ahead of time -- or as soon after you get sick -- as possible.

Cell phones: Please turn off your cell phone before the start of class each day. If your phone rings or you use it during class, I will count that class as an unexcused absence.