

Latin Recitations

From its origins, an integral part of Latin poetry has been its oral performance. Whether at a public performance or in private study, Latin poetry was meant to be read aloud. The oral recitation of the *Aeneid* is the best way for you to become familiar with the nuances of meter, the Latin poetic aesthetic, and how the very sound and rhythm of a line contribute to its overall meaning and effect. This assignment asks you to prepare thoughtfully and carefully to recite several lines of Latin poetry in order to demonstrate your familiarity with the meter and rhythm of each line. (This is also something that Latin students have done—and complained about—for centuries, so this activity allows you to join an elite cadre of Latinists!)

For both Recitations:

- You **MUST schedule an appointment** to drop by my office to complete your recitation, even if you plan to do so during normal office hours. I generally have a lot of availability on M/W/F, but not as much on T/Th.
- You should carefully scan the lines before you start to practice the recitation.
- As you prepare for the recitation, be sure to focus on proper pronunciation, syllabic stress, and the metrical qualities of each line. **You will primarily be evaluated on your ability to convey the scansion accurately and expressively in your recitation.**
- Think, too, about the meaning of the passage and how you can show the sense of the lines in your recitation.
- You should try to memorize the lines as you will get more points if you perform from memory than if you read it from a paper.

For Recitation #1:

- You will recite the first seven lines of the *Aeneid* (Bk 1.1-7)
- You will **bring a completed copy of the attached Recitation #1 worksheet** with you at the time of your recitation. I will use it to evaluate you during your recitation. (So, if you don't memorize the passage you will need to bring another copy with you!)
- The first recitation must be completed by **FEBRUARY 20th**

For Recitation #2:

- You can choose any passage from the *Aeneid* that you would like to recite. The passage should be between 8 and 15 lines (though you could do more if you really wished, I suppose). The passage should comprise a complete thought, speech, narrative, or idea (i.e., don't cut it off at the 8th line just because that is the minimum).
- You will turn in the attached Recitation #2 worksheet to me **at least one class period** prior to your scheduled recitation. This will allow me to evaluate your scansion in advance. (If you turn it in even earlier, I can possibly notify you if there are any errors in your scansion before you prepare for your recitation!)
- The second recitation must be completed by **APRIL 3rd**

Recitation #1: *Aeneid* 1.1-7**NOMEN:** _____**Scan these lines completely, marking all elisions and caesurae, and return this worksheet to me when you come to complete your recitation.***Arma virumque canō, Trojae quī prīmus ab ōrīs**Ītaliā fātō profugus Lāvīnaque vēnit**lītora – multum ille et terrīs jactātus et altō**vī superum saevae memorem Jūnōnis ob īram**multa quoque et bellō passus, dum conderet urbem* 5*īnferretque deōs Latiō; genus unde Latīnum**Albānīque patrēs atque altae moenia Rōmae.***Evaluation:**

Written Scansion	1	2	3	4	5
Meter in Recitation	1	2	3	4	5
Elision in Recitation	1	2	3	4	5
Pronunciation	1	2	3	4	5
Expressiveness	1	2	3	4	5
Caesurae/Pauses	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5
Memorization	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5
TOTAL (out of 30):					

Recitation #2: Passage of your Choice**Book:** _____ **Lines:** _____ **NOMEN:** _____**Brief Description:**

Copy below (or on another page if more room is needed) the passage you will recite, marking all elisions and caesurae, and return this worksheet to me at least one class day prior to your scheduled recitation.

Evaluation:

Written Scansion	1	2	3	4	5
Meter in Recitation	1	2	3	4	5
Elision in Recitation	1	2	3	4	5
Pronunciation	1	2	3	4	5
Expressiveness	1	2	3	4	5
Caesurae/Pauses	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5
Memorization	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5
TOTAL (out of 30):					