

Fall, 2012

Comparative Literature 210: Reception of Virgil's Aeneid

Team-taught:

Professors Ralph Hexter, University Provost and Executive Vice-Chancellor

([hexter@ucdavis.edu](mailto:hexter@ucdavis.edu)) and Brenda Schildgen ([bdschildgen@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bdschildgen@ucdavis.edu))

Office Hours: 2-3 Monday; 11-12, Tuesday, and by appointment (811 Sproul Hall).

Meets: Sproul Hall 104, 4-7 PM Monday

This seminar examines the place of Virgil's Aeneid in world literature and the fundamental role of Virgil's work in the growth of Western literary, cultural and philosophical tradition. In this seminar we accomplish three things. First, we begin by reading the epic and comparing the original Latin with its Greek original in Homer. Second, we read selected works and excerpts of works in the European tradition directly inspired by the reading of Virgil: Augustine's City of God, Dante's Divine Comedy, Marlowe's Tragedy of Dido, Hermann Broch, The Death of Virgil, Coetzee, Age of Iron. Third, we examine the contribution of the Aeneid to the various mythologies of the hero, the nation, the state, and the Empire in Western civilization (Johnson, Darkness Visible) as well as its use by counter-traditions (Marlowe's Dido, Queen of Carthage and selections from Ovid, Proba, and Augustine, to Dante, Christine de Pisan, Broch, and Coetzee). Latin and Greek useful, but not required. Students with an interest in the Western literary tradition, the formation of canon, and counter-canon, as well as the dynamics of empire, nation, and transnationalism and the role of literary works in this trajectory will benefit from this course. Co-taught. Seminar format. Each week, we would like a short response paper on the week's assigned readings. The seminar paper will be due on the scheduled day and time of the final exam. Presentations of seminar papers will begin in the sixth week.

Texts ordered:

Vergil, Aeneid, tr. A. Mandelbaum

Dante, Inferno, tr. Anthony Esolen; Dante, Purgatorio, tr. Anthony Esolen (Modern Library)

Marlowe, Dido, Queen of Carthage in Complete Plays. Penguin.

H. Broch, The Death of Vergil, tr. Untermeyer. FS&G, 1982.

H. Purcell, Dido and Aeneas. An Opera, ed. Curtis Price. Norton, 1986.

J.M. Coetzee, Age of Iron. Penguin. 0 14 02.7565 7

The Cambridge Companion to Virgil, ed. Charles Martindale.

Reader, available at Campus Copy Shop on 3<sup>rd</sup> and A

Week 1 (October 1)

Virgil's Aeneid, Books 1-4.

Ralph Hexter, "Literary History as a Provocation to Reception Studies," in Charles Martindale and Richard Thomas, eds, Classics and the Uses of Reception, in the Reader (pp.1-9).

Charles Martindale, "Introduction, 'The Classic of all Europe,'" in Virgil, ed. Charles Martindale, 1-18.

James J. O'Hara, "Virgil's Style," in Virgil, ed. Charles Martindale, 241-58.  
Joseph Farrell, "The Virgilian intertext," in Virgil, ed. Martindale, 222-38.  
Ralph Hexter, "Imitating Troy," in C. Perkell, ed., Reading Vergil's Aeneid (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press 1999), pp. 64-79 and 314-17 in the Reader (pp. 10-21).  
Ralph Hexter, "On First Looking into Vergil's Homer," in the Reader (pp.22-26).

Week 2 (October 8)

Virgil's Aeneid, Books 4-8.

Don Fowler, "Virgilian narrative: 'Story-telling,'" in Virgil, ed. Martindale, 259-70.

Alessandro Barchiesi, "Virgilian narrative: 'Ecphrasis,'" in Virgil, ed. Martindale, 271-81.

Ralph Hexter, "Sidonian Dido," in the Reader (pp. 27-53).

Week 3 (October 15)

Virgil's Aeneid, Books 9-12.

Post-Virgilian, Late Antique receptions: Ovid, Heroides 7, Tertullian, Proba, Macrobius, Jerome in the Reader (pp. 54-75).

Charles Martindale, "Introduction: Thinking Through Reception," from Classics and the Use of Reception, in the Reader (pp. 76-88).

W.R. Johnson, Darkness Visible on reserve in the library.

Week 4 (October 22)

Post-Virgilian, Late Antique receptions and twelfth-century vulgarizations:

Augustine, selections from City of God and Confessions; Fulgentius; Geoffrey of Monmouth, History of the Kings of Britain; Roman d'Eneas in the Reader (pp. 89-140).

R.J. Tarrant, "Aspects of Virgil's reception in antiquity," in Virgil, ed. Martindale, 56-72.

Week 5 (October 29)

Dante, Inferno, trans. Esolen.

Colin Burrow, "Virgils from Dante to Milton," in Virgil, ed. Martindale.

Kevin Brownlee, "Dante and the classical poets," from The Cambridge Companion to Dante, ed. Rachel Jacoff in the Reader

Peter Hawkins, "Descendit ad inferos," in "Dante and Virgil," in Hawkins, Dante's Testaments, in the Reader (pp. 141-158).

Week 6 (November 5)

Read Dante, Purgatorio. Read Cantos 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 21, 22, 27 and 30. Cantos 15-17, Paradiso in the Reader.

Peter Hawkins, "Dido, Beatrice, and the Signs of Ancient Love," in "Dante and Virgil," in Hawkins, Dante's Testaments, in the Reader (pp. 160-169).

Week 7—no class Veteran's Day November 12

Week 8 (November 19)

Petrarch, Rerum familiarium libri 24.1; 5.6; Collatio laureationis; Rerum senilium libri 4.5; Secretum 1.124; Boccaccio, "On Dido or Elissa, Queen of the Carthaginians," from De Claris Mulieribus; selection from Genealogy of the Gods; Geoffrey Chaucer, from Book 1 House of Fame; "Dido, Queen of Carthage," from Legend of Good Women; Christine de Pizan, City of Ladies in the Reader (pp. 170-210).  
Ralph Hexter, "Sidonian Dido" in Innovations of Antiquity, ed. with Daniel Selden (New York: Routledge, Chapman and Hall, 1992) in the Reader (pp. 27-53).  
Marlowe, Dido, Queen of Carthage.  
Colin Burrow, "Virgil in English Translation," in Virgil, ed. Martindale.

Week 9 (November 26)

Purcell, Dido and Aeneas and its reception.

Read the Opera Libretto

Dean Jessie Ann Owens, HArCS will lead the seminar.

Week 10 (December 3)

Early Lives of Virgil in the Reader (pp.221-250).

H. Broch, Death of Virgil.

Duncan F. Kennedy, "Modern receptions and their interpretive implications," 38-55.

Make-up? (December 10)

J. M Coetzee, Age of Iron.