

**The UW Departments of
Classics and Comparative Literature**

jointly present a
Special Topics course

Spring Quarter 2019

Classics 496 B / C LIT 360



“Ancient Satire: Origins and Contexts”

5 credits * *No prerequisites* * Satisfies VLPA

T/Th 10:30 AM-12:20 PM (MGH 248)

SLN (CLAS 496 B): 12280 * SLN (C LIT 320 A): 11698

Satire is a famously elusive genre that defies a simple definition. The term itself indicates poetry “stuffed full” of the miscellaneous topics served up by Roman satirists, including morality, class, politics, freedom of speech, sex, food, and friendship. In this course, we will trace the unique contributions of each of the satirists, beginning with Horace (first century BCE) and ending with Juvenal (early second century CE). Through our readings, we will see how the qualities, characteristics, and style of the genre shift with each author and, through a comparison with the satiric spirit of Greek Old Comedy, consider whether the Romans legitimately claimed the genre as entirely their own. Some consideration will be given to the evolution of the genre subsequent to the classical period.

Dr. Michael Ritter (UW Classics)
mritte@uw.edu