There is no First Assignment, but all students should bring to the first class the two translations of the "Aeneid" that we are using - Fagles and Fitzgerald.

Week One: Introduction to Roman history; introduction to Vergil's life and works; Vergil and Augustus; introduction to epic poetry; Vergil and Homer; Vergil and Stoicism; the first few lines of the "Aeneid".

Week Two: Books 1-3 of the "Aeneid": the building blocks of Vergil's epic; how to read Vergil's poetry; Gods and fate in the "Aeneid"; Aeneas' loss of his old home and search for a new home.

Week Three: Books 4-5: Dido and Aeneas; the poet's sympathies/our sympathies; the games for Anchises.

Week Four: Books 6-8: Aeneas in the underworld; the majesty and sadness of Rome's imperial greatness; Aeneas arrives in the areas of future Rome; the start of the second half of the epic; the new players, the new war.

Week Five: Books 9-12: the uncertainties and cruelties of war; the fated encounter of Aeneas and Turnus; the issues and tone of the end of the poem.