

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)

Hyflex course: on Zoom and face to face (F2F) in TUR B310 (Turlington)

Contact Information

Dr. Flora Iff-Noël

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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 1st 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 1st 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).

- Our class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image **for this session only**. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voice recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat"

feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials by students or any other party is prohibited.

- **All exams will have to be taken in person, even if you are taking the course online.**

Covid-19 safety measures for in person students

- In person students must be tested and cleared to return to campus before coming to class. If not, they will be asked to leave.

- In person students are highly recommended to wear a mask at all times (over the nose and the chin); neck gaiters, bandanas and scarfs are not masks.

- In person students are highly recommended to respect physical distancing and use the provided hand sanitizer.

- If you are not sure whether you are sick or not, get tested as soon as possible (UF provides free testing) and follow the class on zoom until you get the results.

Weekly course schedule of topics and assignments

Week 1	Aug. 23, 25, 27	1. Introduction: why is love controversial?
Week 2	Aug. 30, 1, 3	2. Catullus: subverting genders through poetry
Week 3	Sept. 8, 10	3. Lucretius: a philosophy of love; Quiz 1
Week 4	Sept. 13, 15, 17	4. Lucretius: constructive or destructive love?
Week 5	Sept. 20, 22, 24	5. Horace: provocative Epicureanism
Week 6	Sept. 27, 29, Oct. 1	6. Tibullus & Propertius: make love not war (these classes will be online because I will be abroad for a conference)
Week 7	Oct. 4, 6	7. Tibullus & Propertius: an empowered mistress? Quiz 3
Week 8	Oct. 11, 13, 15	8. Sulpicia: a female poet's perspective; Review
Week 9	Oct. 18, 20 , 22	9. Ovid, expert in seduction; Midterm exam
Week 10	Oct. 25, 27, 29	10. Ovid, condemned for his love poetry?
Week 11	Nov. 1, 3 , 5	11. Feminist or male chauvinist elegy? Quiz 3
Week 12	Nov. 8, 10, 12	12. Gender violence and sexist stereotypes
Week 13	Nov. 15, 17 , 19	13. The role of fiction: metapoetics & myth; Quiz 4
Week 14	Nov. 22	14. The role of fiction: metapoetics & myth
Week 15	Nov. 29, Dec., 1, 3	15. Final reflections on love and gender; Review
Week 16	Dec. 8	16. Final exam

No class on: Sept. 6: Labor day; Oct. 8 - 9: Homecoming; Nov. 11: Veterans Day; Nov.24 - 27: Thanksgiving

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. The participation grade will also include posting on the Canvas Discussion Board and reacting to another's student post at least 3 times throughout the semester.

Your grades will be based on 4 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. 20) = 20 %
- 4 quizzes, each = 12 % (except the lowest grade which will be dropped)
- Oral presentation = 14 %
- Attendance, homework and participation = 10%
- Final exam (Dec. 8) = 20 %

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/) 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 professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals.

Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.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.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Critical dates for quizzes and exams

- September 10: Quiz 1
- October 4: Quiz 2
- October 20: Midterm exam
- November 3: Quiz 3
- November 17: Quiz4
- December 8: 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 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. <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, 4th century AD, Villa Romana del Casale, Italy