

Latin 365, Advanced Latin Reading: Lucretius

Professor - William R. Nethercut

WAG 115, MWF 12-1, and by appt. -- 471-3839 -- nethercut@mail.utexas.edu

Text: W.E.Leonard and S.B.Smith, editors; T. Lucreti Cari *DE RERUM NATURA* (Madison, Wisconsin)

Course Description: Lucretius is the major Latin poet standing between the first Roman epics and the famous poets of the Augustan period. He is the single most influential Latin predecessor to Vergil. His work, "On the Nature of Things", is a unique exposition of Greek Epicurean philosophy in powerful and beautiful verse. He asks us to release the fears which drive humans to perverse and self-destructive actions, as we discover in nature the proportioning of increase and decline which balances night with dawn, death with birth. We shall read 2000 lines, including his arguments for matter as the grouping of particles in space, his treatise on the error of fearing death, his satiric analysis of sexual passion, his story of society's evolution (unique in its positive tone among our ancient accounts), and his exposure of the irrationality of Athenian citizens overwhelmed by plague at the peak of their city's renown.

Grading: Two Hour Examinations will count 25% and 30%. A final (45%) will determine the grade given. Final averages will be scored as follows: 92-100 A; 89.5-91, A-; 88-89, B+; 82-87, B; 79.5-81, B-; 78-79, C+; 72-77, C; 69.5-71, C-; 68-69, D+; 62-67, D; 59.5-61, D-; below 59.5, F.

Test Dates: Friday, October 9; Friday, October 30; the Final Exam will be held at the regularly scheduled testing date listed on the University's December Examination assignments.

Disability policy: Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division for Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY, <http://www.utexas.edu/disabilities/> In less complicated cases, the teacher will be glad to arrange suitable testing circumstances.

Scholastic dishonesty policy: Cheating (looking on other students' tests, consulting material brought into the testing room) will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic F for the examination in question. For further information, consult http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sis/cint_student.php

Religious holidays policy: Students can make up a test missed for religious observance; please document such a conflict two weeks prior to the exam.
