

MITCHELL PENTZER, PH.D.
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS, HONORS PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER
248 UCB, BOULDER, CO 80309
pentzer@colorado.edu

EDUCATION

- 2015 Ph.D. (Classics), University of Colorado Boulder
Dissertation: "Dark Humor in Imperial Latin Literature," defended July 2015
Sponsor: Jackie Elliott, Associate Professor of Classics
- 2010 MA (Latin), University of Colorado Boulder
- 2008 BA (History and Classics), *summa cum laude*, University of Idaho

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Emory University, Department of Classics
2017-18, Visiting Assistant Professor
- University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Classics
2018-21, Lecturer
2015-17, Lecturer
2015-16, Latin Program Coordinator
2008-15, Graduate Student Instructor

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Ancient humor; Greek and Latin poetry, especially epigram, satire, and epic; Greek and Roman historiography and rhetoric; Literature of the Second Sophistic; Late Antique literature and history; Medieval literature and history; Intercultural exchange and the Roman provinces; Roman law; Medicine; Religion and mystery cults; Classical reception, especially in Colonial America and in film

PUBLICATIONS

- 'Horace-ing Around with Martial Book 10,' in *CJ* 114.4 (April/May of 2019, p. 409-438)
- Six entries in the *Tacitus Encyclopedia*, ed. by Victoria Pagán, under contract with Wiley-Blackwell Press, for publication in 2022

BOOKS IN PREPARATION

- Epigram and Humor*, an investigation of the role humor plays in the conception of epigram as a distinct genre, from roots in epigraphy and archaic lyric poetry through Late Antiquity.
- Re-Filling Martial 10*, arguing that Martial turned to the works and life of Horace for inspiration and guidance when negotiating his relationship as poet with a new *princeps*, and that allusions to Horace may help identify those epigrams which belong to the second edition of Book 10.
- Humor Out of Place*, a defense of humorous readings of passages in the more serious genres of epic and historiography, Greek and Latin, and an explanation of how those instances of humor serve the unique purposes of the texts.

ARTICLES IN PREPARATION

- 'A Poet's Place and the Second Edition of Martial Book 10' for submission to *TAPA*
- 'Farcical Philosophy in Lucian's *Nigrinus*' for submission to *Illinois Classical Studies*
- 'Humor as *Nefas* in Statius' *Thebaid*' for submission to *AJP*

MAJOR AWARDS

CU Classics Summer Research Fellow, 2017
CU CHA Dissertation Fellow, 2014-15
CU Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Award Recipient, 2013-14
CAMWS Presidential Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper winner, 2013
Center for Humanities and the Arts Graduate Scholar, 2010-12
University of Colorado at Boulder (Devaney Fellowship recipient)

MINOR AWARDS

CU Department of Classics Summer Support Award Recipient, 2015
United Government of Graduate Students (CU) Travel Grant, 2014-15
Eaton Graduate Student Travel Grant, 2014-15
American Philological Association Outstanding Student Award, 2014
CU Department of Classics Summer Support Award Recipient, 2014
CU Graduate School Travel Grant recipient, 2013-14
Mary E.V. McClanahan Graduate Essay Prize winner, 2011
Mary & James DeCoursey Award, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, 2008,
University of Idaho
University of Idaho Honors Certificate Recipient, 2008
Father Arthur Kennedy Study Abroad Scholarship, 2007, University of Idaho
William and Carolyn Folz Scholarship, 2004, University of Idaho
Robert R. Lee Promise Scholarship, 2004-08, University of Idaho

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

'Refilling Martial's Tenth Book', presented at the Annual Meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS), Lincoln, April 2019
'Submitting to a Journal, in First-Person,' presented at and invited by the Graduate Student Issues Committee panel at CAMWS, Albuquerque, April 2018
'Ancient Humor Theory, Illustrated by Epigram,' invited by the Ancient Mediterranean Studies Program at Emory University, March 2018
'Tacitus' Humor in *Annals* 13-16,' presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Classical Studies (SCS) in Boston, January 2018
'Farcical Philosophy and Suggestible Scholarship in Lucian's *Nigrinus*,' presented at CU's Summer Scientia Series, July 2017
'Horace-ing Around with Martial 10.68 and Submitting to Journals,' presented at CU's Summer Scientia Series, June 2017
'Prepping for the Job Market Today,' presented at CU's Summer Scientia Series, June 2017
'Like Father, Like Daughter(-in-Law),' presented at the Annual Meeting of CAMWS, Kitchener, April 2017
'The *Usucapio* of High Literature in Martial's Epigrams,' presented at the Annual Meeting of CAMWS, Williamsburg, March 2016
'Lucian's *Nigrinus*: What is the Effective Corrective?' presented at the Annual Meeting of CAMWS, Boulder, March 2015
'Greek Pedagogy in the Aether (net),' presented the Annual Meeting of the SCS, New Orleans, January 2015
'*Tydea Consumpsi*: Dark Humor in the *Thebaid*,' presented at the Annual Meeting of CAMWS, Waco, April 2014
'Horace-ing Around with Martial 10.68,' presented at the Annual Meeting of CAMWS, Iowa City, April 2013 (Presidential Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper)

'The Death of an Elegist,' presented at the *Mysterious Phantoms* conference held by the Department of French and Italian, University of Colorado Boulder, April 2011

'From Dodona to the Druids: The Tree Connection,' presented at the Phi Alpha Theta Pacific Northwest Regional Conference, Gonzaga University, April 2008

'Religion in the Roman World,' presented at the Phi Alpha Theta Pacific Northwest Regional Conference, Lincoln City, OR, April 2007

GUEST LECTURES AND APPEARANCES

'(Ne)Fas – Anthropology in Philology,' guest lecture for the University of Colorado Boulder Anthropology Club, September 2021

'Humor Across Cultures,' guest lecture for the University of Colorado Boulder Anthropology Club, February 2021

'Martial and Dark Humor,' guest interview in Martial and Juvenal, University of Nottingham, April 2020

'Jason's Cloak: A Different Hero, A Different Story,' guest lecture in Hero and Anti-Hero, Emory University, November 2017

Guest Lecture on Sophocles' *Antigone* in Greek and Roman Tragedy, University of Colorado Boulder, February 2015

'Mithras in Context,' guest lecture in Paganism to Christianity, University of Colorado Boulder, April 2011

'The Development of the Liturgy,' guest lecture in Paganism to Christianity, April 2011 and 2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Colorado at Boulder:

2018-21: Lecturer in the Classics Department, Honors Program, and Honors RAP

Courses Taught:

- Beginning Greek I and II
- Intensive Beginning Greek I and II Online (two iterations)
- Greek and Roman Epic (two sections)
- Masterpieces of Greek Literature (two sections, one of Honors)
- Greek and Roman Comedy (five sections)
- Swords and Sandals on the Silver Screen (Classics in film)
- Gender and Sexuality of Ancient Greece (Honors, two sections)
- Gender and Sexuality of Ancient Rome (Honors)

Courses Designed:

- Swords and Sandals on the Silver Screen (Classics in film)

Emory University:

2017-18: Visiting Assistant Professor in the Classics Department

Courses Taught:

- Elementary Latin I
- Elementary Latin II
- Intermediate Latin Prose (*Cupid and Psyche*)
- Elementary Greek II
- *Airs, Waters, Places* and Herodotus' ethnographies (upper-division Greek)
- Intensive Elementary Greek

University of Colorado at Boulder:

2015-17: Lecturer in the Classics Department

Courses Taught:

- Greek Mythology
- Greek and Roman Epic (five sections)
- Greek and Roman Comedy (two sections)
- Paganism and Christianity (four sections)
- Tacitus' *Agricola* (upper-division Latin)
- Intermediate Latin I (Caesar's *Gallic War*)
- Intermediate Latin II (Vergil's *Aeneid*)

Other Work:

- Latin Program Coordinator for one year, overseeing six other sections

2008-14: Graduate Student Instructor

Courses Taught:

- Beginning Latin I (two sections)
- Beginning Latin II
- Intermediate Latin I (Caesar's *Gallic War*)
- Greek Mythology (two sections)
- Beginning Greek I
- Intensive Classical Greek (two terms, taught twice)
- Intensive Greek Online (two terms)

Courses Designed:

- Intensive Classical Greek Online

Other Work:

- TA for Rise and Fall of Ancient Rome (introductory Roman history)

MEMBERSHIP IN SCHOLARLY ORGANIZATIONS

Society for Classical Studies member, 2013-2018

CAMWS Member, 2012-2019

Phi Beta Kappa member, Alpha of Idaho Chapter, inducted in 2008

Eta Sigma Phi member, Epsilon Zeta Chapter, inducted in 2007

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Occasional reader for *The American Journal of Philology*

Occasional reader for *Vergilius*

MAT project committee member, Stephanie Krause: *Selections from Roman Elegy*

University of Colorado Boulder, 2015

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Jackie Elliott, Associate Professor, Department of Classics, University of Colorado Boulder

Jackie.Elliott@colorado.edu

Dissertation advisor, graduate advisor, former professor and department chair, current colleague

Carole Newlands, Professor, Department of Classics, University of Colorado Boulder

Carole.Newlands@colorado.edu

Dissertation committee member, graduate advisor, former professor, current colleague

Sandra Blakely, Associate Professor, Department of Classics, Emory University

SBlakel@emory.edu

Former colleague

Peter Knox, Eric and Jane Nord Family Professor and Director of the Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities, Case Western Reserve University
Peter.Knox@case.edu
Graduate advisor, former professor

LANGUAGES

Classical and Medieval Latin; Classical and Koine Greek
Reading knowledge: German, Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch

ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT, CONCURRENT WITH ACADEMIC

Privately tutoring middle school, high school and adult students in Classical Greek and Latin,
August 2018 – Present
Teaching Latin to elementary and middle schoolers with the Alvearium homeschooling consortium,
August 2019 – Present
Programming and Web Development with CSDCo. (Fortran, HTML, JavaScript, CSS),
May 2019 – Present
Consulting with Classics Departments on the Instruction of Classical Greek online,
July 2020 – Present

References available upon request