Instructor: Ryan Samuels  
Email: rsamuels@fas.harvard.edu  
Office Hours: by appointment 
Location: Sever 112  
Meeting Time: T. 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Description & Aims:

Rarely in Greek and Roman literature may city and country be considered in isolation, as one is generally defined against the other (or, in the language of modern theory, “Other”). The countryside is alternately a place of toil and of rest, of backwardness and of purity, while the city on the other hand may represent in turn refinement or excess, high culture or degeneracy. As we trace its ambivalent development across time, space, and genre, the binary discourse of city and country will serve as a lens through which we will also consider such related discursive pairs as agriculture and commerce, free and slave, male and female, wealth and poverty, public and private, work and leisure, the active and the contemplative life, the competing philosophies of Stoicism and Epicureanism, capital and province, indigenous and foreign, past and present, old and young/new, progress and decline. Emphasis will be on the development of familiarity with theoretical approaches to Greek and Latin texts and of practical research skills.

Expectations and Policies:

Students will give weekly presentations on individual assignments and actively contribute to discussion. Assigned readings and presentations represent a minimum, and students are expected to bring the results of additional primary and secondary research to each class.

Attendance at every meeting is mandatory. It is the student’s responsibility to have absences excused with a doctor’s or resident dean’s note in advance or as soon as possible after the missed class in the event of unforeseen circumstances. Unexcused absences will negatively affect the component of the student’s grade allotted to attendance, preparation, and performance and chronic unexcused lateness or absence may be grounds for exclusion from the course. Unexcused absences will negatively affect the component of the student’s grade...
allotted to attendance, preparation, and performance by 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g., A to A-) for each instance. 1/3 of a letter grade will be deducted on assignments for each day late.

**Required Texts:**

None. Readings will be circulated in paper form, posted to the course website, or placed on reserve. Some primary sources in English translation may be accessed online.

**Grading:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance, Preparation, &amp; Performance</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Presentations (15-20 mins)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay (4-6 pages, due 10/21)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper Prospectus (abstract and annotated bibliography, due 11/18)</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper (20 pages, due 12/11)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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**Schedule:**

**Week 1 (09/06)  Introduction**

**Shared Readings:**


**Week 2 (09/13)  Living Spaces**

**Shared Readings:**


Ramage, E. S. Chapter 4. “The Ciceronian Period.” In Urbanitas: ancient sophistication and refinement. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma for the University of Cincinnati. 52-76.

Individual Presentations:

1. Urban and Rural Housing
2. Urban and Rural Religion
3. Attic Demes and Roman Suburbs
4. Public and Private Space

Week 3 (09/20) Working Spaces

Shared Readings:


Individual Presentations:

1. Slavery
3. Trade
4. Marx, Weber, the “Consumer Model”

Week 4 (09/27) The Gentleman Farmer

Shared Readings:


Individual Presentations:

1. Cicero
2. Varro
3. L. Strauss and “Straussianism”
4. Foucault, Gender, and Sexuality
Week 5 (10/04)  The other Other: the Sea and Seafaring

Shared Readings:


Individual Presentations:

1. Nautical Metaphor
2. The Propempticon
3. Seafood and Gastronomy
4. Piracy

Week 6 (10/11)  Attic Tragedy

Primary Text:


Shared Readings:


Individual Presentations:

1. Athenian Dramatic Festivals
2. Satyr Play
3. The Scapegoat
4. Euripides’ Bacchae
Week 7 (10/18)  Old Comedy

Primary Text:


Shared Readings:


Individual Presentations:

1. Aristophanes and Old Comedy
2. Origins of Comedy
3. Agroikia
4. Bakhtin and Carnival

✓ Essay due F. 10/21

Week 8 (10/25)  New Comedy

Primary Text:


Shared Readings:


Individual Presentations:

1. Menander and New Comedy I: Character
2. Menander and New Comedy II: Plot
3. Plautus and Terence
4. Middle Comedy

Week 9 (11/01)  Ptolemaic Alexandria

Shared Readings:


Individual Presentations:

1. Theocritus
2. Virgil’s Eclogues
3. Polyphemus
4. Ecphrasis

Week 10 (11/08)  The Library on the Tiber

Primary Texts:


Shared Readings:


**Individual Presentations:**

1. Elegy
2. The *Georgics*
3. The *Aeneid*
4. Calpurnius Siculus

**Week 11 (11/15) Satire**

**Primary Texts:**


**Shared Readings:**


**Individual Presentations:**

1. Lucilius and Horace
2. Juvenal and Persius
3. Catullus and Martial
4. Gardens: *rus in urbe* and Epicureanism

✓ Prospectus due F. 11/18 (250-word abstract, annotated bibliography of 5 sources)

**Week 12 (11/22) The Second Sophistic and the Novel**

**Primary Texts:**

Dio Chrysostom, *Discourses* 7 and 36.
Shared Readings:


Individual Presentations:

1. Lucian
2. Longus
3. Philostratus
4. The Imperial Greek City

Week 13 (11/29) Paper Presentations

✓ Paper due Sun. 12/11