The Soundtrack to My Class: Auditory Exercise and Digital Humanities in Greek and Latin Classrooms

Whether and how to integrate the cultivation of oral skills into the classroom is an oft debated topic in Greek and Latin pedagogy. But what of auditory skills, which (while they perhaps accompany oral practice by implication) have not received the same levels of focused attention? How might listening to Greek and Latin benefit students in classrooms that eschew oral training in favor of the philological grammar-and-translation pedagogical model? And how might projects in digital humanities help facilitate positive experiences listening to languages that students previously have been trained only to read?

Based upon an experiment run in an intermediate Greek class in conjunction with Sunoikisis and *Cyrus' Paradise*, we suggest that, even in traditional reading courses, students have much to gain by listening to Greek and Latin and that digital humanities have much to offer auditory exercises in Greek and Latin. In this talk, we share our experiences designing and implementing an auditory component to our digital platform in Greek pedagogy. Our preliminary results—which are as applicable to Latin as they are to Greek—indicate that incorporating as little as five to fifteen minutes per week of focused auditory exercise can boost students' reading and translation skills, decrease reliance on dictionaries, and accustom students to the unfamiliar rhythms of classical language even without an oral component to the course.

Select Bibliography

Coffee, Neil. "Active Latin: *Quo Tendimus*?" *Classical World* 105, no. 2 (2012): 255-269.

LaFleur, Richard A., ed. *Latin for the 21st century: From concept to classroom*. Scott Foresman & Company, 1998.

Tunberg, Terence, and Milena Minkova. "Active Latin: Speaking, Writing, Hearing the Language." *New England Classical Journal* 39 (2012): 113-128.

A/V Needs

We wish to project a website from a laptop but this is, in the end, optional. Our one true requirement is the ability to play sound from a laptop, which can be accomplished by auxiliary speakers if necessary. The use of sound will allow up to play an audio file to demonstrate our use of auditory exercises in the classroom.