

**LNW 2630, sect. 3395: Catullus**

**MWF (12:50-1:40), BLK 0315**

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## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course addresses the work of Catullus, a Roman poet of the first century BCE whose work proved vastly influential in the development of a purely Latin body of literature, through its art and form. Students will engage much of the Catullan corpus, preparing translation for each class as well as learning meter in sound and style. By the course's end, students will be able to identify hendecasyllabic, iambic, galliambic, and elegiac meters.

My goal in this course is to provide groundwork for a broader understanding of Latin literature. The neoteric poets, of which Catullus was one, appropriated and developed themes from their Greek predecessors while adding to their art a decisively Roman character that influenced Lucretius, Vergil, Ovid, Propertius, Lucan, and Claudian (to name just a few) and, through those poets, even historians like Tacitus. Understanding the neoteric Catullus means understanding key aspects of the Roman impulse for literary development.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

Garrison, *A Student's Catullus*.

Any Latin dictionary.

## **POLICIES**

1. Your perfect attendance is expected. [The university recognizes the right of the individual professor to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, professors can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.](#) My personal policy is that I expect some correspondence with you, if you are going to miss or have recently missed a class. Participation points may be lost; more excessive cases will be dealt with as I see fit, in consultation with the student.
2. There will be no make up work (quiz/homework/test) except in extraordinary and documented cases. This means that when you are sick, I expect you to contact me immediately via email (i.e., don't wait until the last week of class).
3. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide

documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

4. The use of electronic devices during lecture is strictly prohibited.
5. Academic Honesty is expected at all times. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." So, school policy requires that, should you be caught cheating, I report you. This has consequences reaching beyond just this class, and is strongly discouraged.
6. Students who face difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help may call the on-campus counseling center: 352-392-1575, or the student mental health center: 352-392-1171. Please do not wait until the end of the semester to seek help.
7. Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

### **Sexual Content Disclaimer**

This is love poetry, but the Roman goddess of love (Venus) was particularly associated with erotic passion. As a result, while we read Latin love poetry, we will frequently encounter sexual content. When reading Classical Latin, it is important that we adopt this mindset to better understand context. Sex (of homo- or heterosexual varieties) should not be thought of as bad or wrong in this class, and students should be forewarned of content.

### **PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

Students will be evaluated principally by their completion of assigned readings and meaningful contribution to discussion. Additionally, each student will present on an aspect of either Catullus' poetry or influences. These presentations, though somewhat informal in nature, should be well researched and demonstrate a thorough knowledge of content.

Students will also deliver one composition, 4 lines minimum of hendecasyllables, which we will share with each other in class on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>.

<b>Grading Scale</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
A = 100-93 A- = 92-90 B+ = 89-87 B = 86-83 B- = 82-80 C+ = 79-77 C = 76-73 C- = 72-70 D+ = 69-67 D = 66-63 D- = 62-60 E < 59	60% Attendance & Participation 20% Presentations of poems 10% Composition 10% Abstract

### **Course Schedule**

#### **August**

##### **Week One – Introduction to Catullus, meter**

**Wednesday, 21: Review syllabus, biography, meter**

**Friday, 23: 1; the order of poems**

##### **Week Two – The Corpus and its influences**

**Monday, 26: 3, 5, 7;**

**Wednesday, 28: 6, 8, 9; Presentation 1: the manuscripts**

**Friday, 30: 10, 11, 16**

#### **September**

##### **Week Three –**

**Monday, 2: no class; holiday**

**Wednesday, 4: 12-15; Presentation 2: friends and adversaries**

**Friday, 6: 21-23**

##### **Week Four –**

**Monday 9: 24-28**

**Wednesday 11: 29-30; Presentation 3: the order of the poems**

**Friday 13: 31-33**

**Week Five –**

**Monday 16: 34-36**  
**Wednesday 18: 37-39**  
**Friday 20: 40-43**

**Week Six –**

**Monday 23: 45-48**  
**Wednesday 25: 49-51**  
**Friday 27: 52-54**

**Week Seven –**

**Monday, 30: 55-57;**  
**October Wednesday, 2: 58-60**  
**Friday, 4: Hendecasyllables due.**

**Week Eight –**

**Monday, 7: 62**  
**Wednesday, 9: 63; Presentation 4: the Epyllion**  
**Friday, 11: 65**

**Week Nine –**

**Monday, 14: 66**  
**Wednesday, 16: 69-73**  
**Friday, 18: 74-76; Presentation 5: Lesbia**

**Week Ten –**

**Monday, 21: 77-80**  
**Wednesday 23: 81-84**  
**Friday, 25: 85-87; Presentation 6: Political poetry**

**Week Eleven –**

**Monday, 28: 88-92**  
**Wednesday, 30: 93-96**  
**November Friday, 1: 97-101**

**Week Twelve –**

**Monday, 4: 102-107**  
**Wednesday, 6: 108-111**  
**Friday, 8: no class; homecoming**

**Week Thirteen –**

**Monday, 11: no class; holiday**  
**Wednesday, 13: 112-116**

**Friday, 15: denotation and connotation (theory in translation)**

**Week Fourteen –**

**Monday, 18: catullus and literary criticism (article forthcoming)**

**Wednesday 20: tba**

**Friday, 22: tba**

**Week Fifteen –**

**Monday, 25: tba**

**Wednesday 27: no class, holiday**

**Friday 29: no class, holiday**

**December**

**Week Sixteen – T**

**Monday, 2: abstract due**

**Wednesday, 4: Final class**