UGS 302
CLASSICS AND MODERN FANTASY
(Unique Number 61480)
Spring 2016 MW 10:00-11:30; MAI 220D

Professor Ayelet Haimson Lushkov
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Office Hours: W 1:00-3:00 and by appt., WAG 109.

Course Description: This course looks at contemporary reception of some important themes of classical epic, the working of the genre, and how it reappears in contemporary culture. We will base our reading on George Martin’s A Song of Ice and Fire, and on a selection of classical epics: Vergil’s Aeneid, Lucan’s Civil War, and Statius’ Thebaid. We will therefore think not only about narrative, but also about the processes of transformation from antiquity to the present day, the shapes and products of these transformations, and about the presence of the classics in current, and not-so-current, culture and media.

Required Texts:
Vergil, Aeneid. Translated by Frederick Ahl. Oxford’s World Classics.
Statius, Thebaid: A Song of Thebes. Translated by Jane W. Joyce. Cornell UP.

NB: All these texts exist in multiple editions, and you may prefer to buy a cheaper edition. Bear in mind, however, that assignments are given by page numbers in the editions listed above, and it is your responsibility to make sure you keep up with the readings. The class has a no-electronics policy as a rule, but if you must have e-books, come speak to me.

Assessment: In addition to the regular readings, attendance, and participation (10%), your final grade will be assessed as follows:
Short Papers: 40%, made up of: Paper #1 = 10%; Paper #2 = 15%; Paper #3 = 15%.
Final Exam: 30%
Oral Presentations: 20%

I will give further details in class—please ask me if you have questions about any of these assignments, whether relating to content or format. Paper assignments include a mandatory conference with me, in which we will identify particular strengths and weakness for you to work on. These conferences are not a graded activity, but they are a requirement for a grade being entered for the assignment. Note also that some of the papers carry mandatory revisions, while other have optional opportunities for revision. Specific details will be given in the
assignment sheets nearer the time. All revisions are due within a week of the conference, in hard copy, with the original paper attached.

The grade scale used for this class is as follows: A (100-94), A- (93-90), B+ (89-86), B (86-83), B- (82-80), C+ (79-76), C (75-73), C- (72-70), D+ (69-66), D (66-63), D- (62-60). Grades below 60 will be assigned an F. This means that if you get an B, your corresponding number grade will be 84.5, which is the midpoint in the B range; a C+ would be 77.5 and so on. Only flawless work will be awarded a 100. If you have specific goals in mind for your term’s work, come and speak to me well in advance of the end of term, so you may attempt to improve your work with time to spare. Remember, you earn your grades; wanting an ‘A’ and deserving one are two different things.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student caught cheating or facilitating cheating in any assignment or quiz will receive an F for the class and will be referred to the appropriate dean. All work must be your own; no group projects are allowed, and any joint work will be considered cheating. If you are not certain what constitutes dishonesty, please ask me or consult the university’s website: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php.

Expectations: This is entirely a reading and discussion course, and your main task is to complete all the readings and be prepared to speak about them engagedly and critically. Students are expected to attend all classes and to complete all assigned readings before class as well as all other assignments by the relevant deadline. This class also places an emphasis on the development of writing skills - your assignments are designed to give you repeated opportunities to improve your critical idiom and expression before the final paper.

You are expected to arrive on time and remain for the entire duration of the class. Failure to do so will negatively affect your grade! Absences are allowed only in the following cases: a documented athletic commitment, a medical problem or a religious observances, which must be approved by me at least 14 days in advance, or by a doctor’s note in the case of a medical emergency. In those cases, you will have to make up any work no later than one week after the regular date, or else receive a zero regardless of the reason.

Written assignments are due in my office or mailbox in Waggener Hall as per the syllabus or instructions given in class. Unless given other instructions, they must be submitted in hard copy, have a title and your name on them, and be edited and proofread! Late work will be penalized by 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g., from A to A-) for every day late, unless approved by me in advance.
Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY, http://www.utexas.edu/disability/; you must schedule an appointment with me to discuss these accommodations not later than the second week of class.

This class has a no electronics policy. This includes laptops, iPhones, iPods, etc. If I see you using any electronic item, you will be asked to turn it off.

Writing and Resources:
This course carries the Writing Flag. Writing Flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the semester, complete substantial writing projects, and receive feedback from your instructor to help you improve your writing. You will also have the opportunity to revise one or more assignments, and you may be asked to read and discuss your peers’ work. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your written work. Writing Flag classes meet the Core Communications objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication, Teamwork, and Personal Responsibility, established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

I strongly encourage you to use the Undergraduate Writing Center, FAC 211, 471-6222: http://www.uwc.utexas.edu/). The UWC offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT undergraduate, by appointment or on a drop-in basis. These services are not just for writing that has "problems": getting feedback from an informed audience is a normal part of a successful writing project. The UWC’s trained consultants work with students from every department on both academic and non-academic writing. Using methods that preserve the integrity of your work, they help you develop strategies to improve your writing and become a more independent writer. Whether you are writing a lab report, a resume, a term paper, a statement for an application, or your own poetry, UWC consultants will be happy to work with you.

Beyond the UWC, this class has many resources devoted to its and your success. If you need help, or would just like to explore our topics further, come see me in my office hours. This is especially true if you are struggling with time management or the reading load, but I am available whatever the problem.

Important Dates:
Wednesday, February 17th: Paper #1: Passage Analysis
Wednesday, March 23rd: Paper #2: Scholarship Analysis
Monday, April 25th: Paper #3: Full Work Analysis
April 11th-13th: Oral Presentations
Wednesday, May 11th 9:00am-12:00noon: At-Home Final Exam
Schedule of Readings:
This schedule is a starting point, which is subject to change as term progresses and class interest demands. All changes will be announced in class AND on Canvas, so be sure to pay attention.

W Jan 20th: Introduction

M Jan 25th: Beginnings: Aeneid. 1-11, Lucan 1.1-7, Statius 1.1-43, GoT Prologue (pp. 1-11), CoK Prologue (pp. 1-29).


W Feb 3rd: Symbolism II: Groves: Lucan 3. 399-452, GoT ‘Catelyn’ (pp. 22-7), PDF of Lord of the Rings, available on Canvas.

M Feb 8th: Battles I: City-Sacking: Aeneid Book 2.


M Feb 15th: In-Class Workshop for Paper #1

W Feb 17th: Paper #1 Due in Class. Tentative: Library Session (meet at PCL).

M Feb 22nd: Reluctant Narrators: Lucan, book 1; GoT ‘Catelyn’ (pp. 58-67).

W Feb 24th: Games: Aeneid 5.104-60, Statius 296-946, GoT 293-7, 305-17.


W Mar 9th: In Class Workshop for Paper #2.

M Mar 14th – W Mar 16th: Spring Break

W Mar 23rd: Going to the Underworld! Odyssey Bk 11 (on Canvass), Aeneid Bk 6, Your choice of: Punica 13.381-895 (on Canvas), Paradise Lost 1.27-241, Ulysses, Ch. 6 (‘Hades’) (pp. 72-95), Omeros 3.25-8 (pp. 133-52), 4.33.2 (pp. 170-2)

M Mar 28th: Class cancelled for UGS lecture
Paper #2 Due.

T Mar 29th 7:00-8:00pm, Texas Union Theatre
Presenter: Dr. Noel B. Busch-Armendariz, School of Social Work
Are Women & Children for Sale? Yes, and it's a $150.2 Billion Dollar Industry

W Mar 30th: Women and Children in Game of Thrones I: GoT, ‘Daenerys’ Chapters


W Apr 6th: In Class Workshop for Paper #3.

M Apr 11th: Student Presentations.

W Apr 13th: Student Presentations.

M Apr 18th: Student Presentations.

W Apr 20th: Class Cancelled.

M Apr 25th: Tentative: Museum Session (meet at Blanton Museum). Paper #3 Due

W Apr 27th: Class’s Choice – What would YOU like to talk about?

M May 2nd: Class’s Choice – What would YOU like to talk about?

W May 4th: Concluding Discussion