

LATN 1002 Writing Assignments: *Quī scrībit bis discit!*

(rev. January 15, 2006)

Professor: Dr. Richard A. LaFleur, 234 Park Hall; edress rlafleur@uga.edu; phone 542-9263 (BUT email is FAR better than calling); office hours: 4-5 T/W

Teaching Assistant: Mr. Shaughn Casey (*Ricardus Secundus*), 242 Park Hall; office hours: or by appointment; email rcasey@uga.edu, phone 542-2037.

To reinforce the most important objectives of this and most Latin courses— learning to read, analyze, and discuss Latin literary texts, and to translate them into idiomatic English— you will be assigned weekly to write translations of short reading passages from *Wheelock's Latin* or Groton and May's *38 Latin Stories* and to answer brief discussion questions on those passages; for each passage, you will first do a “literal” version and then a more polished, “literary” version. These assignments, which count 20% of your final grade, will help you considerably with your translation skills, your English composition, and your skills in literary analysis, and they typically boost test scores and course grades as well. You may wish to visit the site “Making the Most of Your Writing Course: A Guide for Students” at <http://www.english.uga.edu/wip>.

- ✓ **LITERAL VERSIONS:** The rule for LITERAL versions is that they should be “*as literal as possible within the limits of good English idiom.*” E. g.:

Maecēnās et Vergilius mē hodiē vocant. Quid cōgitare dēbeō? Quid dēbeō respondere? Sī errō, mē saepe monent et culpant; sī nōn errō, mē laudant. Quid hodiē cōgitare dēbeō?

Maecenas and Vergil (always put names into nominative or common English form) *call me today. What ought I to think? What ought I to reply? If I err, they often warn and blame me; if I do not err, they praise me. What ought I to think today?*

- ✓ **LITERARY VERSIONS AND DISCUSSIONS:** When your LITERAL version has been marked and returned to you, you will be asked to compose a LITERARY translation of the same passage, referring to the marked literal version to be sure you avoid repeating any basic translation errors; this version should not only be written in correct, grammatical English, properly capitalized and punctuated, but must also be in a more fluid, natural idiom, more polished, less rigidly “Latinated” than your literal version, and should, wherever possible, convey the spirit, tone, nuance, and style of the original text without adding ideas that are not present or at least implied in the Latin, and without omitting anything either; this version may be somewhat longer than the original Latin and the literal translation, but should not be overly expansive; cf. the following version of the above passage:

Maecenas and Vergil have invited me over today (tense change ok, since invitation clearly came earlier). *What should I think of this invitation?* (interpretive expansion) *How should I reply?* (“how” ok for **quid** and good idiom for this context) *When I make a mistake/do something wrong* (much less stiff than “If I err”), *they generally admonish and censure me* (good, idiomatic

synonyms); *when I don't* (avoids repetition but conveys same meaning), *they praise me. What should I think* (replicates the repetition seen in the original) *today?*

The TA will evaluate and comment on your literary version and compare it with your original literal version.

Your answers to the brief discussion questions will be evaluated and commented upon by the professor, who will assign a combined grade for the translation and discussion(s) based on content and accuracy as well as use of correct English, proper punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

You must type (DOUBLE-SPACED) your LITERARY version and answers to the discussion questions and turn them in with your marked LITERAL version ATTACHED.

- ✓ **WHEN ASSIGNED AND DUE:** Passages will be assigned by THURSDAY, usually earlier, and will be due at the beginning of class on MONDAY; these will be the same passages that we will go over in class on Monday. The assignments will be announced in class, then emailed as a reminder (and for anyone who was absent); remember to check your email daily. The translations will be marked and commented upon by the course Teaching Assistant and returned to you by Thursday. If you are absent on the due date, you may email the translation– as STRAIGHT EMAIL, NOT an ATTACHMENT; you must email it to BOTH the professor and the TA. NO PAPERS ARE ACCEPTED LATE; if you are present in class on the due date and do not turn in your paper, your grade will be zero (which you may count as one of your two drop grades).
- ✓ **FORMAT:** All papers MUST be TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED.
- ✓ **GRADING:** LITERAL versions are graded S(atisfactory) or U(nsatisfactory); U is assigned to translations that are obviously hastily done and exceptionally inaccurate (over 15 errors). Letter grades are assigned to the LITERARY versions and discussions, and these should generally be in the A+ (1-2 errors only), A (3-4 errors), to A- (5-6 errors) range, so long as the suggested guidelines are followed; grades are based on both a) the quality of the translation and content of the discussions and b) correct use of English, including proper spelling and sentence structure and such mechanics as capitalization, punctuation, etc., so be sure to proofread; points are deducted if the literary translation is still overly literal, and if your literal translation is not turned in along with the literary version. Points are deducted on all translations that are not typed and double-spaced; late papers are not accepted, as noted above, but your two lowest grades are dropped, which would include zeroes on assignments not submitted.

Quī scrībit bis discit . . .



He who writes, learns twice!