

You Are Invited To Come & Hear

DR. Drew Manner

Assistant Professor of Classics and Philosophy

FRIDAY, September 11

From 3:40-4:40 pm in Tower Hall 4119

-Admission is Free and Open to the Public-

-Refreshments Are Provided-

"VIRGIL'S UTILIZATION OF THE EASTERN TOPOS"

Virgil's *Aeneid* has been traditionally read as a poem of overt praise of Rome and the emperor Augustus heavily modeled on the Homeric epics. On this reading, the protagonist Aeneas sets out from the ruins of Troy with his family and followers, travels to Italy, defeats the antagonist Turnus in the final battle, and establishes the Roman race. This paper argues that this reading can only be maintained if the poem is read on the literal surface level of discourse. When one examines the poem on the secondary level of discourse, an entirely different agenda is present. Professor Manner will contend that instead of being a poem of simple praise, it is an etiological explanation of the dual nature of the Roman empire and Augustus as both great and cruel. In the golden age Latin literature, the topos of eastern decadence is heavily present in nearly every author. Virgil taps into this topos to explain the origins of the decadence of Rome. While other authors (notably Sallust and Livy) assign the importation of decadence to 146 BC and the conquest of Greece by Rome, Virgil places the time to the arrival of Aeneas and the Trojan band in Italy and the introduction of the Trojan blood line into the Roman national character.

Join us for this re-engagement of Virgil's *Aeneid* followed by q&a.

This presentation is part of the School of Arts and Letters Colloquium. This monthly lecture series highlights diverse research projects by SAL faculty at CSS.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!