

Course Number

Latin 310

Course Title

Readings in Latin Literature: Power and Violence in Tacitus's *Histories*

Quarter/Year

Fall 2021

Day/Time

TR 1:00-2:20pm

Instructor

Graziela Byros

Degree/Distro Fulfillment

VI

Course Description:

“In all of the records of Rome there can scarcely be another year that is so full of calamity, or displays so clearly the strength and weakness of the Romans.” (K. Wellesley) The year is 69 AD, the so-called “Year of the Four Emperors,” and it is masterfully chronicled by Tacitus in his *Histories*, a dark narrative of violence, ambition, conspiracy and ideological conflict between outmoded values and new realities of power. Throughout this course, we will read extensive selections of *Histories* Book I, with particular attention to the work’s political and literary context, as well as to the swift and dramatic prose style of Tacitus, and his vivid and haunting character sketches.



Required Textbooks

Tacitus, *Histories* I, ed. Cynthia Damon (Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics) ISBN-10: 0521578221.

Tacitus, *Histories*, transl. Kenneth Wellesley, ed. Rhiannon Ash (Penguin) ISBN-10: 9780140441505.

Assessments

Two take-home examinations; final project; preparation & class participation.