

Assignment:
Understanding Poetry through Place and Material Culture
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Literature and Urban Ecology, Interim 2014

You will choose or be assigned a place and two objects from the lists below. You will propose answers to the following questions, based both on your research and your close reading of Juvenal's Satire 3. The purpose of this assignment is to reach a detailed understanding of how Juvenal's poetry engages with a complex social, spatial and material world.

- **What materials would have been used in making this object? Where did they come from? How did they get to Rome? What persons would have been involved in their collection, transport, manufacturing and trade?**
- **What persons would have used this object and how would they have used it? Where would they have used it? In what kinds of buildings or outdoor spaces?**
- **What connections do you notice among objects, places, practices, and persons in the poem? How does Juvenal use space and objects to create a consistent or holistic vision of the city? In other words, what does this spatial and material network say about Rome?**
- **How do your place and objects contribute both to their sections of the poem and to one or more of the poem's overall themes?**
- **Research**
 - Read Juvenal's Satire 3, looking for clues to understanding your place and objects and how they contribute to the poem. Compare a couple of different translations to glean more information: can your place and objects be translated into English in different ways?
 - Look for sources relevant to Rome in the 1st and 2nd century CE, using our session with the librarian as a starting point. Keep good records on your sources, including authors, editors, titles, and publication information. You'll need the details for your source list.
 - As you take notes on your research, make lists of persons (or roles or professions) and practices linked to your place and objects. Look for answers to the bold questions above.
- **Mapping: Explaining with words, images and space**
 - Using Google Maps Engine, create a map and title it "Your Full Name – Juvenal Assignment."
 - Use markers to show your place and places relevant to your objects. Each marker should include a place name, an image, and an explanation of how this place is important for your object, or how the place is important to the poem. If appropriate, consider mentioning practices and persons associated with each place, or using more than one marker to designate places within your assigned place.
 - Optional: If your research justifies it, use one or more paths. You might, for example, show how your object might have traveled from place to place, or how a person might have moved through your place.
 - When your map is complete, share it with me (trull@stolaf.edu). You should have at least three place markers.
- **Expository Writing: Going deeper into the subject**
 - Find references to your place and objects in the poem and consider why they are there, including both the immediate context(s) within the poem and their relevance for the poem's larger themes, such as emigration or social status.
 - Whether in one essay or several, answer the bold questions above. This section of your assignment can be written as a series of short essays (less than 400 words each) or as one longer essay with a brief introduction and conclusion. In either case, your writing should flow logically, so as to engage and persuade your reader. In either case, I'm expecting around 800-1000 words total.
 - Your writing can draw on information that is also in your map, but should not merely repeat it – you are writing at length in order to connect ideas, show cause and effect, and analyze in depth.

- The last two bold questions (about the poem’s meaning) are the most important and will weigh most heavily in grading the assignment.
- Cite sources in this section using MLA Style (parenthetical references to your List of Sources by author and page numbers).
- Using MLA Style, create a list of all sources used in your writing and mapping. Use the form for MLA List of Works Cited. This should appear at the end of your Expository Writing.
- Submit the Expository Writing via Moodle Upload **in the form of a .doc or .docx file.**
- **How you will be graded:**
 - **Mapping**
 - How accurate and complete are the locations and textual descriptions?
 - How well-written and informative are the textual descriptions?
 - How important are the chosen locations to a viewer’s understanding of your object?
 - To what extent does the map provide broad insights into the commerce, social world, or other key aspects of the Roman Empire in the 1st and 2nd centuries CE?
 - **Expository Writing**
 - Does the writer sufficiently address the last two questions in bold above?
 - Does the writer use evidence from both research and close reading of the poem?
 - Does the writer cite sources correctly according to MLA Style?
 - Does the evidence sufficiently support the writer’s claims?
 - Do the writer’s claims help to explain how the poem deals with one or more of its important themes?
 - Are the claims interesting, debatable, and ambitious?
 - Is the writing grammatically correct? Is the writing style clear, easy to understand, and lacking repetition or vagueness?
 - Are the claims logically connected and persuasively presented?
 - **List of Sources**
 - Are the sources authoritative? Do they support the evidence the writer uses?
 - Are the sources correctly cited in MLA Style, including all the required punctuation as well as correct punctuation, capitalization, and order of items?

Places (choose one)
the spot where Daedalus put off his wearied wings
temples
harbors
rivers
the Orontes
the Tiber
Greece
the Circus
Sicyon
Amydon
Andros
Samos
Tralles
Alabanda
Esquiliae
the hill called from its osiers
Aventine

Sabine hills
fencing school
Marsi
the third story of a house
courts
lodging-houses
Pontine marshes
Gallinarian wood
jail
Aquinum
harbors
sewers
slave market
barber shop
Objects (choose two)
mistress-spear
couch
plums
figs
cloak
toga
mended shoes
Gorgonean horse
money chest
Samothracian altars
estate
pottery ware
blue earthenware
venal cakes
mourning robes
jugs in a sideboard
Greek books
Greek supper-cloak
Greek prizes
naked statues of Parian marble
ancient ornaments of gods taken in our Asiatic victories
bust of Minerva
bushel of silver
litter
sedan

soldier's caliga
fir and pine trees
wain
blocks of Ligustican stone
well-oiled strigils
bathing towels
oil flask
potsherd
unmixed wine
flambeaux
bronzed candelabrum
vinegar and beans
chopped leek
boiled sheep's head
Jew's begging-stand
chains
plowshares, mattocks and hoes
caliga