

## LNW 6933 – Special Topics in Latin

### Catullus's *Poems*

#### Time and Location

W 7:20 - 9:10 PM

Hybrid: in-person and on zoom

#### Contact Information

Dr. Flora Iff-Noël

[f.iffnoel@ufl.edu](mailto:f.iffnoel@ufl.edu)

Phone: 352 273 3695

137 Dauer Hall

Office hours: M 1:45-3:45 and by appointment, in Dauer Hall and on zoom (if on zoom, please always email me to set up an appointment, even if it's during my regular office hour times)

#### Technological Instructions

The class will be hybrid: in-person and on zoom. If you're on zoom, please turn on your video, and mute yourself when you are not speaking.

- Canvas site: once you log into E-learning (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu>), you should see LNW 6933 listed under your courses (after you've registered for the class).
- Technology: a headset microphone is required for this class. Students using their device's built-in microphone may cause feedback and distortion for others in the class.
- Technical difficulties: For issues with Canvas, contact the UF Help Desk ([helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)).

#### Course presentation

How can an author be both irrevocably canonical and perpetually provocative? That is Catullus's paradox. On the one hand, Catullus changed the face of Latin literature by influencing such diverse poets as e.g. Vergil, Horace, Tibullus, Propertius, Ovid and Martial; on the other hand, the audacity of his poetry, both formally and substantially, remained unequalled. Until today, Catullus has sparked both enthusiasm and outrage as his writings have alternately been censured by editors and imitated by poets like Swift, Coleridge, Yeats, Pound, Ronsard, Banville, Verlaine, Cardenal, etc.

Indeed, Catullus's genius encompasses vibrant love poetry, erudite epic and biting invective; intimate passions, literary debates and political satire; the most delicate metaphors and the crudest insults. His work thus questions the nature of poetry, the cultural construction of love, of gender and sexuality, of ethical values and of the boundaries between private and public spheres.

The content of this course brings together literary history, literary criticism, history of ideas, gender studies, traductology and Latin language. As a Neoteric poet, Catullus sought to renew Latin poetry by incorporating Hellenistic innovations in meter and style. Thus, literary theories of metapoetics and intertextuality are particularly fruitful to analyze his work.

The methodology of this course aims to improve both your research and teaching of Classics.

## Course objectives and goals

1. Mastering an author who is key for ancient and modern poetry as well as for research and teaching of Classics
2. Questioning the definitions of love poetry, epic poetry and invective
3. Assessing the intimate, literary and political relationships at the end of the Roman Republic
4. Assessing the Hellenistic and Roman transculturation through poetry
5. Questioning the cultural construction of love, gender and sexuality, and ethical values
6. Practicing poetic close reading including analysis of style, imagery, sounds, meter, lexicon, language register
7. Questioning the process and effects of translation, imitation, adaptation, intertextuality
8. Developing critical thinking, teaching and research skills by combining various approaches such as literary criticism, history of ideas, gender studies, traductology

## Recommended Text

We will mainly use the edition and commentary of Quinn: *Catullus: The Poems*. Edited by Kenneth Quinn. ISBN: 1853994979. Paperback book. First published in 1973, then 1983 then 1996 (any of those 3 editions is fine).

A good commented bibliography of Catullus by David Konstan is available online through *Oxford Bibliographies*. I will put it on Canvas.

## Requirements and grades

Students will be expected to translate and participate actively in class discussions. In this regard, it is necessary to read, translate 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.

- Midterm and final exams (1 hour 15): you will have to scan, translate and comment on Catullan poems (without the aid of any dictionary or notes).

- Oral presentation: considering the increasing place of talks and conferences in Academia, your presentation will be an opportunity to practice and present original research (for 20 minutes) as well as Qs&As (for 10 minutes). You will give a personal translation and a close reading of one or several Catullus poems, using a handout and/or a powerpoint. Two classmates will be your respondents and will have prepared questions to start the discussion before giving an opportunity to speak to the rest of the class.

- Final project: either a research paper or a lesson plan (8 pages, Times New Roman 12, 1.5 spacing, normal margins). It 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. By 10/16, you will send me an email describing your project in about 10 lines. By 11/06 you will upload to Canvas a draft of your project in 1 page (Times New Roman 12, 1.5 spacing, normal margins, in both docx and pdf formats). For a research paper, this draft will resemble an SCS abstract (short summary of your argument in relation to the existing scholarship, structured outline of your argument, 5 bibliographical references). For a lesson plan, this draft will include the target audience, the lesson goals and a short structured presentation of the lesson with precise references to one or several Catullus poems. The final project is due on 12/09 (upload it to Canvas in both docx and pdf formats).

15% = attendance, homework and participation in discussion  
20% = presentation  
20% = midterm exam, in-class  
20% = final exam, in-class  
5% = draft of the final project  
20% = final project

### Weekly course schedule of topics and assignments

08/21 Week 1: NO CLASS  
08/28 Week 2: **Introduction**, poems 1, 2  
09/04 Week 3: **Part 1, Short Poems**: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 79, 109, 51, 72, 75, 83, 85, 86  
09/11 Week 4: Poems 92, 107, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 48, 58, 87, 82, 84  
09/18 Week 5: Poems 21, 22, 23, 103, 80, 81, 94, 99, 105, 106, 24, 25, 26, 27  
09/25 Week 6: Poems 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 54, 57, 93, 112, 114, 115  
10/02 Week 7: Poems 89, 90, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 88, 104,  
10/09 Week 8: Poems 45, 46, 47, 49, 91, 108, 100, 110, 111; **Midterm exam**  
10/16 Week 9: Poems 35, 50, 52, 53, 95, 113, 55, 56, 59, 60, 97, 67= neoterics  
10/23 Week 10: **Part 2, Long Poems**: 63, 65, 66  
10/30 Week 11: Poems 61, 62  
11/06 Week 12: Poems 64 RFT/Trimble  
11/13 Week 13: Poem 68  
11/20 Week 14: Poems 76, 96, 101, 116  
11/27 Week 15: THANKSGIVING – no class  
12/04 Week 16: Conclusive remarks; **Final exam**

### Critical dates for exams

10/09 Midterm exam (in class)  
10/16 10-line description of your Final Project (email)  
11/06 1-page draft of your Final Project (Canvas)  
12/04 Final exam (in class)  
12/09 Final project (Canvas)

### Disclaimer

Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief.

### Class attendance and make-up works

Students are expected to attend every class, on zoom for online students, and in-person for on-campus students. 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. All requests for excuses based on medical emergencies must be accompanied by **full documentation**

(e.g. copy of physician's excuse form). Family emergencies (e.g. death in the family) must be handled through the Dean of Student Life, who will provide an authorized letter to your instructors. A request sent by any other means (including email, phone, etc.) will result in an unexcused absence. DSO instructor notification page: <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications/>.

Here is the list of excused absences: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#absencestext>

More than one unexcused 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.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

### ADA requirements

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center here: 352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>.

It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs 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.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/>.

## 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 Conduct Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-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.

## 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, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.*

*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.*

*UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).*

*GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.*

*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 [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@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/>*