

**LNW 5325: Roman Elegiac Poetry**

Professor Jennifer A. Rea

Office: 142 Dauer

Office Phone: 392-2075

E-mail: jrea@ufl.edu

Office Hours: W 12-2:45  
& by appointment

**SEMINAR DESCRIPTION**

What can we learn about culture, values and the Roman imagination through a study of ancient Roman elegy in the Augustan Age? By reading selected works of Catullus, Tibullus, Propertius and Ovid, discussing the meaning of the terms “elegy” and “elegiac,” and exploring the ways in which the authors – on topics such as leisure, wealth, the emperor, women and the city of Rome – offer a variety of observations on Roman society, we will examine the social and political mores of the times and the influence of elegy on Roman literature.

Since this is a seminar, we will discuss the poems we read in class, and you will be expected to have prepared questions that a) advance the discussion and b) raise pertinent and interesting points. Prepared translations will be reviewed as they are relevant to the discussion, but you will be expected to have completed your translations outside of class.

**REQUIRED TEXT**

The required text is the OCT of Propertius (available through the UF Bookstore). All other primary readings can be found online at The Latin Library and the majority of secondary readings are available through Library West’s online journal collection (other readings will be placed on reserve as needed).

**STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

You must have an open mind and the willingness to accept that there is room for improvement in your work.

**COURSE GOALS**

- √ Identify and analyze the key characteristics of Roman elegy
- √ Enhanced familiarity with the culture and politics of the Augustan Age.
- √ Increased knowledge of the scholarly literature written about Roman elegy
- √ Develop your academic writing skills

**GRADING**

Course evaluation will be based on: class participation (20%), presentations (2 x 15%), and two writing assignments: one translation (25%) and one review assignment (25%).

## WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Be prepared to develop your critical thinking skills by contributing constructively to peer review assignments and to discussions of your own writing. All written work is to be handed in on time (see Late Assignments, below for policy on late work).

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance and active participation are mandatory. More than one absence will cause your final grade to be penalized. Tardiness will count as half an absence.

## LATE ASSIGNMENTS

You will be allowed to hand in work late only for excused absences, such as required student participation in a university-sponsored event (you must submit official documentation to the professor from the appropriate faculty or staff member before the event); religious holidays (notify the professor within the first two weeks of class); medical emergencies (with documentation from a health care provider); family emergencies (with valid written documentation). Regarding medical and family emergencies, it is your responsibility to notify me as soon as possible that you will need accommodations. Students with a valid excuse have **one week** after a missed assignment (or one week after recovering from an illness) to hand in the work.

### Grading Scale:

**A = 93 or above 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 = 67-63 D- = 62-60 E = below 60**

### Grading Scale with GPA Equivalencies

**A = 4.0 A- = 3.67 B+ = 3.33 B = 3.0 B- = 2.67 C+ = 2.33 C = 2.0**

*This course is in compliance with all UF policies regarding special needs and academic honesty. For details, see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/> (special needs); <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentrights.php> (academic honesty).*

Students will be expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online and students will be given specific instructions as to when the online link will be available. Generally the evaluations are offered online during the last 2-3 weeks of the semester.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

**January 5 No class** (Professor at SCS Meeting in San Francisco)

**January 13 What is Elegy? Catullus & the "In" Crowd**

Primary Text: Catullus - poems 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 50, 51, 70, 84, 85, 101

Secondary Readings: Feldherr, A. "Non inter nota sepulchra: Catullus 101 and Roman Funerary Relief." *Classical Antiquity* 19.2 (2000): 209-231.

Arkins, B. "The Meaning of 'Odi et Amo' in Catullus 85." *Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies* 54.1 (2011): 29-30.

### **January 20 Tibullus and Roman Social Structure**

Primary Text: Tibullus Book 1 (selected poems)

Secondary Reading: Lee-Stecum, Parshia. "Poet/Reader, Authority Deferred: Re-Reading Tibullan Elegy." *Arethusa* - Volume 33, Number 2, Spring 2000, pp. 177-215

### **January 27 Tibullus and The Elegiac Cityscape**

Primary Text: Tibullus Book 2 (selected poems)

Rea, J. "Finding Archaic-Augustan Rome in Tibullus 2.5." in *Scholium* 16 (2007): 1-18.

### **February 3 Propertius and the Great Outdoors**

Primary Text: Propertius 1 (selected poems)

Secondary Reading: Heyworth, S.J. "Propertius, Patronage and Poetry," in the *Bulletin for the Institute of Classical Studies* (2007): 93-128.

### **February 10 Propertius and Gendered Power Constructs**

Primary Text: Propertius 1 (selected poems)

Secondary Reading: Treggiari, S. "Women in the Time of Augustus," in *The Cambridge Companion to the Age of Augustus*, ed. K. Galinsky (2005): 130-47.

### **February 17 Propertius and the Elegiac Cityscape**

Primary Text: Propertius 2 (selected poems)

Secondary Reading: Welch, T. (2005) *The Elegiac Cityscape: Propertius and the Meaning of Roman Monuments*. (Selection TBA)

### **February 24 Propertius and the Elegiac Cityscape, Part II**

Primary Text: Propertius 2 (selected poems)

### **Writing Assignment One: Translation Exercise on Tibullus due**

**March 2 UF SPRING BREAK**

### **March 9 Propertius and Friendship**

Propertius 3 (selected poems)

Secondary Reading: Fear, Trevor. "The Poet as Pimp: Elegiac Seduction in the Time of Augustus"  
*Arethusa* - Volume 33, Number 2, Spring 2000, pp. 217-240

### **Writing Assignment #2 Topic Due**

### **March 16 Propertius and the Augustan Landscape**

Propertius 4 (selected poems)

### **March 23 Guest Lecture (TBA)**

Propertius 4 (selected poems)

### **March 30 Ovid Plays with Genre**

Ovid *Heroides*, Part I (selected poems)

Secondary Reading : Drinkwater, M. "*Which Letter? Text and Subtext in Ovid's Heroides.*"  
*American Journal of Philology* - Volume 128, Number 3 (Whole Number 511), Fall (2007): 367-387

### **April 6 Peer Review**

Ovid *Heroides*, Part 2 (selected poems)

Secondary Reading: Ramsby, T. "Striving for Permanence: Ovid's Funerary Inscriptions." *CJ* (2005) 365-391.

**Rough draft of paper due by 5 pm EST on April 8<sup>th</sup>.**

### **April 13 Writing Conferences**

**April 20 Course Conclusion/Final Presentations & Writing Assignment #2 Due**