

IDH 2930: (Un)common Reads Honors Course

Poetry of Love and Hate: Catullus's *Poems*

SYLLABUS



Time and Location

W | Period 9 (4:05 PM - 4:55 PM)

LIT 0117

Contact Information

Dr. Flora Iff-Noël

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Office hours:

Phone: 352 273 3695

137 Dauer Hall

W 5-6 PM; F 2-3 PM and by appointment

Course presentation

He sang forbidden love, insulted the rulers and died at 30: Catullus might have been the rock star of the Roman 1st century BC. What better introduction to ancient poetry?

Catullus's *Poems* are both a canonical work that inspired poets from the 1st century BC to today (such as Swift, Coleridge, Banville, Yeats, Cardenal...) and an uncommon read bringing together vibrant love poems and biting invective, the most delicate metaphors and the crudest insults. Catullus's genius is uncannily modern and his short poems on passion, betrayal and friendship still resonate deeply today.

Beyond eternal themes, he also provides concrete, striking and fun insights into the rich era of the final years of the Roman Republic: you will see Caesar and Cicero under a new light as you

are ushered by the poet in the private life of such political personalities to discover their secret quarrels and relationships. More generally, you will question the cultural construction of love, of gender and sexuality, of ethical values and of the boundaries between private and public spheres.

Peter Green's 2005 translation offers a lively contemporary translation that does justice to Catullus's wit and imagery: no knowledge of Latin is required. The 116 poems span 105 pages in Green's translation: you will read 8 pages per week on average, which will give you time to ponder on the rich poetic effects and on the deep issues at stake. In-class essays will assess your comprehension and your degree of engagement with the problems and challenges that the book presents. You will also choose one poem to memorize, recite, and take away with you.

No prerequisites.

Course objectives and goals

1. Discovering a canonical poet who has been influential for 2000 years
2. Defining love poetry, epic poetry and invective
3. Assessing the intimate, literary and political relationships at the end of the Roman Republic
4. Questioning the cultural construction of love, gender and sexuality, and ethical values
5. Practicing poetic close-reading including analysis of style, imagery, sounds, rhythms, lexicon, language register
6. Questioning the process and effects of translation, imitation, adaptation, intertextuality
7. Enjoying beautiful poems!

Required Text

The Poems of Catullus. Translated by Peter Green. Bilingual edition. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005. ISBN: 978-0-520-24264-7

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 prior to 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.

There will be a midterm and a final essay which will give you an opportunity to practice close-reading in writing, to use the concepts studied in class and to develop your own analysis of Catullus through structured arguments.

25% = memorize and recite a poem

25% = midterm essay, in-class

25% = final essay, in-class

25% = attendance, homework and participation in discussion

Weekly course schedule of topics and assignments

01/08 Week 1: **Introduction**, poems 1, 2

01/15 Week 2: **Part 1, Short Poems**: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 79, 109, 51, 72, 75, 83, 85, 86

01/22 Week 3: Poems, 92, 107, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 58, 87, 82, 84

01/29	Week 4: Poems 21, 22, 23, 103, 80, 94, 105, 106, 24, 25, 26, 27
02/05	Week 5: Poems 28, 81, 99, 112, 114, 115, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35
02/12	Week 6: Poems 89, 90, 93, 36, 37, 38, 39, 88, 104, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44
02/19	Week 7: Poems 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 91, 108, 100, 110, 111,
02/26	Week 8: Poems 50, 52, 53, 54, 95; Midterm Essay
03/11	Week 9: Poems 113, 55, 56, 57, 59, 60, 97, 67
03/18	Week 10: Part 2, Long Poems: 63, 65, 66, 116
03/25	Week 11: Poems 61, 62
04/01	Week 12: Poems 64
04/08	Week 13: Poem 68
04/15	Week 14: Poems 76, 96, 101
04/22	Week 15: Final Essay

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.

Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog

(<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>).

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 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 exams

02/26 Midterm essay (in class)

04/22 Final essay (in class)

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/>