

Rebecca Armstrong Latin Core Lecture Prospectus

Thursdays 11am Weeks 1-6

Exam Schools

This series covers six broad topics intended to provide helpful background as well as some more detailed discussion of examples drawn from the set texts (and some relevant non-set texts).

Week 1: How to be Hellenistic – a run through of some ways in which Roman poets promoted and explored their status as inheritors of a ‘Hellenistic aesthetic’.

Week 2: Philosophical Frames – some reflections on how various famous philosophical ideas turn up in the literature of the period.

Week 3: Poetic Biographies – looks at representations of the poets as real figures, and considers the merits or otherwise of ancient biography as historical source.

Week 4: Everything’s Coming Up Roses: Nature Co-Opted in Literature – addressing natural metapoetics and ecocritical reading of the texts.

Week 5: Poets and Princes – thinking about the relationship with important figures *other than* as well as the Caesars.

Week 6: The Unquiet Past – looks at different aspects of the authors’ reactions to history, and how the telling of the past shapes perceptions of the present.