



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO

ID

VP52_DIP_STUDIUM

Visiting Professor Program Academic year 2019/2020

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

TEACHING COMMITMENT: 36 hours

COURSE TITLE

History of Latin Language

TEACHING PERIOD

2nd term

SCIENTIFIC AREA

Classics

LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH

English

COURSE SUMMARY

Roman Comedy: Drama and the Beginnings of Latin Literature

At the beginning of its political rising in the Mediterranean, when Rome was still, from a cultural point of view, a provincial Hellenistic city, the comic genre became one of the fields in which the new-born literature took its first steps, trying to keep pace with its other more sophisticated rivals. The names of Plautus and Terence emerge from that time and their plays form a corpus which is only slightly smaller than that of the Homeric poems. Key topics that will be considered in the analysis of this variegated theatrical universe are: the performative context, including the interaction between metre and music, and the editorial history of the plays; the relation with the Greek originals and its problems; the influence of other cultural traditions, such as the Italic and the Hellenistic, and their interaction with the more distinctive elements of Roman culture; the comparison between Plautus and Terence; the impact of historical events such as the victory over Cartago, Pergamum and Greece; genre conventions, stock-characters and their subversion. The module will also examine the reception of comedy in later Latin literature, and its influence on the history of western theatre and culture. The module will have a strong text-based approach, focusing in particular on a close reading of Terence Heauton Timorumenos.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course (36 hours) aims at refining the students' ability in the scientific analysis of texts, and at deepening the knowledge of the research instruments. In particular, the subject is useful for collating methods and problems in the textual domain and in Latin Linguistics.

VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE

The visiting professor should be a scholar with proven expertise in two research fields which are currently underrepresented in the Department, that is Latin linguistics and/or Roman Republican Drama (Plautus and Terence). S/he should have an excellent publication record in international journals and presses, experience in teaching and research in the aforementioned fields, and ideally also a strong text-based approach (in line with the teaching philosophy of the Department). S/he should be ready to deliver classes in English, but also be proficient in both written and oral Italian.

CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT

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