

Catullus - LATN 4100 Spring 2007

Utah State University

Class meets: MWF 11:30-12:20 in Main 323L

Instructor: Dr. Susan O. Shapiro

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Dept of History

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Office hrs: MWF 1:30 - 2:20

Course Description and Goals: This class will be a close reading of the poetry of Catullus, one of the **most passionate and complex of all the ancient Roman poets**. Catullus' poetry is not difficult to translate, but because his intense passion and his gut-wrenching sincerity are combined with an ever-present, self-deprecating irony, his poems are often difficult to understand. Luckily for us, however, the same qualities that make Catullus' poems difficult to analyze also make them delightful to read and discuss. **During class periods we will read, translate and discuss Catullus' poems, and we will read and discuss several scholarly articles about them as well.**

We will read as many of Catullus' poems as we reasonably can. Our **primary goal will be to gain a clear understanding of the Latin text, including its grammar and syntax, but we will also attempt to gain a deeper understanding of Catullus' poems**. To help us do that, we will also read and discuss **10-12 articles on Catullus' life and times, and the scholarly questions surrounding his work**. Finally, we will study the **various meters** used in Catullus' poems, to gain a feel for how they were read and performed.

Catullus' language: Although Catullus can write in pure and sensitive language when he wishes, he **frequently uses explicit sexual (and even vulgar) language**. Why Catullus uses such language will be an important topic of discussion. When reading the poems in which he uses obscene language, we will sometimes have some difficulty understanding precisely what body part or sexual activity is being referred to. Garrison's notes are very helpful in this regard. We may also wish to consult **J. N. Adams'** venerable tome, *The Latin Sexual Vocabulary*, which is a model of precision and thoroughness. Hopefully we will be able to discuss these poems with grace, humor, and a minimum of embarrassment.

Required Texts:

Charles E. Bennett, *New Latin Grammar* (Bolchazy-Carducci).

Daniel H. Garrison, *The Student's Catullus, 3rd Edition*, (U of Oklahoma Press).

Charles Martin, trans. *The Poems of Catullus* (Johns Hopkins) or other translation.

Structure: There will be **three exams**, one approximately every 5 weeks. The exams will cover translation, grammar, and scansion. The last exam will be held on finals day. Students will also write **four 3 - 5 page papers** on articles (read in class) discussing Catullus' poems. **We will read 10-12 scholarly articles on Catullus**, approximately one per week; students will choose **four** of these articles to write their papers on. (More on the papers below).

Grading: grades for the course will be determined as follows:

3 exams	20% each	60%
4 papers	10% each	<u>40%</u>
		100%

The grading scale will be: A (100-93); A- (92-90); B+ (89-88); B (87-83); B- (82-80), C+ (79-78), C (77-73), C- (72-70), D+ (69-68), D (67-60). F represents a grade below 60. There will be no curving of grades.

Note: It is your responsibility to keep all graded work that has been returned to you in case of discrepancy in recording grades.

Makeups: Exams can be made up only in case of a serious medical emergency (prior notification and doctor's note required).

Attendance, Class Preparation and Discussion: Class attendance, preparation and discussion are **extremely important to this class**. This is an advanced Latin class, and it will be run as a seminar. Thus, I expect you to **come every day with your translation and/or scholarly reading prepared**, ready to take an active part in class discussion. We will be reading approximately **one article per week, in addition to the translation assignments** listed below. The amount of homework assigned for each class will vary, but you should expect to spend at least 1 to 2 hours in preparation for each class. **I reserve the right to lower your final grade for excessive absences and/or unsatisfactory class participation.**

Papers: As noted above, in addition to our Latin translation, we will read about 10 scholarly articles on Catullus, approximately one per week. **Students will choose FOUR of these articles and write short (3-5 page) papers on them. The papers will be due on the day we discuss the article in class.** I will try to give you the articles at least a week before we discuss them.

You can choose any four articles you wish, but you should keep in mind 1) that it is **better to write the four papers throughout the semester** than bunch them up at the end; 2) some articles will be quite long and/or difficult, others will be less arduous; and 3) **it is easier to write a paper on an article that you have a strong reaction to** (either positive or negative) than an article that you don't feel particularly strongly about. So read the articles early and choose carefully.

The purpose of the articles and papers is to introduce you to the central scholarly issues concerning Catullus' poetry. The papers will encourage you to read the articles more critically, and they should intensify the class discussion.

Suggested Format for Papers: This is only a **suggested format**; do not feel you must follow it if another format seems more appropriate.

1. **Summarize the article:** What is the author's thesis statement? Is there more than one thesis statement? What is the main evidence used to support it/them?
2. **Focus your paper on one or two important points and the supporting evidence.** Is the author convincing? Why or why not? Are there other considerations that the author has not thought of?
3. **Explain your own view of the poems or points at issue.** Use evidence from Catullus' text to back you up.
4. **State your conclusions.** As part of your conclusion, you should give an over-all assessment of the article.

Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty of any kind will be prosecuted to the fullest extent possible. See the Schedule of Classes for information on what constitutes academic dishonesty and what the possible penalties are.

This information is available in Braille and large type format upon request.

Note: This syllabus is subject to revision by the instructor, provided that written or verbal notice is given in class.

Tentative Schedule
Readings and Papers are DUE on the Specified Day

Week 1

- M 1/8 - no class; Dr. Shapiro at APA; prepare for Wed's class.
 W 1/10 - Poems 1 & 2; meter
 F 1/12 - Poem 3 ; **discuss: Quinn, "Introduction"**

Week 2

- M 1/15 - **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - no class**
 W 1/17 - Poems 5 & 7
 F 1/19 - Poem 8; discuss: **Article 1: Fantham et al., "The New Woman"**

Week 3

- M 1/22 - Poems 9 & 10
 W 1/24 - Poem 11
 F 1/26 - catch up; discuss: **Article 2: David Bright, "Non Bona Dicta"**

Week 4

- M 1/29- Poems 12 & 13
 W 1/31- Poems 14 & 14b
 F 2/2 - **discuss: Article 3a: Segal, "The Order of Catullus, Poems 2-11"**
discuss: Article 3b: Hubbard, "The Catullan Libellus"

Week 5

- M 2/5 - **Exam 1**
 W 2/7 - Poems 15 & 16
 F 2/9 - Poems 21; discuss: **Article 4: Skinner, "Catullan Obscenity"**

Week 6

- M 2/12 - Poems 22 & 28
 W 2/14- Poem 29
 F 2/16 - discuss: **Article 5: W. Scott, "Catullus and Caesar (c. 29)"**

Week 7

- M 2/19 - **Washington and Lincoln Day; no class**
 T 2/20 - **NO MONDAY CLASS** - too confusing
 W 2/21 - Poems 30 & 31

F 2/23 - Poems 32 & 34

Week 8

M 2/26 - Poems 37 & 39

W 2/28 - Poems 41, 42, & 43

F 3/2 - discuss: **Article 6: Krostenko, "Arbitria Urbanitatis"**

Week 9

M 3/5 - Poems 46, 49, & 51

W 3/7 - Poem 51 and Sappho

F 3/9 - **Exam 2**

SPRING BREAK MARCH 12-16

Week 10

M 3/19 - Poem 62

W 3/21 - Poem 62

F 3/23 - Poem 62

Week 11

M 3/26 - Poem 63

W 3/28 - Poem 63

F 3/30 - Poem 63; discuss: **Article 7: Skinner, "Ego Mulier"**

Saturday March 31 - Utah Classical Association @ UofU

Week 12

M 4/2 - Poem 64

W 4/4 - Poem 64

F 4/6 - Poem 64

Week 13

M 4/9 - discuss: **Article 8: Panoussi, "Ego Maenas"**

W 4/11 - Catullus Film

F 4/13 - **Triskaidekaphobia Day**

Week 14

M 4/16 - Poems 58, 60, 69, 70

W 4/18 - Poems 72, 73, 75, 76 & 79

F 4/20 - Poem 84; discuss: **Article 9: Wiseman, *Catullus & World*, pp. 101-124**

Week 15

M 4/23 - Poems 85, 87, 92, 93

W 4/25 - Poems 101 & 109

F 4/27 - Discuss: **Article 10: McGushin, "Catullus' Sanctae Foedus Amicitiae"**

Exam Week

W 5/2 - @ 9:30-11:20 - Exam 3