Texts

**REQUIRED TEXTS**


**RECOMMENDED TEXTS**


Course Description and Requirements

The course objectives are three: (1) students will gain a basic and general introduction to Latin epic poetry through a semester long study of Ovid’s early imperial masterpiece, Metamorphoses and demonstrate the ability to translate that Latin poetry into fluid and eloquent English prose (along with ready explanations of the grammar they are translating), (2) students will acquire rudimentary skills in prosody and the scansion of Latin poetry by learning the basic meter of epic (i.e., dactylic hexameter) and demonstrating the ability to scan lines of Ovid’s verse, and (3) students will be exposed to elemental literary theory applicable to the poetry we’ll be translating and will demonstrate this elementary familiarity through an analysis of a myth in the Metamorphoses of their own choosing.

A considerable part of your course grade will be based on my observations of your daily recitation. You will discover that to impress upon me that you have well prepared your assignment will require you to read through the assignment multiple times: you will want to write down and memorize unfamiliar vocabulary words, take note of unusual declensions and verb forms, analyze grammatical structure and identify clause types, and then reread the passage until you can do it with minimal help from your notes. I’ll give you reading quizzes at the beginning of our sessions to ensure you are spending appropriate time going over the Latin. Then, once we get down to business with the text in class, I’ll ask you myriad questions about the syntax of the lines we translate and you will soon gain a good sense of what kind of answers to have ready for me. Our goal as fledgling readers is to look to the Latin text (and not our notes or, still worse, our written-out-long-hand translations) and generate meaning from it. In class I want you to work from clean Latin texts. You will doubtless want to jot notes to yourself and scribble marginalia as you find it helpful. But this is different from the laborious and ultimately unhelpful writing down of the translation as we do it.

Some of the reading material for the class derives from a variety of sources in addition to your Longman reader. These will be available to you on Blackboard as will your poetry exercises. To do the class, you’ve got to activate your Blackboard account.

599 students will prepare roughly 250-300 extra lines of Latin independently for me and will demonstrate their command of these lines by translating select passages for me on the midterm and final.
A six page literary analysis paper will cap your semester work. Details later.

Grading

- Homework, reading quizzes, in-class translation: 15%
- Three Hourly Exams: 45%
- Final (Friday, 8 May, 2008, 10:30-12:30): 20%
- Literary Analysis Paper: 20%