

Nōmen/Numerus: _____ / _____

Diēs: _____ | Latin Prose SY20 – Finnigan

Vergil, *Aeneid* – English Selections Comprehension & Discussion Questions

Instructions: Please read the assigned text and come to class prepared to discuss the following questions.

N.B.: V. = Vergil / A. = Aeneas / D. = Dido

Recurrent Themes, Motifs, and Other Items To Watch Out For:

- Characterization, especially of Aeneas (as hero, as human being, as survivor of disaster, as refugee, as leader, as pawn of the gods, as embodying Roman values, etc.)
- Vergil's use of speeches and similes—how they contribute to characterization, what they add to the narrative, etc.
- Portrayal and embodiment of traditional Roman values: *pietas*, *virtūs*, *gravitās*, *constantia*, etc.
- The role and description of 'the city' throughout, especially how Troy itself resonates through the epic (the *urbs capta* motif will be particularly prominent in this work, since Troy was the original *urbs capta* in Greco-Roman antiquity)
- The depiction of war, especially how Vergil works in elements that call to mind civil wars and other, more recent events from Roman history
- Divine intervention and the role of the gods, as well as the role of fate/destiny
- The role of history and memory

Assignment 1: *Aen.* 1.34-409 (West pp. 4-14)

1. What is the Trojans' mood as they leave Sicily? What is Juno's as she sees them sailing?
2. What does Juno say in her speech at 1.37-49? How does this characterize her?
3. Who is Aeolus? What is his job? What does Juno ask of Aeolus and how does he respond?
4. What effect does Juno's visit to Aeolus have on the Trojans?
5. What does A. say in his speech at 1.94-101? How does this characterize him?
6. How does Neptune react when he notices the storm raging? How does he end up calming the storm? Note the simile Vergil uses at 1.148-153.
7. Where do the Trojans set out for once the storm subsides? How does V. describe this place? What do the Trojans do when they get there?
8. As A.'s men mourn, what does he say to them (1.198-207)? How does he feel as he says these words, and how does this compare with the way in which he projects himself to his men?
9. What do the Trojans discuss after their feast?
10. What does Venus say in her speech at 1.229-253? How does this characterize her?
11. How does Jupiter respond to Venus in his speech at 1.257-296? How does this characterize him? Pay particular attention to his prophecies about the fate of A. and his descendants.
12. How does Jupiter make the people of Carthage well disposed to the Trojans? Note how V. describes the people and their ruler Dido here.
13. Where do A. and Achates go the next morning? Whom do they run into, and what does she look like?
14. What does A. notice about this huntress, and what does he ask her?
15. What does Venus say in response? Be sure you are familiar with Dido's backstory as related in Venus' speech.
16. Pay particular attention to how A. responds to Venus' speech at 1.372-385. How does he characterize himself?
17. What does Venus tell A. next? When he realizes who she is, how does he address her? Note his change in tone.

Assignment 2: *Aen.* 1.410-end (West pp. 14-24)

18. How does Venus help A. and Achates reach the city?
19. How does V. describe Carthage and the Carthaginians as A. and Achates look out over it?
20. What do A. and Achates come across in the wooded grove in the middle of the city? How is this place described?
21. What does A. see inside the temple? What effect does this have on him?
22. How is Dido described as she arrives at the temple?
23. Whom do A. and Achates see approaching in a great crowd? How do they react?
24. Who is Ilioneus? What does he say to Dido and what does he ask of her (1.522-558)?
25. How does Dido respond to Ilioneus' request (1.562-578)? How does this speech characterize her as a leader?
26. After the cloud disappears, how is A. described? What does he say to Dido (1.595-610) and how does she respond (1.615-630)?

27. What is happening at Dido's palace as she leads A. inside?
28. What does A. ask Achates to do?
29. How does Venus feel while all this is happening, and what does she decide to do? What does she say to Cupid (1.664-688)? What does he do in response?
30. As the banquet begins, how is Dido described? To whom and for what does she offer a libation and pray?
31. What does Dido ask of A. at the end of the book?

Assignment 3: Aen. 2.13b-468 (West pp. 25-38)

1. How does A. describe the horse?
2. Where do the Trojans think the Greeks have gone when they encounter the horse? Where are the Greeks actually?
3. How do the Trojans act when they think the Greeks have left? What do they think of the horse and what should be done with it?
4. Who is Laocoon? What does he say and do?
5. Who is brought before Priam, and how does A. describe him? When he first starts speaking, how do the Trojans react?
6. How does Sinon end up within the walls of Troy?
7. How does Sinon make himself sympathetic to the Trojans throughout his speech (2.69-72, 77-104, 108-144)? What does he hope to accomplish with this speech? As you continue reading, assess the effectiveness of this speech.
8. How does Priam respond to Sinon? What does he ask him? (2.148-151)
9. What does Sinon say about the horse in response to Priam (2.154-194)? What effect did this have on the Trojans?
10. What happens to Laocoon as he is sacrificing a bull on the altar of Neptune?
11. How does V. describe the snakes? What do the snakes do, and where do they slither off to once they do this?
12. How do the Trojans interpret the episode with Laocoon and the snakes? What do they decide to do next?
13. How are the Trojans able to get the horse into the city? Recall that Sinon said it was intentionally built too large to be taken inside the walls (2.185-88).
14. What is the atmosphere like in the city as the horse is brought in, and how does A. react in hindsight to this episode as he tells it to Dido?
15. What happens as night falls over the city?
16. Who appears to A. in a dream? How does V. describe him? What does A. say to him (2.281-286)?
17. What does Hector say to A. in response? (2.289-295)
18. As A. awakes, what is the atmosphere in the city like? When he climbs to his roof to see what is happening, to what does he compare himself (2.304-308)?
19. What does A. decide to do after he realizes what is happening? Why does he do this?
20. Who is Panthus? What is he doing when A. runs into him? What does he say to A. (2.324-335)?
21. What does A. do after Panthus' speech?
22. What does A. say to his men when he sees them ready to fight (2.348-354)? What effect does this have on the men?
23. How does A. describe the fight through the city after he exhorts his men?
24. What grave mistake does Androgeos make? Note the simile V. uses to describe him when he realizes he has erred gravely (2.379-382).
25. What does Coroebus urge A. and the other Trojans to do? (2.387-391)
26. When Coroebus rushes to save Cassandra, what happens? How does his plan backfire?
27. As A. recounts the casualties of the battle in front of the temple of Minerva, what does he say about himself?
28. Where do A., Iphitus, and Pelias go next? How does V. foreshadow the gravity of this battle here?
29. How is the palace described?
30. How were the Trojans defending the palace? What effect does seeing this have on A.? How does he help to defend the palace?

Assignment 4: Aen. 2.559-end (West pp. 41-47)

1. What effect did watching the events inside the palace have on A.?
2. How does A. describe Helen when he sees her hiding at the temple of Vesta? What effect does seeing her have on him? What does he say in his speech at 2.577-587?
3. As A. rushes to attack Helen, how does Venus reveal herself to him? What does she say to him (2.594-620)? What effect does this have on A.?
4. Note the simile V. uses at 2.624-631 and compare with how he describes Priam's corpse after his death.
5. When A. finally reaches his father's house, what does he try to do? How and why does Anchises resist, and what does he say to his son at 2.638-649?
6. What does A. say in response to Anchises' refusal to leave? (2.657-670)
7. How does Creusa try to stop A. from rushing back to the fighting and certain death? (2.673-678)
8. What happens to Ascanius after Creusa finishes speaking? How does Anchises react?
9. What sign does Jupiter send? What effect does this have on Anchises?
10. Note especially A.'s speech as he prepares to leave at 2.707-720.

11. As A. starts to flee the city, how does he feel? Why does he say he feels this way?
12. What does A. do when he thinks he hears enemies approaching? What happens as a result?
13. When does A. realize that Creusa has been lost? How does he react when he realizes this?
14. What is happening throughout the city as A. rushes back through looking for Creusa?
15. How does A. react when he sees Creusa's ghost? What does she say to him in her speech at 2.776-789? What does A. try to do after she finishes speaking?
16. What does A. see when he returns to his comrades?

Assignment 5: Aen. 3 Summary (CN pp. 38-39) & 4.1-330 (West pp. 69-78)

(a) Book 3 Summary (CliffsNotes pp. 38-9)

1. After building a fleet of ships, what do A. and the Trojans set out to do?
2. Where do they end up first? Why do they end up leaving this place?
3. What does the oracle of Apollo at Delos tell A. and his men? How do they interpret this?
4. What happens as the Trojans are attempting to found a city in Crete?
5. In Crete, what do the Penates tell A.?
6. What happens to the Trojans after a storm drives them to one of the Strophades?
7. Who is Celaeno and what does she prophesy?
8. After holding athletic contests at Actium, where do the Trojans sail? Who welcomes them when they arrive there?
9. What does Helenus tell A.? What does Andromache tell him?
10. Describe briefly how Pyrrhus dies and why this manner of death is particularly fitting for him.
11. Where do the Trojans go after leaving Buthrotum and what do they encounter?
12. Where is Drepanum? When A. and his men reach this place, what happens?

(b) 4.1-330 (West pp. 69-78)

1. How is D. described at the opening of the book?
2. What does D. say to her sister, Anna? What is holding her back from succumbing to the temptations caused by A.? What does she say she would rather have happen before she "go against [her] conscience"?
3. What does Anna say in response to D.? What arguments does she use to persuade her?
4. What effect does Anna's speech have on D.? Notice especially the language V. uses to describe D. here and the simile at 4.68-73.
5. How do D. and A. spend their time? How does D. act when A. is not around? What effect does this have on Carthage?
6. When Juno realizes what is happening, what does she say to Venus?
7. What does Venus realize Juno is doing? What does she say in response?
8. What is Juno's plan? How does Venus react to this?
9. What happens as the group starts to hunt? Where do D. and A. go? The rest of the Trojans and Carthaginians?
10. What happens in the cave?
11. How does V. describe Rumor (*Fama*)? What stories does she spread around Carthage?
12. Who is Iarbas? How does he take the rumors about D. and A.?
13. What does Iarbas say in his prayer to Jupiter? What does he call A.?
14. What does Jupiter instruct Mercury to do?
15. When Mercury sees A., what is he doing and what is he wearing? What does Mercury say to him?
16. How does A. react to Mercury's speech? What does he want to do? What gives him hesitation, and what is his plan to deal with this?
17. How does D. catch wind of what A. and the Trojans are doing? How does she react? How does V. describe her?
18. What does D. say to A. when she confronts him?

Assignment 6: Aen. 4.331-647 (West pp. 79-87)

1. After D. confronts A. about his intentions to leave, how does A. feel, and what does he say in response?
2. After A. finishes speaking, what does D. say? When she rushes back into the palace, what does A. want to do and what does he actually do?
3. What are the Trojans doing? Note the simile V. uses to describe them.
4. Note V.'s apostrophe at 4.408-411. Whom does he address and what does he say?
5. What does D. ask Anna to do? How does Anna react to this? What does D. then decide to do?
6. What does D. ask Anna to do next? How does Anna react?
7. What does D. do once the funeral pyre has been prepared?
8. How does V. describe D. after night falls? What options is she considering, and what does she resolve to do?
9. Where is A. during all of this? Who appears to him, and what does this person tell him to do? How does A. react?

10. What does D. say as she sees the Trojan ships sailing away? How does this speech compare with her earlier ones in this book? Note especially what she commands her people to do near the end of the speech.
11. Who is Barce? What does D. ask of her?

Assignment 7: 4.672-end (West pp. 88-89) & Aen. 5 Summary (CN pp. 51-52)

(a) *Aen.* 4.672-end (West pp. 88-89)

1. How does Anna react when she hears the lamentations ringing through the palace?
2. How does Anna feel when she realizes what has happened? What does she say to D. as she lies dying?
3. What does Anna do after she finishes speaking?
4. How does Juno feel as she watches all of this happening from the heavens? Who is Iris, and what does Juno send her to do?
5. What happens as Iris cuts off the lock of Dido's hair?

(b) *Aen.* 5 Summary (CliffsNotes pp. 51-52)

1. What does A. see as he sails away from Carthage? How does this make him feel?
2. When a storm threatens the Trojans, to where do they sail? What had happened in this place a year before?
3. What does A. decide to do while they are there?
4. While the funeral games are happening, what does Juno send Iris to do?
5. What do the Trojan women do? How does A. react when he hears, and what is the result of his reaction?
6. What does A. allow the Trojans who do not wish to travel any longer to do? Who encourages this plan?
7. When do A. and his men set sail?
8. What does Venus ask of Neptune, and what does Neptune respond?
9. Who is Palinurus? What happens to him? Why? How does A. react to this?

Assignment 8: Aen. 6-7 Summaries (CN pp. 51-52, 64-65 & West pp. 136-40, 291-3)

(a) *Aen.* 6 Summary (CliffsNotes pp. 56-58 AND West pp. 136-40, 291-3)

1. To where does A. lead his fleet?
2. Who is Deiphobe? What does she instruct A. to do? What does A. ask of Apollo in his prayer?
3. What does Deiphobe prophesy to A. and how does A. react to hearing this?
4. What does A. ask Deiphobe? What does she tell him he must do first?
5. Who is Misenus? What does A. discover while hewing trees to build his funeral pyre?
6. What convinces Charon to let A. across the river?
7. Whom does A. see in the "Fields of Mourning"? What does he say to this person, and how does this person react?
8. Who is Deiphobus? What does he tell A. and the sibyl as they prepare to continue on?
9. How does A. get into Elysium? What is Elysium like, and what kinds of spirits are there?
10. Where does A. find Anchises? What is he doing there?
11. Read 6.756-end (pp. 136-140) in the West translation and consult the appendix at pp. 291-93 as needed. Consider the following:
 - a. What is Anchises describing to A.? What people does he choose to describe?
 - b. What does Anchises say is the difference between the Romans' task and that of "others"?
 - c. Who is Marcellus? How does Anchises describe him?
 - d. How does A. get out of the underworld?

(b) *Aen.* 7 Summary (CliffsNotes pp. 64-65)

12. Where do the Trojans go after their visit to Cumae?
13. What does V. do again here in the middle of the work? Why does he do this here?
14. Briefly identify the following: Latinus, Amata, Lavinia, Latium, Turnus, Rutulians
15. What does Latinus' dead father tell him?
16. What do the Trojans eat as they sit on the shores of the Tiber? Why is this significant?
17. What offering does A. make to Latinus the next day? How does Latinus receive this and what does he offer A.?
18. When Juno finds out about what's going on, what does she try to do? Whom does she send to do this?
19. What does Amata think about A.? What does she tell Latinus and how does he react?
20. Whom does Allecto visit next? What does she tell this person?
21. What does Allecto incite Ascanius to do? What happens as a result of him doing this?
22. When Latinus opposes engaging the Trojans in battle, who takes charge of the war effort? What specifically does this person do?
23. How does V. end the book?

Assignment 9: Aen. 8.1-674 (West pp. 169-84, stop at “with their tails.”)

1. What are Turnus and his allies doing at the opening of the book? How does A. react?
2. Whom does A. see when he sleeps? What does this person say to him? Pay particular attention to what he prophesies.
3. Briefly identify the following: Arcadians, Pallas, Evander, Pallanteum
4. Where do A. and the Trojans end up after sailing up the Tiber on the next day? Who rules there?
5. What is Evander doing when the Trojans arrive? Who is Pallas? What does he say to the Trojans, and how does A. reply?
6. What does A. say to Evander after Pallas leads him into the grove? How does Evander respond?
7. As the Trojans and Arcadians feast together, what story does Evander tell A.? Why is this story included?
8. As they walk back to Evander’s home after the feast, what does Evander describe to A. at 8.313-336? Note especially how he is described at 8.313 just before he begins to speak.
9. What else does Evander show A. as they walk to his home? What does he tell him as they enter? (8.337-369)
10. How does Venus feel at this point, and why? What does she ask of Vulcan? How does Vulcan respond?
11. What does Vulcan do the next day?
12. What do Evander and A. discuss the next day?
13. Who is Mezentius? What does Evander say about him?
14. What does Evander tell A. to do? Why does he send Pallas with him on this journey?
15. What do A. and the others see after Evander finishes speaking? How does A. interpret this?
16. Where does A. set out to after this? Whom does he take with him? Where do the rest of the Trojans go?
17. What does Evander say to Pallas before he sends him off with A.?
18. When A. and his men are refreshing themselves, who appears to him? What does this person give to him? How does he react?
19. This question spills over into the Book 8 Latin selections. Note the different episodes that Vulcan carves onto the shield of Aeneas. Keep a running list of them (use the appendix on p. 294 to help you for the beginning scenes). Consider the following:
 - a. Vergil has hundreds of years of Roman history to choose from here. Why does he choose the events he chooses?
 - b. Consider these scenes in light of the other prophetic scenes that focus on Roman history [Jupiter’s speech in book 1 (pp. 10-11) & the parade of heroes in the Underworld in book 6 (pp. 136-9)]. What do the scenes on the shield add to Vergil’s portrait of Roman history?
 - c. Keep in mind that Aeneas, of course, can have no way of knowing what he’s looking at here since all of the events depicted on the shield will happen well after he is dead. What do you think his reaction is to seeing this?
 - d. Who is Vergil’s intended audience for the story of Roman history depicted on the shield?

Assignment 10: Aen. 9-11 Summaries (CN pp. 75-6, 80-1, 85-6)

(a) *Aen.* 9 Summary (CliffsNotes pp. 75-76)

1. Whom does Juno send to Turnus, and with what message? How does Turnus respond?
2. When the Trojans withdraw into their camp, what does Turnus do? How does Jupiter intervene?
3. How does Turnus interpret Jupiter’s act of divine intervention?
4. Who are Nisus and Euryalus? What do they volunteer to do, and why?
5. What do Nisus and Euryalus do as they march through the enemy encampment?
6. What happens to Nisus and Euryalus when Volcens intercepts them?
7. Read V.’s apostrophe to Nisus and Euryalus at 9.446-7 (West pp. 199-200). Consider the fact that line 9.467 (*nulla dies umquam memori vos eximet aevo*, ‘No day will ever erase you from the memory of time’) has been appropriated in the 9/11 Memorial Museum as a means of honoring the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. We will discuss the controversy and debate surrounding this appropriation in class.
8. When the battle at the Trojan camp begins, what does Ascanius do?
9. What does Apollo say to Ascanius when he visits him?
10. What do Pandarus and Bitias do to provoke Turnus and the Rutulians? What happens as a result?
11. How does Turnus escape from the enemy camp?

(b) *Aen.* 10 Summary (CliffsNotes pp. 80-81)

1. When Jupiter convenes a council of the gods, what is his mandate?
2. Where is A. as the battle continues to wage at the Trojan camp?
3. When A. arrives back at the camp, how do the Trojans react? How do Turnus and the Rutulians react?
4. Whom does Pallas engage? What ends up happening to him? Note the trophy Turnus takes from him.
5. While Hercules grieves knowing the fates of both Pallas and Lausus, how does Jupiter console him?
6. How does A. react to Pallas’ death? Why does he react this way?

7. How is Turnus saved from A.'s warpath? How does he react to being saved thus?
8. After A. wounds Mezentius, what does Lausus do? What happens to him, and how does A. react?
9. Why does Mezentius return to challenge A. again? What happens to him? What final request does he make of A.?

(c) *Aen.* 11 Summary (CliffsNotes pp. 85-86)

1. What is A.'s attitude as the book opens? What does he say it is time to do, and what does he say must be done first?
2. How is Pallas' body returned to Pallanteum?
3. What do the envoys from Laurentum ask of A.? How does he respond?
4. Who is Drancës? What does he hope for A.?
5. How long does the proposed truce last? What do the Trojans and Latins do during this time?
6. How does Evander react when Pallas' body arrives back home to Pallanteum? What message does he send back to A.?
7. As both sides bury and honor their fallen, what is happening in Laurentum?
8. What does Drancës insist? What is Amata's response?
9. What message does Diomedes send to the Latins in response to their request for assistance?
10. After receiving word from Diomedes, what does Latinus declare?
11. What does Drancës say to Turnus? How does Turnus respond?
12. While Turnus and Drancës argue, what news do the Latins receive?
13. How do Turnus and Camilla prepare for the Trojan attack?
14. What happens to Camilla? How does Turnus react when he learns about this?
15. Where are A. and his troops at the end of the book?

Assignment 11: *Aen.* 12.1-886 Summaries (CN pp. 89-90, West pp. 279-81, 286-9)

(a) 12.1-553 (CliffsNotes pp. 89-90)

1. When Turnus realizes the situation that the Latins are in, what offer does he make?
2. How do Latinus and Amata respond to Turnus' offer, and how does he react to their response?
3. What message does Turnus send to A.? How do the two prepare for combat?
4. As the forces draw up the next morning, what does Juno do?
5. What does Aeneas declare as sacred rites are performed? How does Latinus respond?
6. What is the mood of the Rutulians? How does Juturna capitalize on this?
7. What portent do the Rutulians see, and how do they interpret it?
8. How is the truce broken?
9. What happens to A. as he attempts to restore peace? How does Venus intervene?
10. After A. returns to the field and goes after Turnus, how does Juturna keep her brother safe? What effect does the inability to reach Turnus have on A.?

(b) 12.554-611 (West pp. 279-81)

1. What intention does Venus give to A.? What thoughts begin to go through A.'s head?
2. How does A. exhort his men to fight? What does he charge them to do?
3. How do the Trojans make their assault on the city?
4. What effect does the assault on the city have on its inhabitants? Note the simile Vergil uses here.
5. How does Amata react to the city being sacked? What effect do Amata's actions have on others (the women of Latium, Lavinia, the palace, Latinus)?
6. What other episodes from earlier in the epic does this episode evoke? Think book 2 & book 4 in particular.

(c) 12.614-790 (CliffsNotes p. 90)

1. What does Turnus finally realize as he hears the cries coming from the city?
2. What does the Laurentine warrior say to Turnus? How does Turnus react and what does he tell Juturna?
3. What happens when A. and Turnus finally come face to face?

(d) 12.790-886 (West pp. 286-9)

1. When Jupiter sees Juno watching the battle from a cloud, what does he say to her?
2. How does Juno respond to Jupiter's speech? What concessions does she seek?
3. How does Jupiter respond to Juno's requests? How does Juno react to Jupiter's response?
4. What task does Jupiter set himself to after his meeting with Juno?
5. What are the Dirae? What does the one sent by Jupiter do?
6. How does Juturna react when she recognizes the Dira? What does she say to Turnus, and what does she do after she finishes speaking?