

Professor Robert Gurval  
Department of Classics  
Dodd 289E (310) 825-6744 office  
Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 2-3 & by appointment  
gurval@humnet.ucla.edu

## ***Latin 204A***

### **Vergil's Italy and the Coming of Rome: Reading *Aeneid* Books 5-8**

Winter 2016

The challenge of geocriticism of modern literature is to explore imagined and real geographies and to discover how fictive imaginations interact and meaningfully shape our actual worlds and physical spaces (Prieto 2011). This Latin seminar aims to apply this theoretical approach to Vergil's *Aeneid* and to examine how the epic poet's image of Italy and promise of Rome engages with and contributes to the cultural ideologies of an emergent Augustan Principate and world empire. What exactly did Italy mean to Vergil and readers of the Roman national epic? Was it merely a verbal signifier of collected geographies and peoples? Or, was it instead a new concept of cultural, ethnic, even political unity? What kind of concept, and whose? Recent scholarship (Ando 2002, Reed 2007, and Fletcher 2014) has asked these and similar questions but the topic remains a fascinating and important approach to understanding the *Aeneid*. Our line of inquiry will be both interdisciplinary (literature, history, numismatics and architecture) and traditional. I propose a close reading of four books of the *Aeneid* as a unit. The richness and complexity of the poem's architecture, its symmetry, contrast, and variety, have always invited readers to discover new methods of appreciating the cultural poetics and aesthetics of the Augustan epic. While critics have long emphasized the Homeric halves of the *Aeneid*'s structure, i.e. the *Odyssey* of the hero's wanderings (Books 1-6) and the *Iliad* of the war in Italy (Books 7-12), a tripartite arrangement of the epic is also attractive, marking off meaningful thematic shifts of geography, character, and action. The *Aeneid* as trilogy, as George E. Duckworth first interpreted it in 1957, highlights the tragic stories of Carthage, Dido and love (Books 1-4) at the opening and Italy, Turnus and war (Books 9-12) at the closure of the epic. The middle section (Books 5-8), he judged in contrast, acts chiefly as transition, a dramatic interlude of light between darkness, happiness between grief, peace between conflict. But this powerfully central section also introduces the geographies and cultures of Vergil's Italy, imagined and real, where overlapping scenes of promise, warning, ignorance and dire revelation shape the prophecy of the coming of Rome. Vergil's dependence upon Homer is conspicuous in these books. The funeral games of Anchises, the underworld journey and parade of heroes, the catalogue of Italians, and shield of Aeneas evoke bold reworkings of the Greek epic material, but each of these passages, one following the other in succeeding books, embody the most vigorously Roman aspects of Vergil's poem. Two main inquiries will guide the seminar: (1) what are the geopoetic features of Vergil's Italy that Aeneas encounters upon travels to Sicily, Cumae and after his arrival in Latium and (2) how much of Augustan Rome, its foundation of civil wars, imperial architecture and spectacle, and political figures, fashion these cultural images. Along the way, we may stop to digress on other topics such as the marvelous and monstrous in the *Aeneid*, the physical space of Vergil's world (Tiber, hills and plains), the archaeology of early Italy, and future paths and directions for Vergilian scholarship.

The format of the seminar will consist of weekly close readings of the four books, analysis of selected passages, discussion of pertinent scholarship and class reports (both formal and informal) on larger topics of study. All seminar participants will be asked to lead class discussion in three ways throughout the quarter: (1) explication of a passage; (2) review of a recent book on Vergilian scholarship (those by Reed, Fletcher, and Seider are recommended); and (3) presentation on a selected topic. Students who opt to take the course for 2 units will be required to take the two translation exams on Books 5-6 and 7-8, respectively and give small mini-reports, but not write a seminar paper or give a final presentation.

One of the seminar's primary aims will be a one-page abstract of a talk that may be submitted for a conference. The final class (and perhaps the exam period of finals week depending upon class size) will feature 20-minute "highlight" presentations of the seminar paper. The seminar paper (8-10 pages) will constitute an initial draft of this proposed talk.

### **Course Assessment and Grading:**

Class Reports (Analysis of Text, Book Review, and Topic Report)	30%
Translation Exams (2)	20%
One-Page Abstract (ca. 850 words)	10%
Seminar Conference Presentation (20-minutes)	10%
Seminar Paper (8-10 pages)	30%

### **Commentaries**

Farrell, Joseph, ed. 2014. *Vergil Aeneid 5*. Focus Publishing.

Johnston, Patricia A., ed. 2012. *Vergil Aeneid 6*. Focus Publishing.

Fordyce C.J. ed. 1977. *Virgil Aeneid VII-VIII*. Originally University of Oxford Press. Bristol Classical Press Reprint.

### *syllabus*

#### ***Week 1***

JAN 8            **No Class**

#### ***Week 2***

JAN 15            **Introduction: Geocriticism  
Vergil, Augustus and Italy  
Games for Anchises**

**Text:**            Vergil *Aeneid* 5.1-607.

**Readings:**    Duckworth 1957; Putnam 1962; Galinsky 1968; Farrell 1999; Ando 2002.

#### ***Week 3***

JAN 22            **Ships, Sleep and Palinurus**

**Text:**            Vergil *Aeneid* 5.608-end.

**Readings:**    Nugent 1992; Feldherr 1995, 2002; Fletcher 2014:1-32; 163-93.

**Week 4**

JAN 29

**The Sibyl and Cumae**

**Text:** Vergil *Aeneid* 6.1-678.

**Readings:** Habinek 1989; Galinsky 2009; Fletcher 2014: 194-216; Pandey 2014.

**Week 5**

FEB 4

**Lecture by Professor Joseph Farrell (University of Pennsylvania)**

FEB 5

**The Underworld and the Parade of Heroes**

**Text:** Vergil *Aeneid* 6.679-end.

**Readings:** Feeney 1986; Reed 2007: 148-72; Kondratieff 2012.

**Week 6**

FEB 12

**The Geographies of Italy**

**Text:** Vergil *Aeneid* 7.1-405.

**Readings:** Anderson 1957; Fordyce 1977: xi-xxx; Mack 1999; Seider 2013: 28-65.  
First Translation Exam (*to be arranged*)

**Week 7**

FEB 19

**The Catalogue of Italians**

**Text:** Vergil *Aeneid* 7.406-end.

**Readings:** McKay 1970: 147-93; Toll 1991, 1997; Ando 2002.

**Week 8**

FEB 26

**Aeneas and Evander at the Site of Rome  
Graduate Student Recruitment Week**

**Text:** Vergil *Aeneid* 8.1-607.

**Readings:** Putnam 1964:105-50; Adler 2003:147-91; Reed 2007: 173-202; Labate 2009.

**Week 9**

MAR 4

**Rome on the Shield of Aeneas**

**Text:** Vergil *Aeneid* 8.608-end.

**Readings:** Harrison 1997; Putnam 1998: 119-88; Casali 2006; Rossi 2010; Feldherr 2014.  
Second Translation Exam

**Week 10**

MAR 11

**Seminar Conference (Part I)**

## ***Finals Week***

MAR 14      **Seminar Conference (Part II)** *if necessary*  
Final Exam Period 11:30-2:30pm

## **Select Bibliography**

- Adler, Eve. 2003. *Vergil's Empire: Political Thought in the Aeneid*. Lanham, MD.
- Ambrose, Z. P. 1980. "The Etymology and Genealogy of Palinurus." *American Journal of Philology* 101:449-57.
- Anderson, Carl A. and T. Keith Dix 2013. "Vergil at the Races. The Contest of Ships in Book 5 of the *Aeneid*. *Vergilius* 59:2-22.
- Anderson, William S. 1957. "Vergil's Second Iliad." *Transactions and Proceedings of the American Philological Association* 88:17-30.
- Ando, Clifford. 2002. "Vergil's Italy: Ethnography and Politics in First-Century Rome." In *Clio and the Poets: Augustan Poetry and the Traditions of Ancient Historiography*, ed. D. S. Levene and D. P. Nelis, 123-42. Leiden.
- Apostol, Ricardo Andres 2009. "Rome's Bucolic Landscapes: Place, Prophecy, and Power in *Aeneid* VIII." Ph.D. diss. University of Michigan.
- Benario, Herbert. 1977. "Vergil and the River Tiber." *Vergilius* 24:4-14.
- Bertram, S. 1971. "The Generation Gap and *Aeneid* 5." *Vergilius* 17:9-12.
- Bispham, Edward and Christopher Smith (edd). 2000. *Religion in archaic and Republican Rome and Italy. evidence and experience*. Chicago.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2007. *From Asculum to Actium. The Municipalization of Italy from the Social War to Augustus*. Oxford.
- Boyle, Anthony J. 1999. "*Aeneid* 8: Images of Rome." In *Reading Vergil's Aeneid. An Interpretive Guide*, ed. Christine Perkel, 148-61. Norman, OK.
- Casali, Sergio. 2006. "The Making of the Shield: Inspiration and Repression in the *Aeneid*." *Greece & Rome* 53:185-2004.
- Duckworth, G. E. 1957. "The *Aeneid* as a Trilogy." *Transactions of the American Philological Association* 88:1-10.
- Farrell, Joseph. 1997. "The Virgilian Intertext." In *The Cambridge Companion to Virgil*, ed. Charles Martindale, 22-38. Cambridge, UK.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1999. "*Aeneid* 5: poetry and parenthood." In *Reading Vergil's Aeneid*, ed. C. Perkel, 96-110. Norman, OK.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2005. "The Augustan Period: 40 BC-14 AD." In *A Companion to Latin Literature*, ed. S.J. Harrison, 44-57. Oxford.

- Feeny, Denis C. 1986. "History and Revelation in Vergil's Underworld." *Proceedings of the Cambridge Philological Society* 36:42-63.
- Feldherr, Andrew. 1995. "Ships of State: *Aeneid* 5 and Augustan Circus Spectacle." *Classical Antiquity* 14:245-65.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2002. "Stepping out of the ring: repetition and sacrifice in the boxing match in *Aeneid* V." In *Clio and the Poets: Augustan Poetry and the Tradition of Ancient Historiography*, eds. D. Levine and D. Nelis, 62-79.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2014. "Viewing Myth and History on the Shield of Aeneas." *Classical Antiquity* 33:281-318.
- Fletcher, K. F. B. 2014. *Finding Italy: Travel, Nation and Colonization in Vergil's Aeneid*. Ann Arbor, MI.
- Fordyce, C.J. 1977. *Virgil Aeneid VII-VIII*. Commentary by C.J. Fordyce. Introduction by P.G. Walsh. Edited by John D. Christie. Glasgow.
- Galinsky, G. Karl. 1968. "*Aeneid* V and the *Aeneid*." *American Journal of Philology* 89:157-85.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1996. *Augustan Culture: An Interpretive Introduction*. Princeton, NJ.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (ed.). 2005. *The Cambridge Companion to the Age of Augustus*. Cambridge, UK.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2009. "Aeneas at Cumae." *Vergilius* 55:69-87.
- Glazewski, J. 1972. "The Function of Vergil's Funeral Games." *Classical World* 66:85-96.
- Habinek, Thomas. 1989. "Science and Tradition in *Aeneid* 6." *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* 92: 223-55.
- Hardie, Philip R. 1996. *Vergil's Aeneid. Cosmos and Imperium*. Oxford.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2009. *Paradox and the Marvellous in Augustan Literature and Culture*. Oxford.
- Harrison, Simon J. (ed.) 1990. *Oxford Readings in Vergil's Aeneid*. Oxford, UK.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1997. "The Survival and Supremacy of Rome: The Unity of the Shield of Aeneas." *Journal of Roman Studies* 87:70-76.
- Holt, P. 1979-80. "*Aeneid* V: Past and Future." *Classical Journal* 75:110-21.
- Horsfall, Nicholas (ed.). 2000. *Virgil, Aeneid 7: A Commentary*. Leiden.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (ed.). 2013. *Virgil, Aeneid 6. A Commentary*. 2 vols. Berlin.
- Johnston, Patricia A. 1996. "Under the Volcano: Volcanic Myth and Metaphor in Vergil's *Aeneid*." *Vergilius* 42:55-65.
- Kehoe, P. E. 1989. "Was Book 5 Once in a Different Place in the *Aeneid*?" *American Journal of Philology* 110: 246-63.

- Kondratieff, Eric. 2012. "Anchises Censorius: Vergil, Augustus, and the Census of 28 B.C.E." *Illinois Classical Studies* 37:121-40.
- Labate, Mario. 2009. "In Search of the Lost Hercules: Strategies of the Fantastic in the *Aeneid*." In *Paradox and the Marvellous in Augustan Literature and Culture*, ed. Philip R. Hardie, 126-44. Oxford.
- Lowe, Dustan. 2011. "Tree-Worship, Sacred Groves and Roman Antiquities in the *Aeneid*." *Proceedings of the Virgil Society* 27: 99-128.
- Mack, Sara 1999. "The Birth of War: A Reading of *Aeneid* 7." In *Reading Vergil's Aeneid. An Interpretive Guide*, ed. Christine Perkell, 128-47. Norman, OK.
- Marincic, Marko. 2003. "Roman Archaeology in Vergil's Arcadia (Vergil *Eclogue* 4, *Aeneid* 8, *Livy* 1.7). In *Clio and the Poets: Augustan Poetry and the Traditions of Ancient Historiography*, ed. D. S. Levene and D. P. Nelis, 143-61. Leiden.
- Martindale, Charles (ed.) 1997. *The Cambridge Companion to Virgil*. Cambridge, UK.
- McKay, Alexander G. 1970. *Vergil's Italy*. Bath.
- Nugent, S. Georgia. 1992. "Vergil's 'Voice of the Women' in *Aeneid* V." *Arethusa* 25:255-92.
- O'Hara, James J. *True Names. Vergil and the Alexandrian Tradition of Etymological Wordplay*. Ann Arbor, MI.
- Pandey, Nandini B. 2014. "Reading Rome from the Farther Shore: *Aeneid* 6 in the Augustan Urban Landscape." *Vergilius* 60:67-85.
- Papaioannou, S. 2003. "Founder, Civilizer, and Leader: Vergil's Evander and His Role in the Origins of Rome." *Mnemosyne* 56:680-72.
- Pavlovskis, Z. 1976. "*Aeneid* V: The Old and the Young." *Classical Journal* 71:193-205.
- Perkell, Christine (ed.) 1999. *Reading Vergil's Aeneid. An Interpretive Guide*. Norman, OK.
- Prieto, Eric. 2011. "Geocriticism, Geopoetics, Geophilosophy, and Beyond." In *Geocritical Explorations. Space, Place and Mapping in Literary and Cultural Spaces*, ed. Robert T. Tally, Jr., 13-27. New York.
- Putnam, Michael C. J. 1962. "Unity and Design in *Aeneid* V." *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* 66:205-39.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1964. *The Poetry of the Aeneid: Four Studies in Imaginative Unity and Design*. Cambridge, MA.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1998. *Virgil's Epic Designs: Ekphrasis in the Aeneid*. New Haven, CT.
- Reed, J. D. 2001. "Anchises Reading Aeneas Reading Marcellus." *Syllecta Classica* 12:146-68.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2007. *Virgil's Gaze: Nation and Poetry in the Aeneid*. Princeton, NJ.

- Rossi, Andreola. 2010. "Ab Urbe Condita: Roman History on the Shield of Aeneas." In *Citizens of Discord: Rome and its Civil Wars*, ed. Brian W. Breed, Cynthia Damon and Andreola Rossi, 145-57. Oxford, New York.
- Schweizer, H. J. 1967. *Vergil und Italien*. Aarau.
- Seider, Aaron M. 2013. *Memory in Vergil's Aeneid. Creating the Past*. Cambridge, UK.
- Syed, Yasmin. 2005. *Vergil's Aeneid and the Roman Self: Subject and Nation in Literary Discourse*. Ann Arbor, MI.
- Syson, Antonia. 2013. *Fama and Fiction in Vergil's Aeneid*. Columbus, OH.
- Toll, Katherine 1991. "The *Aeneid* as an Epic of National Identity: *Italiam laeto socii clamore salutant*." *Helios* 18:3-14.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1997. "Making Roman-ness and the *Aeneid*." *Classical Antiquity* 16:34-56.
- Tueller, M.A. 2010. Palinurus and Polydorus: Two Epigrammatic Passages in Vergil's *Aeneid*. *Latomus* 69:344-58.