

Neil Coffee

Department of Classics
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Classical epic poetry, Roman literature and culture, Hellenistic philosophy, classical tradition.

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Classics, University at Buffalo, SUNY, Buffalo, NY, 2003 – present

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Classics. The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, August 2003
Dissertation: “*Belli Commercia*: Violent Exchange in Vergil’s *Aeneid*”
Advisors: Shadi Bartsch, David Wray, Martha Nussbaum
- M.A. Classics. The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, June 1999
- B.A. English, *cum laude*. Columbia University, New York, NY, 1992

Additional Training

- Summer Session. American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 1999
Post-Baccalaureate Classics Program. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, 1996-7

PUBLICATIONS

Book

- *The Commerce of War: Exchange and Social Order in Latin Epic*. University of Chicago Press, forthcoming Spring 2009.

Articles and Reviews

- “Staius’ Theseus: Martial or Merciful?” forthcoming, *Classical Philology*.
- “Wallace Stevens’ Epicurean Emperor” forthcoming, *Classical and Modern Literature* 28.2 (2008).
- “Eteocles, Polynices, and the Economics of Violence in Staius’ *Thebaid*” *American Journal of Philology* 127.3(2006): 415-52.
- “The φορτηγοί of Theognis 667-82” *Classical Quarterly* 56.1 (2006): 29-30.
- Review of Rossi, A. *Contexts of War: Manipulation of Genre in Virgilian Battle Narrative*. *Classical Philology* 100.4 (2005): 372-6.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- \$2,600 Grant from Digital Humanities Institute at Buffalo for Stage 1 development of software to scan Latin corpus for intertextual phrases
- University at Buffalo Humanities Institute Faculty Research Fellowship, Spring 2009 for book project *The Rhetoric of Economics in Classical Rome*
- \$1,200 Grant from University at Buffalo College of Arts and Sciences Fund for Conferences and Lectures for June 27-29, 2008 *Conventiculum Buffaloniense* Spoken Latin Workshop

OTHER CURRENT PROJECTS

- “Social Relations in Lucan’s *De Bello Civilis*”. Book chapter in *Brill’s Companion to Lucan*, under contract with Brill.
- Article on Hellenistic philosophical schools in Lucan’s *Bellum Civile*
- Review of Charles McNelis, *Statius’ Thebaid and the Poetics of Civil War*, for *The Classical Journal*

INVITED LECTURES

- “Lucan’s *Civil War* and Caesar’s Politics of Generosity,” Brock University Archaeological Society Annual Scholarly Symposium, Brock University, St. Catherines, ON, March 2008
- “Economic and Moral Corruption in Lucan”, Wooster College, Wooster, OH, November 2005
- “Economic and Moral Corruption in Lucan”, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, November 2005

PRESENTATIONS

- “Exchange Poetics”, Roundtable discussion leader, APA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, January 2008
- Discussant, “Human Trafficking” Conference, University at Buffalo Humanities Institute, October 2007
- “Introducing Oral Latin in the Second Year”, APA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, January 2007
- “Concord and Forms of Exchange in the *Aeneid*”, APA Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, January 2006
- “Social Status and the Perils of Exchange in Vergil’s *Aeneid*”, CAMWS Annual Meeting, Madison, WI, April 2005
- “Achilles, Aeneas, and the Responsibilities of Power”, Public lecture in the Cutting Edge Lecture series, University at Buffalo, April 2005
- “Vice Versa: Domitian’s Corruption in Suetonius and Statius”, APA Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, January 2005
- “Spoken Latin Today” radio interview, Public Radio Station WBFO, Buffalo, NY, March 2004
- “Conspicuous Consumption: Buying, Using, and Losing Lives in Statius’ *Thebaid*”, APA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 2003

- “Spoken Latin Today”, lecture for Classical Association of Western New York Annual Meeting, Buffalo, NY, October 2003
- “Reconsidering Vergilian ‘Restraint’ in the *Aeneid*”, APA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, January 2002
- “Virtuous Violence in Statius’ *Thebaid*”, CAMWS Annual Meeting, Provo, UT, April 2001
- “Rethinking Vergilian ‘Restraint’”, Rhetoric and Poetics Workshop of the University of Chicago, April 2001
- “The Hero’s Tale: The Historical Perspective of Archaic Greek Elegy”, CAMWS Annual Meeting, Knoxville, TN, April 2000
- “Theognis’ Riddle: A Reexamination of Theognis 667-682”, APA Annual Meeting, Dallas, TX, December 1999
- “The Hero’s Tale: The Historical Perspective of Archaic Greek Elegy”, Rhetoric and Poetics Workshop of the University of Chicago, October 1999
- “The Uses of Violence in Lucan’s *Bellum Civile*”, CAMWS Annual Meeting, Cleveland, OH, April 1999
- “The Homeric and Historic Narrators of the *Aeneid*”, Yale University Graduate Student Colloquium “Intertextuality in the Ancient World,” April 1998

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND AFFILIATIONS

- Internal Reviewer, University of Chicago Press
- Referee, *Classical Philology*, *American Journal of Philology*
- Membership in Professional Organizations
American Philological Association (APA)
Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS)
North American Institute of Living Latin Studies (SALVI)
Vergilian Society
- Editorial Assistant, *Classical Philology*, The University of Chicago, 1997-8

COURSES TAUGHT

University at Buffalo, SUNY

- Graduate seminars: Exchange Ideologies in Classical Literature, Vergil and his Critics
- Other graduate courses: History of Latin Literature, Latin Epistolography, Senecan Tragedy and Philosophy, The Poetry and Philosophy of Lucretius
- Undergraduate courses: Horace and Catullus, Intermediate Latin, Introductory Ancient Greek, Roman Civilization, Warfare in the Ancient Mediterranean World, Independent Studies on Lucan and the Classical Epic Tradition

Graduate Instructor, University of Chicago

- Ancient epic poetry, Introductory Latin, War and Violence in the Epic Tradition, The Roman Empire (continuing education course), The Roman Republic (continuing education course)

United States Peace Corps, Viimsi, Estonia, June 1993 to June 1995

- Volunteer high school teacher of English as a foreign language

AWARDS FOR GRADUATE STUDY

- Elder Olsen Fellowship in the Humanities, 2002
- Margueritte H. Ephron Teaching Fellowship, 2002, for course “War and Violence in the Epic Tradition”
- Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellowship, 1999-2001
- CAMWS Semple Award, 1999, for study at the Summer Session of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens
- Ryerson and Boyer Summer Travel Fellowships, 1999, for summer study at the American School in Athens
- DAAD Summer Study Award, 1998, for German language study in Leipzig
- University Fellowship, 1997-1999

SPOKEN LATIN ACTIVITIES

- Founder and Organizer, *Conuenticulum Buffalonense*
Weekend workshop for Latin teachers and others on spoken Latin, with area Latin instructors as co-organizers, to take place June 27-29, 2008.
- Organizer, *Grex*, University at Buffalo, SUNY
From fall 2003 to present lead weekly spoken-Latin discussion group of undergraduate and graduate students.
- Founder and President, *Mensa Latina*, The University of Chicago
Organized and led weekly Latin conversation group from 1998-2003.
- *Conuenticulum Latinum*, The University of Kentucky, Summer 2001, 2004-7
Session leader in ten-day spoken Latin workshop.

SERVICE

Substantial Service, The University at Buffalo, SUNY:

- Classics Department Director of Undergraduate Studies
- Humanities Institute Executive Committee Member
- Departmental Website Administrator
- Organizer, Classics Department Open House
- Organizer for visits of Shadi Bartsch, P. Lowell Bowditch, Susanna Braund, John Dillery, Denis Feeney, Robert Kaster, Brian Krostenko, Kathleen McNamee, Vassiliki Panoussi, Richard Thomas, David Wray
- Director of Latin 101 Graduate Student Teaching
- Advisor for two dissertations

LANGUAGES

- French, German, Latin (reading and speaking ability)
- Ancient Greek, Italian (reading ability)
- Spanish (reading and intermediate speaking ability)

- Estonian (elementary reading and speaking ability)