

# LAT 0181-01

## LATIN

# EPIGRAPHY



This course will introduce students to the challenges of reading Latin texts preserved as inscriptions upon stone and will introduce Roman inscriptions as a critical source for aspects of Roman history and society that do not otherwise survive. It is an advanced Latin course whose goal is to practice and develop skills to read significant examples of Latin epigraphs, and to use modern techniques for encoding inscriptions and building digital corpora:

*Latin epigraphy and its contribution to linguistic and cultural knowledge.* This part of the course will focus on characteristics and purposes of this discipline, addressing topics such as: development of Latin epigraphy in modern times; formation of epigraphic collections; the work of the epigraphists who discover and decipher inscriptions; alphabet, writing and texts of Latin epigraphs; classification of stones according to their content and language (sacred and sepulchral inscriptions, public and private inscriptions, juridical epigraphy, calendars, etc.); the relationship between Latin epigraphy and other disciplines, such as history, philology, archaeology, and numismatics; difference between epigraphical and literary sources; contribution of Latin epigraphy to our knowledge of Roman language, history, society, religion, and law.

*Ancient Latium as a source book for reading and transcribing inscriptions.* More than 5,000 epigraphs come from the so called *Latium Vetus*, by which the Romans meant the oldest part of Latium. During the course will be translated and commented a selection of inscriptions from this important collection, which is fundamental to know one of the most important region of the ancient world, located in modern Italy around Colli Albani and Campagna Romana.

*Epigraphic documents and the World Wide Web.* The course is meant also to teach modern tools for transcribing and preserving inscriptions in a digital environment. Particular attention will be given to EpiDoc, an international project for encoding inscriptions in XML.



*Dr. Berti*

*Block K+ M/W 4:30-5:45*

