

LATIN POETRY: OVID'S *METAMORPHOSES*



University of Western Ontario
Latin 3200/4904/4905/9902A, Fall 2023

INSTRUCTOR

Hello! I'll be your instructor for this course. I moved to UWO in 2014 after completing my Ph.D. in Latin literature at Otago University in New Zealand. Before that, I studied at Queen's (that other great university in Ontario), where I was planning to be a dentist until I took one particularly good Introductory Latin course. In my research I focus on Roman epic poetry of the Flavian period, especially Statius' *Thebaid* (a fantastically dark poem about the sons of Oedipus, who kill each other in a war for their father's throne). But I love (almost) all Latin poetry, including Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, which was one of the first bits of ancient literature that I read in Latin for fun. I'm particularly interested in how we (that means you and I) respond to the ancient world and its literature; I hope we'll be able to learn some things about that this year. Teaching is both my job and my pleasure, so please contact me in or out of class if you have any questions or thoughts about Latin or the ancient world in general.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Our topic this semester will be Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. This course is designed to help you improve your skills at reading Latin poetry in its original, unedited form. You will continue using Latin lexica (dictionaries) and grammars to assist in your reading, and you will also continue to examine Latin texts as works of literature. Throughout the term we will read all of *Metamorphoses* 1, and hopefully some excerpts from other related poems. You will be assigned a portion of the text to read before each class and will be asked to translate passages in class. As we proceed, we will discuss details of the grammar and syntax as well as the style and content of the text and its context.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course I expect you will have gained or improved: an advanced ability to understand and translate Latin poetry; knowledge of various issues important to modern Latin literary criticism; mastery of Latin grammar and syntax; an increased Latin vocabulary; familiarity with Latin lexica, grammars, and commentaries; improved English grammar and vocabulary; an understanding of Latin meter and scansion.

OWL SITE

There is no OWL site for this course. Instead, any communications necessary outside of class time will be through email.

REQUIRED TEXT

Lee, A. G. (ed.). *Ovid: Metamorphoses, Book I*. Bolchazy-Carducci. 1988. ISBN: 978-0-86516-040-8

This book will be available in the campus bookstore.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Upper-year Latin students typically benefit from access to a good dictionary and grammar. Thankfully, several options for these types of resources are available freely online, including on the Dickinson College Commentaries website (you should also check out <https://logeion.uchicago.edu/>). For those of you who like to hold a book in your hands, a couple of good, pretty standard options are the following (I haven't ordered these for the bookstore, but they shouldn't be hard to find through other retailers):

D. P Simpson. *Cassell's Standard Latin Dictionary*. Webster's New World. 1977. ISBN: 0025225804

J. H. Allen and J. B. Greenough. *Allen and Greenough's New Latin Grammar*. Focus Publishing. 2001. ISBN: 1585100277

ASSESSMENT

The acquisition of foreign languages is largely dependent on reinforcement and repetition. For this reason class attendance and participation are required, and will be graded as 20% of the course. It is also vital that you read and reread texts in order to internalize the vocabulary used, to absorb the full meaning of the text, and to reinforce points of grammar and syntax. To assess these skills, we will have three tests spaced evenly throughout the course. Student progress will be assessed as follows:

20%	Attendance, preparation and participation
25%	Test 1
25%	Test 2
30%	Test 3 (scheduled by the Registrar)

Schedule

Date	Reading
September 8	Introduction
September 11	<i>Met.</i> 1.1-20 [20]
September 13	21-42 [22]
September 15	43-68 [26]
September 18	69-93 [25]
September 20	94-118 [25]
September 22	119-143 [25]
September 25	144-173 [30]
September 27	174-198 [25]
September 29	No class (we'll skip 199-223)
October 2	224-243 [20]
October 4	TEST 1
October 6	244-267 [24]

October 9	THANKSGIVING
October 11	266-296 [31]
October 13	297-323 [26]
October 16	324-350 [27]
October 18	Instructor away
October 20	351-374 [24]
October 23	375-402 [28]
October 25	403-428 [26]
October 27	Instructor away
October 30-November 3	READING WEEK
November 6	429-456 [28]
November 8	457-482 [26]
November 10	483-507 [23]
November 13	TEST 2
November 15	508-532 [25]
November 17	533-561 [29]
November 20	562-587 [26]
November 22	588-614 [27]
November 24	615-641 [27]
November 27	642-667 [26]
November 29	668-698 [31]
December 1	699-723 [25]
December 4	724-750 [27]
December 6	751-779 [29]
December 8	Review

Class schedule TBA

CAN I HELP?

It's important to me that you meet your goals in this course, and I'm eager to help either in or out of class with any academic matters. Moreover, I'm especially aware that there are many challenges (physical, cognitive, emotional, or personal) that can prevent students from performing to their full potential. In some cases, I may be able to make accommodations; in some cases, formal accommodations through your Academic Counsellor or Accessible Education will be the right decision. No matter how big or small the problem, the sooner you speak to me (or the appropriate person), the more likely it is that we'll be able to find a good solution.

IMPORTANT POLICIES

Note from the Dean of Arts and Humanities

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

Plagiarism

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Academic Consideration for Student Absences

Please note that Western's policy on academic consideration is currently being reviewed and may change before this course begins. The policy as it is now can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

Students seeking academic consideration for any missed tests, exams and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Office of the Dean (i.e., an academic counsellor) of their home faculty and provide documentation. Academic consideration cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

In addition to applying to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty, students seeking academic consideration must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Student Medical Certificate, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

Western Accessibility Policy

Western has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social and academic needs of students with disabilities. For more information and links to these services: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca/>

Accessibility Options

Accessible Education (AE) plays a central role in Western's efforts to ensure that its academic programs are accessible for all students at the graduate and undergraduate levels. AE arranges academic accommodation for classes, exams, internships and other course or program activities.

AE also provides digital and Braille textbooks, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction for students with learning disabilities, access to computer labs that are equipped with assistive technology, referrals for assessments and other services, and bursaries for students who meet OSAP's eligibility criteria. You may wish to contact SAS at 519 661-2111 x 82147 or visit their website: http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Mental Health

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.