
Lucian

GREK 1111A [CRN: 25024]

Spring 2014
MWF 1:00-1:50am

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Overview

The funniest and most impressive writer of Greek prose during the imperial period (not to mention the alleged inventor of science fiction), it is no wonder that Lucian was a favorite author from the Renaissance to the early 20th century. Beloved of great thinkers like Thomas More and Jonathan Swift, even Martin Luther had this to say to his rival Erasmus: “you ooze Lucian from every pore...” Lucian has every right to experiencing a much-deserved revival and becoming again a central author of the classical canon -- as he had been through most of history. We will read some of his best texts, appreciate their Greek, and consider the context in which they were written.



Evaluation

For Undergraduates

- Class Participation (be present and prepared for all classes)
- Final 7-10 pg. research paper (~1750-2500 words; 25% of grade)
- Test #1 (10% of grade)
- Test #2 (10% of grade)
- Final Exam (20% of grade)

For Graduates

- Class Participation (be present and prepared for all classes)
- Final 20 pg. research paper (25% of grade)
- A second Lucian reading list to be discussed with me and to appear on tests
- Test #1 (10% of grade)
- Test #2 (10% of grade)
- Final Exam (20% of grade)

N.B. When we reach “Peregrinus” we *may* consider workshopping sections in commentary form with weekly presentations on Fridays, but this depends on how we do with Hopkinson.

Required Books

- Lucian: A Selection (N. Hopkinson, ed.)
- Later Texts will be provided in handout form

Milestones

2/14/14

Test #1

3/21/14

Test #2

4/4/14

The topic of your final essay sent to me by email

This is a rough sketch of the reading: depending on how slowly or quickly we read this schedule will almost certainly change

Week 1: Introduction to Lucian

Wed. 1/22: Introduction: Why read Lucian?

Fri. 1/24: *Lucian's Dream*

Week 2: Lucian in his own words

Mon. 1/27: *Lucian's Dream*

Wed. 1/29: *Lucian's Dream*

Fri. 1/31: *Lucian's Dream*

Week 3: Lucian and Timon

Mon. 2/3: *Lucian's Dream*

Wed. 2/5: *Timon*

Fri. 2/7: *Timon*

Week 4: Timon the Misanthrope

Mon. 2/10: *Timon*

Wed. 2/12: *Timon*

Fri. 2/14: TEST #1

Week 5: Timon the Misanthrope

Mon. 2/17: No Class, President's Day

Wed. 2/19: *Timon*

Fri. 2/21: *Timon*

Week 6: Timon the Misanthrope

Mon. 2/24: *Timon*

Wed. 2/26: *Timon*

Fri. 2/28: *Timon*

Week 7: Timon the Misanthrope

Mon. 3/3: *Timon*

Wed. 3/5: *Timon*

Fri. 3/7: *Timon*

Week 8: The Suicide of Peregrinus

Mon. 3/10: *Peregrinus*

Wed. 3/12: *Peregrinus*

Fri. 3/14: *Peregrinus*

Week 9: The Suicide of Peregrinus

Mon. 3/17: *Peregrinus*

Wed. 3/19: *Peregrinus*

Fri. 3/21: Test #2

Week 10: Spring Break (3/22-30)

Week 11: The Suicide of Peregrinus

Mon. 3/31: *Peregrinus*

Wed. 4/2: *Peregrinus*

Fri. 4/4: *Peregrinus* (*BY TODAY, PLEASE SEND ME YOUR PAPER TOPICS BY EMAIL*)

Week 12: The Suicide of Peregrinus

Mon. 4/7: *Peregrinus*

Wed. 4/9: *Peregrinus*

Fri. 4/11: *Peregrinus*

Week 13: Alexander the Cult-Leader/Crook

Mon. 4/14: *Alexander*

Wed. 4/16: *Alexander*

Fri. 4/18: *Alexander*

Week 14: Alexander the Crook/Cult-Leader

Mon. 4/21: *Alexander*

Wed. 4/23: *Alexander* (Last class)

Week 15

Reading Period: Fri. 4/25- Tues. 5/6

Final Paper due at the end of Reading Week

Final Exam Date & Time TBA