

John Bodel, Dept. of Classics, 48 College St., 204, Box 1856 | phone: 3-3815; mess. 3-1267 | john_bodel@brown.edu | Office hours: Th 4-5:30 or by appointment

THE COURSE

This course is designed for graduate students in Classics, Archaeology, Ancient History, Religious Studies and other fields of study of the ancient world who wish to learn more about Latin inscriptions. It introduces the study of Roman epigraphy by pursuing two different but related goals. The first is to teach students how to read, identify, and, to the extent possible, interpret the main types of inscriptions found in Latin during the periods of the Roman Republic and Empire and to learn how to pursue further research on inscriptions independently. The second is to learn how to edit Latin (and, in some cases, Greek) texts, primarily on stone, according to the latest scholarly standards and conventions for the digital publication of inscribed texts.

To meet the latter goal, students will be introduced early in the semester to the basic editing conventions and practices of Latin epigraphy and to the EpiDoc system of digital markup now widely employed for editing texts (particularly but not only inscribed texts) for digital publication. Each student will be assigned a small collection, or part of a larger collection, registered with the U.S. Epigraphy Project to prepare for digital publication at the end of the course. This work will include learning about the history of the collection—where and when it was collected and what it comprises today—as well as editing the individual inscribed objects. For the most part, students will work “virtually” with the collections, which are located all over the United States, but in some cases it may be possible to visit and examine the inscriptions directly, which is always preferable whenever circumstances allow.

USEP = <http://usepigraphy.brown.edu/projects/usep/collections>

TEXTS

A. E. Gordon, *Illustrated Introduction to Latin Epigraphy*, Berkeley 1983.

J. E. Sandys, *Latin Epigraphy. An Introduction to the Study of Latin Inscriptions*, 2nd ed. Revised by S. G. Campbell, London, 1927; repr. Chicago 1974.

J. Bodel, ed., *Epigraphic Evidence. Ancient History from Inscriptions*, London and New York, 2001.

- Available at the Brown University Bookstore
- Other materials will be placed on reserve in the Classics Department’s Couch Library in MacFarlane (301).

SCHEDULE OF SEMINAR MEETINGS

Sept 8: Introduction. Media and materials.

- 15: Epigraphic habits, editing conventions, and the Roman name
Gordon, Introduction, pp. 3-8, 12-34
Sandys, ch. 3, pp. 34-58; App. 1, pp. 207-21; App. 6, pp. 291-93
Epigraphic Evidence, ch. 1, pp. 1-56; ch. 3, pp. 73-87 (names)
- Practice assignment: Sandys, App. 5 nos. 1-15. Write out transcriptions with abbreviations expanded, punctuation.

- 22: Modern collections and tools. Archaic texts and monuments. Republican epigraphy 1.
Gordon, Introduction, pp. 8-12, 34-42, 44-55; nos. 1-7

Sandys, ch. 2, pp. 20-33

Epigraphic Evidence, Ch. 2, pp. 57-72; Appendix, pp. 153-74.

Degrassi, *Inscriptiones Latinae Liberae Rei Publicae* (browse)

- Practice assignment: Sandys, App. 5 nos. 46-52. Prepare to read and translate, with abbreviations expanded.

29: EpiDoc Practicum (Elli Mylonas)

Oct. 6: Republican Epigraphy 2. Augustus and the birth of imperial epigraphy. Epitaphs.

Gordon, nos. 8-21, 23, 24, 26, 28, 32, 33, 37, 39, 45, 49, 52

Sandys, ch. 4, pp. 59-82 ; ch. 10, pp. 189-95

Epigraphic Evidence, ch. 4, pp. 95-117

Dessau, *Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae* nos. 1877-1900, 7848-7866, 8395-8430a; browse 1901-

1985, 7867-8207, 8431-8530

Erika Valdivieso: G(ordon no.) 8

[13: Columbus Day holiday]

20: *Cursus honorum*: Reading senatorial and equestrian careers

W. Eck, "Prosopography," in A. Barchiesi and W. Scheidel, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Roman Studies* (Oxford 2010) 146-59

Gordon, nos. 22, 29, 30, 35, 48, 55, 58, 59, 68, 84, 90, 92, 93, 96, 97

Sandys, ch. 6, pp. 93-117; browse App. 2, pp. 222-229; App. 5, nos. 31-45

ILS nos. 862-1472 (browse).

[A. R. Birley, *The Fasti of Roman Britain*, Oxford 1981, pp. 1-52]

[L. Volusius Saturninus (*AE* 1972, 174-176) and C. Plinius Secundus (*CIL* 5.5262)]

Sam Lash: G 22

Mahmoud Samori: G 55

Kelley Nguyen G 96

27: [Field trip to Baltimore to visit MD.Balt.JHU / Epidoc Lab]

Nov. 3: ****RISD Art Museum visit: meet at Chace Center entrance on 20 North Main Street at 3:00****

Emperors and their households

Gordon, nos. 31, 34, 36, 40-42, 46, 50, 56, 57, 61, 64, 67, 71-73, 77, 81, 82, 86, 88, 94

Sandys, ch. 7, pp. 118-42; App. 3, pp. 230-56

Darrel Janzen: G 36

Luther Karper: G 46

Rebecca Ramsey: G 61

10: *Res sacrae. Fasti*: calendars and consular lists; dedications.

Gordon, nos. 25, 27, 38, 47, 63, 75, 80

Sandys, ch. 5, pp. 83-92 ; ch. 10, pp. 189-95; App. 5 nos. 17-30

Epigraphic Evidence, ch. 5, pp. 118-36

[*Inscriptiones Italiae* XIII and ILS 2957-5050 (browse)]

Gaia Gianni: G 19

William Jacobs: G 25

17: *Funeraria* and Christian epigraphy

Gordon, nos. 60, 62, 65, 66, 70, 76, 79, 85, 87, 89, 91, 95, 98-100

[*Leges libitinae*: S. Panciera ed., *Libitina e dintorni*, Rome 2004, 37-168, esp. 47-64 (texts)

F. Cumont, *Recherches sur le symbolisme funéraire des romains*, Paris 1942 (browse)

ILS nos. 8209-8378 and *Libitina e dintorni* 173-652 (*iura sepulcrorum*) (browse)]

Trigg Settle: G 60

Sam Caldis: G 89

- 24: *Instrumentum domesticum* and the ancient economy. Public administration.
 Gordon, nos. 43, 44, 51, 53, 54, 69, 83
 Sandys, ch. 8, pp. 143-55
Epigraphic Evidence, ch. 6, pp. 137-52

Keith Fairbank: G 51
Julia Lenzi: G 53

Dec. 1: Reports on USEP collections (Delos, Thasos, and Italy 1)

8: Reports on USEP collections (Delos, Thasos, and Italy 2)

[8-12 tbd (Reading period): **Sight reading test**]

[15: Final editions of USEP collections (collection histories; editions and commentaries, with texts and metadata in xml Epidoc) due.]

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **Class participation.**
- **One brief (10-15 minute) report** in class on an inscription from the weekly reading assignments.
- **One in-class test** involving transcription, translation, and interpretation of seen and unseen inscriptions (during reading period).
- **EpiDoc editions of inscriptions in USEP collections (mostly MD.Balt.JHU).**