

Roman Satire

September - December 2016 : 8 week Course Information

10-12 noon, Old Deanery, Ripon £120 for eight 2-hour sessions

Brief details of the proposed topics to be covered each week

- Week 1** **Roman Satire: Romans' own genre**
7 Sept Definitions & development.
Greek comedy: Aristophanes (*Birds*, *Lysistrata*) & Roman comedy: mockery, masks & personae continued, uniquely Roman satire from Lucilius onwards
- Week 2** **Horace: Comments on Life**
14 Sept Augustan 1st century BC. Life and works; Epicureanism – Philosophy and Life
- Week 3** **Persius: text and context**
21 Sept 1st century AD. Life and works: Earnest Stoic approach & moral purpose; style & epic parody.

No sessions on 28 September, 5, 12 or 19th October

- Week 4** **Seneca,**
28 Oct 1st century AD. Life and works. Darker days and reflections on imperial divinity,
- Week 5** **Petronius (Satyricon), Epigrams of Martial**
2 Nov The struggles of class, patronage and sex
- Week 6** **Juvenal**
9 Nov 1st century AD Life and works. Indignation, themes and the persona of the satirist.
Hypocrites, foreigners, gender, money & misers, sex, fortune & patronage ...

No session on 16th November

- Week 7** **Satiric themes: How times change – or do they?**
23 Nov

No session on 30th November

- Week 8** **Conclusion & Overview**
14 Dec Legacy: Shakespeare, Swift, Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*, modern media, stand-up,

Please be advised that due to the nature of the course, some of the class material may be considered offensive.
Violence, sex, murder, gender issues, castrations etc are situations included in the satires.

Aim:

See the Romans as they saw themselves

Gain an understanding of Roman satire, its development and its impact.

Be able to recognise the authors & contrasting defining features of their texts, aims and methods

Explore the real Roman world that the satires are depicting, and untangle truth from exaggeration.

A glimpse of the sources of our knowledge of Greek and Roman philosophy.

Read a selection of Roman satire works in the original Latin and in translations, and a selection of other relevant texts.

Appreciate the legacy that this developing Roman genre has had through the ages and today.

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