

CLU22447 Latin Comedy

2026-27: Plautus

Module Code	CLU22447
Module Name	Latin Comedy
ECTS Weighting	10 ECTS
Semester taught	Semester 1
Module Coordinators	Prof. Anna Chahoud and Dr Charlie Kerrigan
Module Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:</p> <p>LO1 Translate the prescribed texts both literally and idiomatically. LO2 Analyse the language, style, and contexts of Latin comedy. LO3 Translate and analyse the language of Latin passages of similar difficulty. LO4 Elaborate on Plautus and/or Terence's verbal and dramatic techniques. LO5 Evaluate modern theories on the form and function of Plautine and/or Terentian drama. LO6 Discuss the connections between anger, humour, and power in both ancient and modern contexts. LO7 Examine the politics and possibilities of performance in ancient and modern contexts. LO8 Formulate well-researched views in written assignments. LO9. Demonstrate an ability to reflect independently and creatively.</p>
Module Content	<p>This module is about creative imitation and comic imagination. You will study a play in the original Latin and read widely in translation from the surviving complete plays of Plautus and Terence, who adapted Greek New Comedy for a Roman audience. These texts are the only examples of early Latin poetry surviving in complete form and have greatly influenced the development of European comic theatre. Through a close reading of one play, we examine the typical themes and techniques of the genre, explore the contexts of production and reception of the plays, and discuss aspects of Early Latin language. Incorporating questions of language, performance, and reception, we will explore how these texts appear to give voice and agency to Rome's disenfranchised – the unfree communities of 'slave theatre' – while critiquing the behaviour and values of its rich and powerful.</p> <p>This module is intended for post-beginner and intermediate students of Latin.</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods	Three classes per week (one lecture/seminar, one reading class, and one language lab).

Assessment Details	Assessment Component	Assessment Description	LO Addressed	% of total	Week due
	1.	Language based assignment	1–4	25%	Week 8
	2	Performance pitch	5–9	25%	tbc
	3.	2-hr written examination (unseen translation; seen translation and analysis)	1-4	50%	Assessment period
Reassessment Requirements	Same as original assessment (50% coursework, 50% exam). Only failed components are reassessed.				
Contact Hours and Indicative Student Workload	Contact hours: 33 (11 lectures, 11 reading classes, 11 language labs)				
	Independent Study (preparation for course and review of materials): 112				
	Independent Study (preparation for assessment, incl. completion of assessment): 114				
Recommended Reading List	<p>Prescribed Text and Commentary (please purchase your copy):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plautus, <i>Menaechmi</i>, ed. A. S. Gratwick, 1993 (Cambridge) <p>Read other plays in translation on the Loeb Classical Library Online:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plautus, ed. W. de Melo, 5 vols, 2011–13. Terence, ed. J. Barsby, 2 vols, 2001 <p>Introductory readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dinter, M. T. (2019) <i>The Cambridge Companion to Roman Comedy</i> (Cambridge) Dutsch, D. and Franko, G. F. (2020), <i>A Companion to Plautus</i> (Wiley) Fontaine, M. and Scafuro, A. C. (2014) <i>The Oxford Handbook of Greek and Roman Comedy</i> (Oxford) Richlin, A. (2017) <i>Slave Theater in the Roman Republic. Slave Theater and Popular Comedy</i> (Cambridge). Augoustakis, A., Traill, A., and Thorburn, J. E. (2013) <i>A Companion to Terence</i> (Wiley Blackwell) <p>Further reading recommendations are available in the Module Handbook and in BlackBoard.</p>				
Module Pre-requisite	Elementary Latin or Leaving Certificate Latin / A Level Latin or equivalent				
Module Co-requisite	N/A				
Module Website	https://www.tcd.ie/classics/undergraduate/latin-comedy.php				