Latin 323: Christian Martyrs in the Roman Empire

Time: T/TH 3:30-5 pm Place: WAG 112

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Ebbeler

Office: WAG 211 Phone: (512) 471-7570

Required Texts (available at The Co-op on Guadalupe or Amazon.com)

- James W. Halporn (ed.), *Passio Sanctarum Perpetuae et Felicitatis* (Bryn Mawr Latin Commentaries, 1984). ISBN: 0-929524-47-0.
- J. Campbell (ed.), *The Confessions of St. Augustine: Selections from Books I-IX* (Bolchazy-Carducci, 1984). ISBN: 0865160589.
- Tertullian, Ad Martyras (text and commentary to be provided)
- Henry Chadwick (trans.), Saint Augustine Confessions (Oxford World Classics, 1998).
 ISBN: 0-19-283372-3
- Selected Scholarly Articles (available on PCL E-Reserves)

Course Description

By the late second century CE, the Roman government believed that Christianity posed serious threats to the unity of the Roman Empire. Christians refused to offer sacrifices to the imperial cult and boldly renounced their familial relationships and responsibilities. Rumors flew, claiming that Christians engaged in incest and cannibalism, among other things. In an effort to curb the growth of Christianity and to remind Christians that they were sons and daughters of the Roman state rather than the Christian god, the imperial government announced various edicts. One edict made it illegal to be baptized a Christian. Another edict required all Roman citizens to offer sacrifice to the imperial cult. Failure to comply with the edict resulted in prosecution by a local representative of the imperial government. Faithful Christians who refused to obey these imperial edicts were frequently sentenced to death. Upon their death, they became Christian martyrs and the stories of their resistance and often torturous deaths were written down to inspire future generations of Christians. Drawing on the classical genres of epic and biography in particular, these martyr narratives evolved into a distinctively Christian literary genre.

In this course, we will read several important texts that illuminate our understanding of Christian martyrdom in Imperial Rome. Among our readings will be: Perpetua's account of her martyrdom; Tertullian's short treatise addressed to prospective martyrs; and selections from Augustine's *Confessions*. In addition to reading substantial amounts of Latin, we will also discuss a selection of recent secondary articles on the Latin texts and the broader literary and historical context. Assignments will range from approximately 25 lines of Latin early in the semester to 45-50 lines by the end of the semester. Class meetings will be devoted to the close translation and syntactical analysis of the assigned Latin as well as to discussion of its literary and historical importance. In addition to translation exams, students will be asked to produce a 7-10 page scholarly essay.

Grading Policies

- 3 Midterm Exams (75%): students will be expected to translate and answer grammatical and syntactical questions about short passages taken from the assigned readings. Each exam will also have an unseen passage and short content questions. The midterm exams will not be cumulative. The dates of the exams are 18 February, 1 April, and 6 May.
- Scholarly Essay (15%): students will be expected to write a 7-10 page scholarly essay. I strongly urge students to consult with me about their papers throughout the semester. The final papers are due on **10 May at 5 pm**. For each 24 hours after 5 pm on 5/10 that the paper is late, you will lose one full letter grade from the earned grade, regardless of the reason. For this reason, it is in your best interests to plan ahead and complete this assignment well before its due date.
- Attendance/Participation (10%): Attendance and participation are important parts of the course. Students are expected not only to be in class but to be in class ready to translate, answer syntactical questions about, and discuss the assigned readings. I do not expect that you will always have a perfect translation, but I do expect that you have prepared the assignment to the best of your abilities. Each student is permitted two absences/translation passes, no questions asked; after this point, your participation grade will be lowered. For this reason, it is to your advantage to save these "free passes" for a time when you are ill or have a family emergency. Frequent and enthusiastic participation will likewise be reflected by a higher participation grade. Whether or not you are in class, you are responsible for everything covered in class.

Your final percentage grade will be translated into a letter grade according to the following table:

100-93: A 92-90: A-89-87: B+ 86-83: B 82-80: B-79-77: C+ 76-73: C 72-70: C-69-67: D+ 66-65: D Below 65: F

If you are taking this course on a credit/no credit option, you must earn at least a 70 to receive credit for the course. If you are taking the course on a pass/fail option, you must earn at least a 75 to receive a pass.

Make-up Policies

Make-up exams will be given only in cases of documented athletic commitment; documented illness, death of an immediate family member (documented by an obituary listing you as a survivor), or other unavoidable emergency (documented by a letter from your Dean of Students).. You must also notify me in person or by phone as soon as possible and at least 3 hours BEFORE the time of the exam that you will miss the exam. If you fail to do so, you will receive a zero on the exam, regardless of the reason. If you are an athlete, you must make me aware of scheduling conflicts during the first two weeks of the semester. You should also expect that

the make-up exam will be of a different form and significantly more difficult. Make-up exams will be permitted no more than one week from the time of the originally scheduled exam. After that point, the instructor reserves the right to refuse a make-up exam. I highly encourage you to take all exams at the time that they are scheduled.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Please familiarize yourself with the University of Texas's 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."

Any student caught or facilitating cheating on any assignment will receive an F in the course and immediately be referred to the Dean of Students. In cases where dishonesty is strongly suspected, I reserve the right to re-examine the student(s). I will, however, assume absolute integrity on your part until shown otherwise. If you are unsure what constitutes academic dishonesty, see http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the contents of this website and to avoid any behavior that might be interpreted as academic dishonesty.

Add/Drop Policy

Please familiarize yourself with the University of Texas's official add/drop policy. Any requests to drop the course after the fourth week will be handled in accordance with these rules. Be forewarned: while you may use a "one time exception" to late-drop the course, the exception is to the deadline, not to the requirement that you must be earning at least a 70% in order to receive a Q-drop.

Students with Disabilities

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic adjustments for qualified students with disabilities. For more information contact the Dean of Students at (512) 471-6259 or see http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd. In order to receive accommodations, you must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). This office will document your disability, inform me of your situation, and instruct me on the necessary accommodations. If you chose not to register with SSD, I cannot make special accommodations for you.

Religious Holidays

According to Section 51.911 of the Texas Education Code, students shall be excused from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. If you will miss class (including exams) to celebrate a religious holiday, you must notify me AT LEAST 14 days prior to the holiday so that we can make arrangements for you to make up the assignment. All make-up work must be completed no later than one week after the missed class.

January 19: Introduction to Course 21: Overview of the Severan Persecution; Passio Perpetua 1.1-3 26: Passio Perpetua 1.4-2.3 28: Passio Perpetua 3.1-3.9 February 2: Passio Perpetua 4.1-10; Carolyn Osiek, "Perpetua's Husband" 4: Passio Perpetua 5.1-6.4 9: Passio Perpetua 6.5-7.10 11: Passio Perpetua 8.1-10.7 16: Passio Perpetua 10.8-10.15; Elizabeth Castelli, "Pieties of the Body and Gender Transformation of Christian Women in Late Antiquity" 18: **EXAM #1** 23: Passio Perpetua 11.1-13.8 25: Passio Perpetua 14.1-16.4 March 2: Passio Perpetua 17.1-18.9; T.J. Heffernan and J.E. Shelton, "Paradisus in Carcere" 4: Passio Perpetua 19.1-20.10 9: 21.1-11; Perpetua Cartoon 11: Wrap-up discussion of the *Passio Perpetua*; Introduction to Tertullian 16: SPRING BREAK 18: SPRING BREAK 23: Tertullian, Ad Martyras 1-2.5 25: Tertullian, Ad Martyras 2.6-3 30: Tertullian, Ad Martyras 4-6 April 1: EXAM #2 6: Intro to Confessions; 1.13.20-22 (pp. 81-84); Confessions 1 (English) 8: Aug. Conf. 2.4.9; 2.8.16 (pp.97-99); Confessions 2 (English) 13: Aug. Conf. 3.4.7-8 (pp.104-107; Confessions 3 (English)

15: Aug. Conf. 8.7.16-17 (pp. 158-160); Confessions 8 (English)

20: Aug. Conf. 8.7.18-8.8.19 (pp. 160-162)

22: Aug. Conf. 8.8.19-8.9.25 (pp. 162-163)

27: Aug. Conf. 8.9.26-27 (pp. 164-165)

29: Aug. *Conf.* 8.12.28-29 (pp. 166-167)

4: Aug. Conf. 8.12.29-30 (pp. 167-169); Confessions 9 (English) May

6: EXAM #3