COLORADO UNIVERSITY BOULDER

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

FALL 2019

### **LATN 3014**

### **CICERONIAN INVECTIVE**

MWF 11:00 – 11:50 A.M. Zachary Herz, 307 Woodbury

Ketchum 1B64 zachary.herz@colorado.edu

 Office Hours: M 12:30 – 1:30

 W 3:00 – 4:00



Bust of the orator Cicero. Image via Wikimedia Commons.

Course Description:

Marcus Tullius Cicero is widely considered the greatest orator in Roman history—a tireless advocate for democracy and the rule of law who fought to preserve the Rome he loved against the specter of empire. This class is not about that. Cicero was also one of the foremost practitioners of Roman invective, a ruthless insult comic who deployed every rhetorical trick available to highlight his targets’ violations of Roman norms. In this class, students will closely examine Ciceronian invective as both literature and history, through the lens of the Verrine Orations. Cicero’s attacks on the corrupt (likely), greedy (probably) and unmanly (maybe?) Gaius Verres not only demonstrate the orator’s incredible facility with language but also the complex network of social expectations his opponent allegedly transgressed. Students will translate selections of Cicero’s first major speech with an eye towards understanding them as a literary product, and will also discuss the cultural and political context that made Cicero’s attacks so venomous. Students will be tested on this material with two translation-based exams and two papers.

Required Text:

**Dickison, *Cicero’s Verrine Oration II.4.* Wayne State University Press.**

This book is available at the bookstore, but if you wish to purchase it elsewhere feel free: just **make sure you have the most recent edition, since page numbers often change**. Scholarly readings outside of this text will be posted to Canvas.

Class Preparation:

Class time will be spent primarily in translation. Students will be expected to arrive every day prepared to translate the day’s assignment. While I would rather students not bring written translations to class, I permit (and in fact encourage) grammatical notes and a vocabulary list. In addition to translation, we will discuss the historical context of the *In Verrem* and the rhetorical devices it employs. Students will not only develop a greater facility with Ciceronian Latin and with Latin oratory in general, but will also learn how to research and write short papers on Cicero’s style and approach.

Assignments and Grading:

Students will demonstrate their translation skills in midterm and final exams, in addition to two short (3-5 page) literary papers. Grades will be calculated as follows:

Exams: 20% each

Papers: 20% each
Participation: 20%

Classroom Conduct:

I expect students to remain attentive and respectful at all times, particularly of each other. **I cold call**, which means that I will sometimes call on students who have not raised their hands; that can be challenging, and I expect all of you to help me create as comfortable a space for open dialogue as possible.

The use of electronic devices in class (personal computers, tablets, etc) is strictly forbidden; it is vital that you be fully engaged and present, and electronic devices hinder that engagement. If you have learning provisions that require the use of certain technologies, please let me know so that we can come to an arrangement.

Office Hours:

Every Monday from 12:30 to 1:30 and every Wednesday from 3 to 4, I will be in my office (Woodbury 307) with the door open. I do this so that you can come by and talk to me about the class in a relaxed setting; whether you need help with something, have a question about the class, or simply want to talk more about the reading. **Please come! You are always welcome to come to my office hours, and I appreciate the company.** If you want to meet with me and are not free during my office hours, e-mail me at zachary.herz@colorado.edu and we can choose another time and place.

Accommodation for Disabilities:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students/temporary-medical-conditions) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

Classroom Behavior:

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior) and the [Student Code of Conduct](http://www.colorado.edu/osccr/).

Honor Code:

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](https://www.colorado.edu/osccr/honor-code).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation:

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct intimate partner abuse (including dating or domestic violence), stalking, protected-class discrimination or harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](https://cuboulder.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0PnqVK4kkIJIZnf), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](http://www.colorado.edu/institutionalequity/).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

Religious Holidays:

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, I am more than happy to accommodate religious obligations but **really really (no for real, really) need to know about them ASAP.** Please look closely at the schedule of classes and let me know **within the next two weeks** if you will need to miss a class or exam for reasons of religious observance.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams) for full details.

Important Dates:

August 26: Introduction

October 7: Midterm; first paper assigned

October 28: First paper due

November 18: Second paper assigned

December 9: Second paper due

December 15: Final Exam (1:30 – 4:00 P.M.)