

Course Number

Latin 310-0

Course Title

Readings in Latin Literature: The Young Achilles

Quarter/Year

Spring 2022

Day/Time

MW 2-3:20

Instructor

Jennifer Weintritt

Distro Fulfillment

History, Society and Culture
Language and Verbal Arts



Course Description

Who was Achilles before his wrath took hold in Troy? At the end of the first century CE, the epic poet Statius set out to tell us, along with the whole story of Achilles' life. We see Achilles harassing centaurs in Thessaly, managing a rocky relationship with his parents, and passing as a maiden to avoid joining the war. Cut short by the poet's death, the poem leaves us to wonder how this Achilles could ever have become the Achilles of the Iliad. A mere book and a quarter and long neglected in scholarship, the Achilleid offers an opportunity for students to develop real mastery. We'll read the entire poem and much of its bibliography over the course of the quarter and work in class to develop papers that contribute to our understanding of the poem. To help us sort out this dancing "Maiden Achilles" and his manipulative mother-goddess Thetis, ancient gender expert Professor Judy Hallet (UMaryland) will lead a class during her residence at NU this spring.

"The Baptism of Achilles" by Honoré Daumier in Histoire Ancienne (Pl. 22; 19th c.)

Required Textbooks

Hadavas, C.T. 2021. Statius, Achilleid: An Intermediate Latin Reader. Hadavas.

Assessments

Class Participatio,
Paper, Final, Quizzes, Writing Assignments

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