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LAT 300.01: Ovid

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Autumn 2003
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LATIN 300: Ovid

- Required texts:**
- Musgrove, Margaret Worsham. *The Student's Ovid: Selections from the Metamorphoses*. U of Oklahoma Press 2000. 0-8061-3220-5.
 - Thompson, Graves Haydon. *Selections from the Ars Amatoria and Remedia Amoris of Ovid*. Bolchazy-Carducci 1999. 0-865-16395-2.
 - Sara Mack. *Ovid*. Yale UP 1988. 0-400-04295-7.

- Recommended texts:**
- Allen & Greenough's *New Latin Grammar*.
 - Cassell's Latin Dictionary

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|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|
| Course components: | Daily Preparation & Participation: | 25% |
| | Translations Exercises: | 30% |
| | Midterm Exam: | 20% |
| | Final Exam: | 25% |

Please make note of the following important dates:

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Monday, 22 September | Last day to add/drop by Cyberbear (w/refund) |
| Monday, 13 October | Last day to add/drop by petition (w/o refund) |
| sometime mid-October | Midterm Exam |
| Tuesday, 11 November | Veteran's Day Holiday -- no classes |
| Wednesday-Friday, 26-28 November | Thanksgiving Break -- no classes |
| Monday, 15 December | Final Exam , 3:20 - 5:20pm |

Course Objectives... to engage you in reading the Latin poetry of Ovid, that most exciting and daring Latin poet! We will aim to hone various skills which will help you read Latin with ease and enjoyment, including: the expansion of your vocabulary, the development of your faculties in both reading at sight and in producing refined translations, and enhancing your understanding of both the literary and historical milieus in which our poet wrote. We shall also review complex grammatical constructs in an effort to heighten your awareness of syntax and to develop your confidence and fluency.

Daily Preparation & Participation: As with the acquisition of any foreign language, attendance is crucial. It is important for you to be exposed to Latin *every* day -- and so on those days when class does not meet (this means weekends especially!) I suggest that you spend at least some time reviewing vocabulary and reading and re-reading the assignments. Since we shall be concentrating on building reading skills, I shall expect everyone to attend class and to translate regularly. After the third unexcused absence I lower your course grade by 1/3, and similarly for every absence thereafter.

An important focus of our class translations and discussions will be taking note of Ovid's

sensitivity, his sense of humor, and the subtle aspects of his poetry, particularly word choice, word order (syntax), and transitions from one tale/subject to another. I mention these facets so that, as you prepare your translations, you will devote some attention to how the poems and the tales within them are composed. I encourage you to share your ideas and observations with the class. Please also remember that both poetry and translation involve interpretation: when interpreting, call on your personal skills and perspicacity! Be scholarly, be bold, be inventive, be astute!

Translation Exercises: At different points during the semester, I will ask you to hand in written translations of specified lines. Expect translations not to be too long, but the type of exercise will vary. You may be asked to translate a passage literally, freely, or both. You may also be asked to compare two or three translations of a chosen passage by different translators. There will be 5 or so such assignments over the course of the semester.

The **midterm** exam will cover our reading of the *Ars Amatoria* during the first part of the semester; the **final** will emphasize material read after the midterm, principally selections from the *Metamorphoses*, but not completely exclude earlier material. Both exams will include definitions of/comments on pertinent literary terms and some choice on translation of passages. The final will also include an essay.

Reading schedule: plan on at least 50 lines per class; more as the semester goes on.

We shall begin with the *Ars Amatoria*, reading approximately 45-55 lines per day – this should be a comfortable pace. When we can read more in class, we will; if you have not translated up to where we are, this does not excuse you from participating in class; we will read together and discuss strategies for reading “at sight”. Our goal is to complete the first two books of the *Ars Amatoria* by mid October (at which point we shall have the midterm); then we shall read several episodes from the *Metamorphoses*, which will include the introduction/creation story, Deucalion, Daphne, Io, Echo, Orpheus, Pygmalion, and perhaps others, if there is time. Since most of these episodes are fewer than 150 lines, we shall aim to complete each episode in two or three meetings.

Mack’s Ovid:

You should adhere to this schedule:

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Chapters 1 & 2 | by Sept 12 |
| Chapter 3 | by Sept 30 |
| Chapter 4 | by Oct 24 |
| Chapter 5 | by Nov 14 |
| Chapter 6 | before the final |

TIPS FOR THE TRANSLATOR OR TRANSLATRIX

You are only weeks away from reading Latin with relative ease. How few those weeks are, and how relative the ease, will depend upon how you follow these steps:

1. Read through the assignment slowly, in Latin, preferably aloud. *DO NOT LOOK UP WORDS*. DO look to see the general shape and the structures of the sentences. NOTE moods and tenses of verbs to alert yourself to conditions, indirect statements or questions and the like. NOTE relative clauses and other phrases (notice how phrases fall together; a passage is NOT a conglomeration of separate words), NOTE word order. *THIS STEP IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT* in: 1) getting you accustomed to reading Latin as a language and not a series of dictionary entries, and 2) making you familiar with the actual piece in front of you. You will get an overview and a notion of which words (all of them?? impossible!!) you need to look up, and which words you can understand via context. THIS COMPLETE STEP MAY BE PROFITABLY REPEATED!
2. Now read through the selection sentence by sentence, working on grammar and translation, looking up words *as necessary*. Learn to make informed guesses, but not as a short cut. Keep a word list religiously and review it. Write a translation *if you need to*, carefully and neatly, double-spaced to help you add revisions. (Written in pencil, a translation may be easily corrected.) *DO NOT WRITE TRANSLATIONS IN YOUR BOOK*; what you gain in lack of nervousness about translating in class you will lose in confidence in your memory. Note difficult spots in the assignment, to ask about either in class or during office hours. *Always* ask about any translation or construction which you do not fully understand.
3. After you have completed the assignment, slowly RE-READ the selection, reviewing with particular care the problem spots. Many people (to their grief!) skip steps 1 & 3 and snowplow through step 2 only, grateful to finish the piece. Doing this will only make vocabulary acquisition more difficult, and will further extend the period during which you feel like you are merely groping through Latin.
4. Your assignment will be most profitably completed if you observe the following:
 - a. Spend frequent, short periods on your assignment. A focused hour or two spent several times during the week will be much more advantageous than a couple of marathons. Do some work or review DAILY, even if you read only 5 or 6 lines.
 - b. Divide the assignment into 4 or 5 manageable pieces and review each piece when complete. Reserve an hour before class to re-read the entire selection.
 - c. Read the auxiliary notes for the selection before, and frequently during, your assignment. Use your grammar reference book as a matter of habit.
 - d. Keep vocabulary lists, and take notes on new (or newly-remembered) constructions.

PRAECEPTUM AUREUM

Legite cotidie crebroque.

Legite cum voce.

Non convertite verba in libris.

Non timete ne erretis.