

Latin 202 Final Project (20% of your final grade)

Presentation Due Date: May 2, 4, 6

Paper Due Date: Friday, May 13, 11.59 pm (5-6 pages, spacing 1.5. Please email me your paper as a word or google doc.)

This project will be either an individual or group project on a topic pertaining to Ovid's Ars Amatoria. There are two things to consider as you thinking about potential projects.

- *First, you need to consider a topic related to the Ars that you would like to research.*
- *Second, you need to consider how you will share your research with the class.*

Presentation: This is a research project. In addition to writing a short research paper, you will be required to present your research. You may not use power point. If you choose to work in groups, you may present one project. However, you must each submit a written paper.

Written component: You must use a minimum of three secondary sources and two primary sources. One of your primary sources should be the *Ars Amatoria* (this includes Books 1-3). If you do not have a preferred citation format, please use MLA. I will post information about citing primary and secondary sources on the course website.

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/658/01/>

From Purdue's "Genre and the Research Paper": A research paper is not simply an informed summary of a topic by means of primary and secondary sources. It is neither a book report nor an opinion piece nor an expository essay consisting solely of one's interpretation of a text nor an overview of a particular topic. Instead, it is a genre that requires one to spend time investigating and evaluating sources with the intent to offer interpretations of the texts, and not unconscious regurgitations of those sources. The goal of a research paper is not to inform the reader what others have to say about a topic, but to draw on what others have to say about a topic and engage the sources in order to thoughtfully offer a unique perspective on the issue at hand. This is accomplished through two major types of research papers.

How your paper will be graded:

70% paper (see below)

30% presentation

Your paper must include the following:

- 1) An introduction. This is where you should identify your topic and set the stakes. Why should your reader be interested in your topic?
- 2) A clearly stated thesis.
- 3) An argument that is evident throughout the paper. Do not reply on the reader to draw conclusions from your analysis. You may think that your conclusion should be obvious based on your analysis, but do not assume that everyone will interpret your argument the same way. Your argument cannot be a restatement of someone else's argument. You can reference an argument someone makes that offers support for your argument, but you cannot reargue someone else's point.
- 4) References/quotes from primary and secondary sources.

- 5) Proper citations (please use MLA; information about citing primary sources can be found under course materials).
- 6) A conclusion: Your paper must have a compelling conclusion that is not simply a summary of the introduction and/or a summary of the main points. How has your analysis led you to revisit opinions/conclusions concerning evidence/arguments from the ancient world?
- 7) A works cited page.

How to construct/identify your argument and sustain it:

What is an argument?

An argument is a position.

A counterargument could reasonably be made for an argument.

It cannot be made without providing evidence (i.e. the readings from class).

While an argument often explains how you will prove your point (i.e. through a comparison between Roman and American spectacles of death and violence...), it also explains what that point is (i.e. what you have learned through the comparison).

It is not a summary of someone else's argument.

Which of these is an argument?

- 1) After examining the history of violence in entertainment, it is clear that we also enjoy a degree of violence in our entertainment.
- 2) An analysis of how class structures and social norms were enforced through violence in Rome indicates that we, like the Romans, experience the punishment of criminals as a form of entertainment, which has the effect of stabilizing the social norms of our society through fear.
- 3) Why would such an advanced and civilized society like Rome enjoy such violent spectacles?
- 4) Roman spectacles of death, while entertaining, were essential for maintaining social order within Roman society.
- 5) There is an interest in violence, even death, in all of us, no matter how far we have come from gladiatorial games.

How to identify your argument:

One way to identify an argument is to construct a problem (see #3). However, this is not enough. What have you learned by exploring this problem? Often you do not know what your argument is until the end, when you finally draw some conclusions after exploring the problem. This is the moment when you will need to take elements of your conclusion and make them your introduction. Then you will need to revise your paper so that it is clear how each point you make/paragraph you write contributes to your argument and flows with the logic of your paper. Then you can think again about how this argument is meaningful in your conclusion.

How to sustain your argument:

As you are writing, please keep in mind that writing a paper is like telling a story. There is a sequence. Each point builds from the previous one in a logical sequence. Writing--even writing the 'truth'--is about telling a story. Just because you have identified a thesis and provided evidence does not mean that you have constructed an argument; a thesis plus evidence does not necessarily equal an argument. You have to explain how each paragraph builds off the previous one and creates an argument for the case that you are making.

You cannot assume that I or your reader will make the same connections that you do as you present the evidence. Therefore you must spend the time explaining how each quote, paragraph, and point contributes to the argument that you are making. Your conclusion should identify what you have learned from writing this paper. If you feel that you need to restate your thesis in order to tie together your paper, then there's a good chance that you've lost track of your thesis as you were writing, and that the paragraphs that comprise the body of your paper do not explain how the evidence contributes to your thesis. Your conclusions should identify what you have learned from your analysis, and why your analysis is important.