LAT339: Petronius’ *Satyricon*
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**Course description**
Discover Petronius’ darkly hilarious novel. *The Satyricon* gives us an unforgettable comic tour of the underbelly of life in Neronian Rome: low-lifes, ranters and ravers, and a madman who forces his guests to enact his own funeral while he is still alive to enjoy their grief. Along the way, we will learn a good deal about aspects of Roman daily life and social life that are nearly invisible in more highbrow texts (and see a bit of Latin as it was actually spoken). We will even consider the possibility that Petronius’ entertaining tales seriously explore the diseases infecting the bloated carcass of Roman culture—its realities falling tragically short of its pretensions. Finally, did I mention werewolves, witches, and cannibalism for pay?!

**Assigned books**
1. Lawall (ed.), *Selections from the Satyricon*, Bolchazy-Carducci
2. Ruden (trans.), *Petronius: Satyricon*, Hackett

**Grading**
50% four or five quizzes on the assigned reading covered in class
25% prepared participation and discussion
25% final project: a Petronian narrative of Union College

**Our biweekly routine**
For each class meeting, aim to prepare at home at least six pages further in Lawall.
Every two weeks, we will devote a Tuesday to a quiz on the reading covered during the previous three class meetings. There is no reading assigned on quiz days (though you should read ahead if you can). We will sight read on those days, and what we cover will never be quizzed.

**Our schedule at a glance**
- Tu 4/2: course introduction & sight reading
- Tu 4/16: quiz #1 on assigned reading covered in class 4/4, 4/9, 4/11
- Tu 4/30: quiz #2, etc.
- Tu 5/14: quiz #3
- Tu 5/28: quiz #4
- final exam: quiz #5

**Final project**
Examine the underbelly of Union College (or another aspect of your world) through a Petronian lens. Alternatively, give a reading of a work that explains and analyzes its actual and/or potential “Petronianness” (whether a work influenced by Petronius—Fellini, Fitzgerald, Eliot, etc.—or something connected in a way you will argue and interpret).

I am flexible, so please speak to me if a final project in another form would suit you better. If you are dying to do hard-core philological research on stylistic registers in Latin, I do not want to stop you!