

Ovid's *Ars Amatoria* and *Metamorphoses*

LATN 4100 (40624)

Time: MWF 2:30-3:20

Place: Main 323L

Mark Damen (mark.damen@usu.edu)

Main 307

Office Hours: MWF 1:30-2:30; and by appointment

797-3786

Purpose: The purpose of this class is to read, understand and enjoy Ovid's satirical masterpiece of erotic wit and social criticism, *Ars Amatoria*, and his deep-dish epic of mutant mythifying, *Metamorphoses*. Class work will be comprised largely of translation and discussion of the poetry assigned, including the ramifications of the social, philosophical and philological issues surrounding it and, in addition, some scholarship on Roman and Greek literature in general. We will also glance briefly at the impact of Ovid's work and style on the development of later literature. As a result of your reading, you will be expected to discuss in class, on examinations and in written work done outside of class the position and importance of Ovid's work in Roman and other literatures.

Textbooks: *Ars Amatoria: Selections*, M.J. Griggs
Ovid's Metamorphoses: Selections, C.P. Watson and A.C. Reynell
P. Green (trans.), *Introduction to Ovid: The Erotic Poems* (Penguin)
R. Humphries, *Ovid: Metamorphoses* (Indiana University)
a Latin-English dictionary (although Griggs and Watson/Reynell have complete vocabularies at the back of their texts)

All these Latin texts and translation are available in a course packet purchasable from the History Department.

<u>Tests and Grades:</u>	2 Tests	50%
	Paper	25%
	Attendance	25%

		100%

There will be two tests (a midterm and a final) of equal weight, each comprising a quarter of the final grade. Tests will consist of prepared and/or sight translation, and possibly also grammar questions, discussions of text and meter, and essays or commentaries relating to the text of the play. Another quarter of the grade will be based on a 10-15 page research paper concerning Ovid in some respect. More information on the paper will be distributed in class. The remaining quarter of the grade will be based solely on attendance. For each day missed without a

reasonable excuse given to me *before class*, I will subtract one point from your FINAL GRADE. Attendance is essential to your success in this class. Incompletes will be given only in strict accordance with university policy. No make-up tests. The final (= Test 2) must be taken at or before the scheduled time (Wednesday, December 10; 1:30-3:20 pm). The grading scale will be: A+ (100-98), A (98-92), A- (92-90), and so on. F represents a grade below 60 and is Unsatisfactory. Academic dishonesty of any sort, as defined in the Schedule of Classes (p.103), will be penalized in full accordance with University regulations.

Reading: Reading of the text will proceed at a pace appropriate to the class and the length of the poems. You should anticipate translating on average over 100 lines a week.

Paper: Your paper may be written in a research or reaction style (see handout, [A Brief Guide to Writing Papers in Classics](#)) and should follow the standard format for papers outlined in *A Guide to Writing in History and Classics* (<http://www.usu.edu/markdamen/WritingGuide/00intro.htm>). The topic MUST concern Ovid in some way and must NOT duplicate material already covered in class. Bear in mind please that the point of this exercise is to expand your understanding and appreciation of Ovid beyond what we do in class. **The paper is due the last day of class (December 5)! NO EXCEPTIONS!**