

## CLT 3123, Survey of Roman Literature in Translation

### *Love or Serve? Passion, Duty and Gender in Latin poetry*



#### Time and Location

MWF, Period 8 (3:00 – 3:50 pm)

Online: Zoom

#### Contact Information

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Office hours (on zoom): M 2-3 PM; F 5-6 PM and by appointment

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137 Dauer Hall

#### Prerequisites / Credits

No prerequisites: knowledge of Latin is **not** required.

3 credits.

This course completes the requirement in General Education - Humanities, International.

#### Course presentation

This course in translation explores the representation of antithetic lifestyles in 1<sup>st</sup> century BC Latin poetry and philosophy, in order to bring a fresh perspective on contemporary questions about identities, genders and sexualities.

We will discuss the tensions between traditional values, poetic counter-values and philosophical ethics in relation to love and sexuality: why are love and sexuality controversial? How can poetry and philosophy challenge traditional conceptions of genders and sexualities? We will see how seemingly light-minded love poems can disturb established conceptions of gendered relationships, experiment with gender switching and reassess so-called effeminacy, inconsistency, or even vice and debauchery. How can the male poet Catullus identify to the female poet Sappho, or even picture himself alternately as a fragile flower or as the goddess Juno, deceived by her almighty husband Jupiter? How can Roman Elegiac poetry prefer love over virile military glory, and simultaneously define love as a form of servitude? Conversely, why does the philosopher Lucretius approve of prostitutes but disapprove of love? Is vulgarity always offensive or can it play a constructive role in self-definitions of identity?

We will analyze Latin texts by Catullus, Lucretius, Horace, Tibullus, Sulpicia, Propertius and Ovid, as well as images from the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC in order to investigate the society of Ancient Rome, and thus shed new light on today's debates on identities, genders and sexualities.

### Course objectives and goals

1. Questioning the cultural construction of love, gender and sexuality, and ethical values
2. Meaningfully interpreting poetic texts in translation with special attention to the significance of point of view, voice, tone, imagery and register
3. Meaningfully interpreting visual art from a different socio-historical context
4. Increasing your knowledge of Roman culture
5. Increasing your mastery of literary criticism and academic writing
6. Enjoying beautiful poems and images from Antiquity!

### Textbooks

All texts will be available on Canvas; for further reading see:

- Hubbard, Thomas K. *A Companion to Greek and Roman Sexualities*. Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons Inc., 2014. [**optional**]
- Miller, Paul Allen. *Latin Erotic Elegy: An Anthology and Reader*. London; New York: Routledge, 2002. [**optional**]
- Wyke, Maria. *The Roman Mistress: Ancient and Modern Representations*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2002. [**optional**]

### Technological Instructions and Online Participation

- Canvas site: once you log into E-learning (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu>), you should see CLT 3123 listed under your courses (after you've registered for the class).

- The Zoom link to connect to the class will be available on the Canvas site. Make sure you locate it before the first class.

Log in 10 minutes before the class to make sure that your real name appears and that your audio and video work. You will be required to keep your video on during the length of the class, mute your microphone when you are not speaking, use the "raise your hand" button to be allowed to speak. You can use the chat box at any time. Focus and participation are required throughout the classes.

- Technology: a webcam is required and a headset microphone is recommended for this class. Students using their device's built in microphone may cause feedback and distortion for others in the class.

- Technical difficulties: make sure you have a good internet connection. For in class problems with sound, checking your audio settings in zoom usually works. For issues with Canvas, see the E-Learning help page (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>) or contact the UF Help Desk ([helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)).

## Weekly course schedule of topics and assignments

<b>Week 1</b>	Aug. 31, Sept. 2, 4	1. Introduction: why is love controversial?
<b>Week 2</b>	Sept. 9, 11	2. Catullus: subverting genders through poetry
<b>Week 3</b>	Sept. 14, <b>16</b> , 18	3. Lucretius: a philosophy of love; <b>Quiz 1</b>
<b>Week 4</b>	Sept. 21, 23, 25	4. Lucretius: constructive or destructive love?
<b>Week 5</b>	Sept. <b>28</b> , 30	5. Horace: provocative Epicurism; <b>Quiz 2</b>
<b>Week 6</b>	Oct. 5, 7, 9	6. Tibullus & Propertius: make love not war
<b>Week 7</b>	Oct. <b>12</b> , 14, 16	7. Tibullus & Propertius: an empowered mistress? <b>Quiz 3</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	Oct. 19, 21, 23	8. Sulpicia: a female poet's perspective; Review
<b>Week 9</b>	Oct. <b>26</b> , 28, 30	9. Ovid, expert in seduction; <b>Midterm exam</b>
<b>Week 10</b>	Nov. 2, 4, 6	10. Ovid, condemned for his love poetry?
<b>Week 11</b>	Nov. <b>9</b> , 13	11. Feminist or male chauvinist elegy? <b>Quiz 4</b>
<b>Week 12</b>	Nov. 16, 18, 20	12. Gender violence and sexist stereotypes
<b>Week 13</b>	Nov. <b>23</b>	13. The role of fiction: metapoetics & myth; <b>Quiz 5</b>
<b>Week 14</b>	Nov. 30, Dec. 2, 4	14. The role of fiction: metapoetics & myth
<b>Week 15</b>	Dec. 7, <b>9</b>	15. Final reflections on love and gender; Review; <b>Final exam</b>

## Course requirements and grades

Students will be expected to participate actively in class discussions. In this regard, it is necessary to read and analyze in depth the assigned texts before coming to class. In order to foster good participation, cell phone use is prohibited during class, and eating or drinking should be kept at a minimum.

Your grades will be based on 5 quizzes (30 minutes long, including basic definitions, text and image commentaries and short essays; your lowest quiz grade will be dropped); a Midterm and a Final Exam (50 minutes, same content). There will also be one oral presentation (during 15 minutes, you will present a short commentary of a poem).

- Midterm exam (Oct. 26) = 25 %
- 5 quizzes = 25 %
- Oral presentation = 15 %
- Attendance, homework and participation = 10%
- Final exam (Dec. 9) = 25 %

## Class attendance and make-up works

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Make-up examinations are rarely given and only for extraordinary circumstances beyond your control, such as a grave illness. You must notify me in advance if possible and at the latest within 24 hours of a missed exam in order to arrange a makeup. I must have written documentation for any medical or other emergencies which result in a missed test.

Regular attendance and active participation are mandatory.

More than one absence will cause your final grade to be penalized by five points for each subsequent unexcused absence. Arriving late or leaving early will count as 1/3 of an absence.

## ADA requirements

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must

be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### Grading scale

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
E	below 60

### Course evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### Critical dates for quizzes and exams

- September 16: Quiz 1
- September 28: Quiz 2
- October 12: Quiz 3
- October 26: Midterm exam
- November 9: Quiz 4
- November 23: Quiz 5
- December 9: Final exam

### Honesty policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

## Campus Resources

### Health and Wellness

*U Matter, We Care*: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

*Counseling and Wellness Center*: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

*Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)*: Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

*University Police Department*: 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

<http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

### Academic Resources

*E-learning technical support*, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu). <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

*Career Connections Center*, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://career.ufl.edu/>

*Library Support*, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

*Teaching Center*, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

*Writing Studio*, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

*Student Complaints On-Campus*: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

*On-Line Students Complaints*: <http://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>



Erotic Scene, Mosaic, 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, Villa Romana del Casale, Italy