

Vergil's First *Eclogue* has been generally thought to reflect the historical circumstances of Rome's renewed civil war following the assassination of Julius Caesar, the proscriptions of the Triumvirate, and land confiscations and resettlement following the battle of Philippi in 42 BC. The poem presents two shepherds, Meliboeus and Tityrus, in dialogue whose lives have taken divergent paths. In a well-organized formal essay show how their situations and fortunes differ by analyzing Vergil's Latin. How does each character relate to nature and the pastoral world? How does Vergil employ and manipulate pastoral conventions established by Hellenistic Alexandrian poet Theocritus? What role does poetry and music play in their lives? How is protection and patronage a factor? How are images of water significant? What is characteristic of the pastoral genre in the poem and what is not? How is the poem programmatic for Vergil's *Eclogues* as a whole?

You should develop a thesis of your own and **support each point of your argument by make reference to specific Latin words and phrases**. Be sure to consider his use of figures of speech, conventions of the pastoral genre, phonetics, dictions, and images created through language in your analysis. You are certainly permitted to consult secondary sources or commentaries on this poem, though this assignment does not require that you do so. If you do consult scholarship on this poem (there is much) make sure that your sources are properly cited.

You are encouraged to discuss your ideas with me before you write.

Due Friday, March 30, 2016

Value 200-250 points

Late paper = Zero for this assignment