

CLAS 4100/5042: Seneca's *De clementia*
T 16:05-17:55
M Fournier

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A study of Seneca's *De clementia*, some of its Greek and Latin antecedents, its relation to Seneca's other philosophical works, and its Late Ancient, Medieval, and modern *Nachleben*.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING: The final grade will come from in class presentations based on weekly reading notes (50%) and a final research paper (50%). Students will submit weekly reading notes by email 24 hours before each class meeting. These notes should raise a modest question and begin to develop an answer. The presentation of the notes in class will form the basis for weekly discussion. These are not formal papers (though they should be carefully written and edited), but are intended to form the basis of the final paper for the class, **due April 3**. The final paper should develop a substantial analysis of some aspect of the *De clementia*, and demonstrate a significant engagement with relevant primary and secondary sources. Students should locate and read one piece of scholarship each week in addition to the required readings. NB: the required readings for weeks 5-11, including secondary literature, will be finalized by the end of January.

1. January 7 : First meeting
2. January 14: Greek ideas of justice, judgement and pity: Plato, *Gorgias* 461b-481c; 523a-end.
Julia Annas, "Plato's Myths of Judgement," *Phronesis* 27 (1982): 119-143. (Available on JSTOR)
3. January 21: Earlier Roman ideas of *clementia*: Cicero, *Pro Marcello*; *Pro Ligario*.
R.R. Dyer, "Rhetoric and Intention in Cicero 'Pro Marcello,'" *Journal of Roman Studies* 80 (1990): 17-30.
C.P. Craig, "The Central Argument of Cicero's Speech for Ligarius," *Classical Journal* 79 (1984): 193-99.
(Both available on JSTOR)
4. January 28: Seneca, *De ira*
K. M. Vogt, "Anger, present injustice and future revenge in Seneca's *De Ira*," in K. Volk and G. Williams (eds.) *Seeing Seneca Whole: Perspectives on Philosophy, Poetry and Politics* (Leiden: Brill, 2006) 57-74. (PDF available online)
5. February 4: Seneca, *De clementia* book 1.
6. February 11: Seneca, *De clementia* book 1
7. February 25: Seneca, *De clementia* book 2
8. March 4: After Seneca: *Clementia* in Lucan, Statius and Claudian (selections)
9. March 11: Late Antiquity: Augustine, *De civitate dei* (selections); Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*
10. March 18: The Middle Ages: Anselm, *Proslogion* 8-11; Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Question 157
11. March 25: The modern reception of the *De clementia*: Montaigne, Calvin and Kant (selections)
12. April 1: Final class

POLICIES:

Dalhousie Calendar, 16.8: Special Arrangements for Examinations, Tests and Assignments

At the discretion of the instructor, alternate arrangements for examinations, tests or the completion of assignments may be made for students who are ill, or in other exceptional circumstances. Where illness is involved, a certificate from the student's physician will be required. This certificate should indicate the dates and duration of the illness, when possible should describe the impact it had on the student's ability to fulfil academic requirements, and should include any other information the physician considers relevant and appropriate. To obtain a medical certificate, students who miss examinations, tests or the completion of other assignments should contact the University Health Services or their physician at the time they are ill and should submit a medical certificate to their instructor as soon thereafter as possible. Such certificates will not normally be accepted after a lapse of more than one week from the examination or assignment completion date. For exceptional circumstances other than illness, appropriate documentation, depending on the situation, will be required.

PLAGIARISM: All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on plagiarism and academic honesty as referenced in the Undergraduate Calendar at <http://registrar.dal.ca/calendar/ug/UREG.htm#12>. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

OFFICE OF ADVISING & ACCESS SERVICES CENTRE (AASC) SYLLABUS STATEMENT ON ACCOMMODATION: Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit www.dal.ca/access for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation - Form A. A note taker may be required as part of a student's accommodation. There is an honorarium of \$75/course/term (with some exceptions). If you are interested, please contact AASC at 494-2836 for more information. Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom, untouched, so that students who require their usage will be able to participate in the class.