

## Latin F323: Ovid's Heroides (82940)

Time: M-F 2:30-4 pm

Place: WAG 112

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Ebbeler

Email: [ebbeler at mail.utexas.edu](mailto:ebbeler@mail.utexas.edu). Please note that emails sent after 5 pm or during the weekend may not be answered until 10 am on the following business day.

Office: WAG 14 CA

Phone: (512) 471-7570

Office Hours: Mon. (1-2:30 pm); Wed. (4-5:30 pm); by appointment

### Required Texts (available at The Co-op on Guadalupe)

- Peter Knox, *Ovid Heroides: Select Epistles* (Cambridge: CUP, 1996).
- coursepack of secondary readings (to be made available gratis on CD-ROM).

### Prerequisites

You must have completed Latin 311 and 312 with a grade of C or better or the equivalent through examination; and Latin 322 with a grade of C or better. If you have not met these prerequisites, please see me ASAP to request a waiver. A waiver may be granted, but on a case by case basis and will be based on your previous record in Latin courses.

### Course Description

Although perhaps best known as the author of the *Amores* or the *Metamorphoses*, Ovid also experimented in the epistolary genre, composing two collections of poetic love letters and several books of elegiac letters from exile in Tomis. This course will focus on the love letters—Ovid's single and double *Heroides*. The *Heroides* are epistolary elegies (or elegiac epistles) composed by mythological women (and Sappho) for the lovers who have abandoned them. In the case of the double *Heroides*, we have both sides of the amatory correspondence. In these poems, we finally “hear” the voices of familiar literary women—Medea, Dido, Ariadne, Penelope—whose stories previously were told from the perspective of their male lover. Ovid may not qualify as a feminist, but his poems are remarkable for their complex psychological characterizations. The rhetorician Quintilian observed that, while Ovid was a talented poet, he was excessively fond of his own genius (*nimius amator ingenii sui*). I leave it to you to decide whether Ovid's elegant wit and cleverness is excessive, but there is little doubt that the poet was endowed with an ample genius. In addition to reading large parts of the Latin text, we will also look at a selection of recent secondary articles on the *Heroides*. By reading these articles, you will gain some perspective on how scholars have approached the task of interpreting these complex but satisfying letter poems. Assignments will range from approximately 30-40 lines of Latin early in the session to 60+ lines by the end of the session.

### Grading Policies

- 3 Translation Exams (60%): students will be expected to translate and answer grammatical and syntactical questions about short passages taken from the assigned readings. Each exam will also have an unseen passage, short content questions, and

scansion. Exams will not be cumulative. The dates of the exams are: **13 June; 22 June; 1 July**. Please note these dates on your calendar. Make-up exams will not be given except in exceptional circumstances.

- **Creative Writing Project (10%):** students will compose in English a 4-5 page epistle in the style of Ovid, making use of characteristic tropes, rhetorical devices, modes of characterization, etc. Your epistle should treat a contemporary set of star-crossed lovers. This assignment is due on **16 June**. For each 24 hours after 8 am on 5/6 that it is late, you will lose one full letter grade from the earned grade, regardless of the reason. For this reason, it is in your best interests to plan ahead and complete this assignment well before its due date.
- **Analytical Paper (20%):** students will be expected to write a 7-10 page scholarly essay on some aspect of Ovidian intertextuality, that is, when Ovid “quotes” either another text to some rhetorical effect. This paper will require some engagement with secondary scholarship but your argument should depend primarily on your close reading and analysis of the primary texts. I strongly urge students to consult with me about their papers throughout the session. You will have the final few days of classes to devote to your papers. Final papers are due on **7 July at 4 pm**. For each 24 hours that the paper is late, you will lose one full letter grade from the earned grade, regardless of the reason. For this reason, it is in your best interests to plan ahead and complete this assignment well before its due date
- **Attendance/Participation (10%):** Attendance and participation are important parts of the course. Students are expected not only to be in class but to be in class ready to translate, answer syntactical questions about, and discuss the assigned readings. I do not expect that you will always have a perfect translation, but I do expect that you have prepared the assignment to the best of your abilities. Each student is permitted two absences/translation passes, no questions asked; after this point, your participation grade will be lowered. For this reason, it is to your advantage to save these "free passes" for a time when you are ill or have a family emergency. Frequent and enthusiastic participation will likewise be reflected by a higher participation grade. Whether or not you are in class, you are responsible for everything covered in class.

Your final percentage grade will be translated into a letter grade according to the following table:

100-93: A  
92-90: A-  
89-87: B+  
86-83: B  
82-80: B-  
79-77: C+  
76-73: C  
72-70: C-  
69-67: D+  
66-65: D  
Below 65: F

\*\*\*If you are taking this course on a credit/no credit option, you must earn at least a 70 to receive credit for the course. If you are taking the course on a pass/fail option, you must earn at least a 75 to receive a pass.\*\*\*

### Make-up Policies

Make-up exams will be given only in cases of documented athletic commitment; documented illness, death of an immediate family member (documented by an obituary listing you as a survivor), or other unavoidable emergency (documented by a letter from your Dean of Students). Documented emergencies do not include, for example (all real examples!): the illness or death of your roommate's pet; being in jail for under-age drinking; a late night at Hooters; missing your ride back to Austin after a weekend away; missing the bus to campus; or sleeping through your alarm. You must also notify me in person or by phone as soon as possible and at least 3 hours BEFORE the time of the exam that you will miss the exam. If you fail to do so, you will receive a zero on the exam, regardless of the reason. If you are an athlete, you must make me aware of scheduling conflicts during the first two weeks of the semester. You should also expect that the make-up exam will be of a different form and significantly more difficult. Make-up exams will be permitted no more than one week from the time of the originally scheduled exam. After that point, the instructor reserves the right to refuse a make-up exam. I highly encourage you to take all exams at the time that they are scheduled.

### Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Please familiarize yourself with the University of Texas's Honor Code:

“The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.”

Any student caught or facilitating cheating on any assignment will receive an F in the course and immediately be referred to the Dean of Students. In cases where dishonesty is strongly suspected, I reserve the right to re-examine the student(s). I will, however, assume absolute integrity on your part until shown otherwise. If you are unsure what constitutes academic dishonesty, see <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php>. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the contents of this website and to avoid any behavior that might be interpreted as academic dishonesty.

### Add/Drop Policy

Please familiarize yourself with the University of Texas's official add/drop policy. Any requests to drop the course after the fourth week will be handled in accordance with these rules. Be forewarned: while you may use a “one time exception” to late-drop the course, the exception is to the deadline, not to the requirement that you must be earning at least a 70% in order to receive a Q-drop.

### Students with Disabilities

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic adjustments for qualified students with disabilities. For more information contact the Dean of Students at (512) 471-6259 or see <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd>. In order to receive accommodations, you must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). This office will document your disability, inform me of your situation, and instruct me on the necessary accommodations. If you chose not to register with SSD, I cannot make special accommodations for you.

### Religious Holidays

According to Section 51.911 of the Texas Education Code, students shall be excused from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. If you will miss class (including exams) to celebrate a religious holiday, you must notify me AT LEAST 14 days prior to the holiday so that we can make arrangements for you to make up the assignment. All make-up work must be completed no later than one week after the missed class.