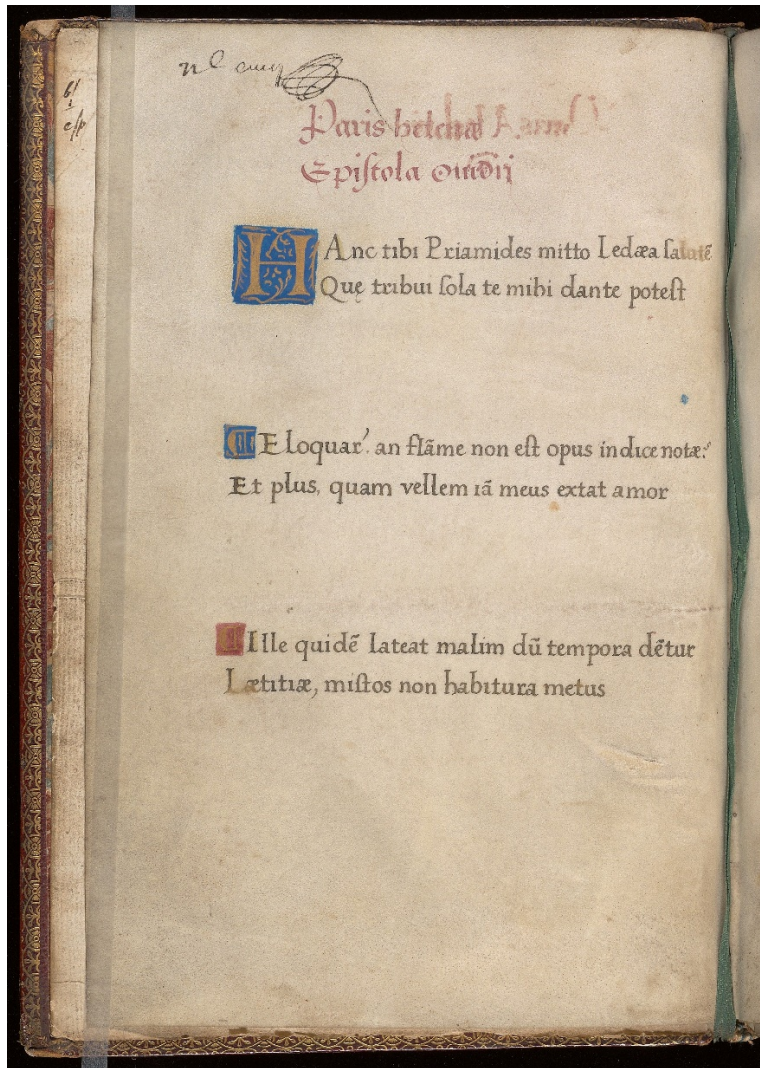


LATIN POETRY: OVID'S *HEROIDES*



Kyle Gervais
University of Western Ontario
Latin 3200B, Winter 2025

INSTRUCTOR

Hello! My name is Doctor Kyle Gervais and I'll be your instructor for this course. I moved to UWO in 2014 after completing my Ph.D. in Latin literature at Otago University in New Zealand. Before that, I studied at Queen's (that other great university in Ontario), where I was planning to be a dentist until I took one particularly good Introductory Latin course. In my research I focus on Roman epic poetry of the Flavian period, especially Statius' *Thebaid* (a fantastically dark poem about the sons of Oedipus, who kill each other in a war for their father's throne). But I love (almost) all Latin poetry, including Ovid's *Heroides*, which I'm currently completing a translation of for the University of California Press. I'm particularly interested in how we (that means you and I) respond to the ancient world and its literature; I hope we'll be able to learn some things about that this year. Teaching is both my job and my pleasure, so please contact me in or out of class if you have any questions or thoughts about Latin or the ancient world in general.

CONTACT DETAILS

Office: Lawson Hall 3226

Email: kgervai2@uwo.ca

Office Hours: by appointment, or just drop in

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Our topic this semester will be Ovid's *Heroides*. This course is designed to help you improve your skills at reading Latin poetry in its original, unedited form. You will continue using Latin lexica (dictionaries) and grammars to assist in your reading, and you will also continue to examine Latin texts as works of literature. Throughout the term we will read selections from the *Heroides*, and hopefully some excerpts from other related poems. You will be assigned a portion of the text to read before each class and will be asked to translate passages in class. As we proceed, we will discuss details of the grammar and syntax as well as the style and content of the text and its context.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course I expect you will have gained or improved: an advanced ability to understand and translate Latin poetry; knowledge of various issues important to modern Latin literary criticism; mastery of Latin grammar and syntax; an increased Latin vocabulary; familiarity with Latin lexica, grammars, and commentaries; improved English grammar and vocabulary; an understanding of Latin meter and scansion.

OWL SITE

There is no OWL site for this course. Instead, any communications necessary outside of class time will be through email.

REQUIRED TEXT

Knox, Peter E. (ed.). *Ovid, Heroides: Select Epistles*. Cambridge University Press. 1996. ISBN: 9780521368346.

This book will be available in the campus bookstore.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Upper-year Latin students typically benefit from access to a good dictionary and grammar. Thankfully, several options for these types of resources are available freely online, including on the Dickinson College Commentaries website (you should also check out <https://logeion.uchicago.edu/>). For those of you who like to hold a book in your hands, a couple of good, pretty standard options are the following (I haven't ordered these for the bookstore, but they shouldn't be hard to find through other retailers):

D. P Simpson. *Cassell's Standard Latin Dictionary*. Webster's New World. 1977. ISBN: 0025225804

J. H. Allen and J. B. Greenough. *Allen and Greenough's New Latin Grammar*. Focus Publishing. 2001. ISBN: 1585100277

ASSESSMENT

The acquisition of foreign languages is largely dependent on reinforcement and repetition. For this reason class attendance and participation are required, and will be graded as 20% of the course. It is also vital that you read and reread texts in order to internalize the vocabulary used, to absorb the full meaning of the text, and to reinforce points of grammar and syntax. To assess these skills, we will have three tests spaced evenly throughout the course. Student progress will be assessed as follows:

20%	Attendance, preparation and participation
25%	Test 1 (in class, date TBA)
25%	Test 2 (in class, date TBA)
30%	Test 3 (scheduled by the Registrar)

Class schedule TBA

CAN I HELP?

It's important to me that you meet your goals in this course, and I'm eager to help either in or out of class with any academic matters. Moreover, I'm especially aware that there are many challenges (physical, cognitive, emotional, or personal) that can prevent students from performing to their full potential. In some cases, I may be able to make accommodations; in some cases, formal accommodations through your Academic Counsellor or Accessible Education will be the right decision. No matter how big or small the problem, the sooner you speak to me (or the appropriate person), the more likely it is that we'll be able to find a good solution.

IMPORTANT POLICIES (including policies on student absences): refer to [this document](#)