

CLAS 313: Ovid, *Metamorphoses*

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Office hour: TTh 3-4, and by appt.

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MWF 1:45-2:35 (late start: 2:30)

NH 132

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

In the first book of his *Amores*, his earliest work, Ovid playfully claims that he wanted to write epic, but Love commandeered his heart and his verse. All of Ovid's works are in elegiac meter, but one: the *Metamorphoses*. Here, finally, Ovid composed an epic, but one entirely unlike the epics that preceded his. We will translate episodes drawn from Books 6-10, and we will read the entire *Metamorphoses* in translation. In order of priority, the goals for this class are: 1) to master the Latin of several books of the *Metamorphoses*; 2) to gain proficiency in Ovidian Latin (syntax and vocabulary) generally; 3) to understand the narrative of the *Metamorphoses* as a whole, its symmetries, images, and devices; 4) to understand Ovid's relation to Vergil, Lucretius, and other predecessors in terms of traditions and innovations; 5) to learn some of the basic interpretive approaches to the *Metamorphoses*, and to develop your own affinities; and 6) to acquire basic knowledge about literature and history on the end of the Republic and the beginning of the empire under Augustus.

TEXTS

Required:

§ *Ovid's Metamorphoses Books 6-10* ed. W.S. Anderson (Oklahoma 1972)

ISBN: 0-8061-1456-8

§ *Ovid, Metamorphoses*, trans. D. Raeburn (Penguin 2004) ISBN: 0-140-44789-X

Optional

§ *An Elementary Latin Dictionary*, C.T. Lewis (Oxford 1969)

Websites

§ Latin text, translations, and images for the *Metamorphoses* are available online at:

www.sacred-texts.com/cla/ovid/meta/ (Latin text and translations)

<http://etext.virginia.edu/latin/ovid/> (a searchable site)

www.uvm.edu/~hag/ovid/ (images)

Requirements of the course:

1. **Preparation:** Ovid is not a particularly difficult author, but his rhetorical wittiness can be challenging – and every author is challenging on first encounter. At the beginning you should make a commitment to complete the assignments and to think about what you have read. I have set challenging but reachable limits for each

class. You will prepare 25-50 lines for each class; we will occasionally translate lines in class. The assignments will take about 1-2 hours a day every day; but there can be no set limit on the time you spend digesting and contemplating and appropriating the material. The more it becomes a part of you, the more successful the class will be.

2. **Attendance:** Attendance is absolutely necessary for a successful class; absences should not occur except in extraordinary circumstances, that is, in true emergencies. Three absences will not be penalized, but after that, the following penalties accrue: for your fourth absence, your course grade will fall by 2 points; for your fifth, your course grade will fall by 4 points; and for your sixth, by 7 points; for your seventh, by 10 points; for your eighth, you will fail the course. Documented legal or medical emergencies *may* be an exception. **If it snows:** Either classes will be cancelled or operate on a delayed snow schedule (you can find this out by calling the Snow Line (828) 259-3050 or checking UNCA's homepage) or they will operate on a normal schedule. If you cannot attend, try to notify me *prior* to missing class. Weather may or may not be a legitimate excuse; however, if you live remotely and you do not feel safe to drive, do not drive. I'll work with you. Tardiness is frowned upon, and if excessive or chronic (i.e. more than 30 minutes late, or late repeatedly) will affect your participation grade and may be counted as an absence.

3. **Participation:** This class is both a translation and a discussion class, and it is vital that we share our ideas and talents with each other. Never be afraid to ask a question, offer a comment, take a stand on an issue, or disagree with the professor or anyone else. It is through free and lively exchange that we refine our skills and our views. Several guidelines can help govern this exchange: enter this class intending to learn a great deal; bring an open and critical mind; a sense of humor; an interest in people of other times and places; a willingness to offer your own ideas and to comment respectfully on the ideas of others. You will be assigned a grade on your participation, which necessarily involves your attendance and preparation. If you would like to see how I apply a grade to participation, I will provide you with a grading scale on request.

4. **Translation:** Because there are more of you than can offer translations in class each day, each of you is required to submit a **typed** translation of 10 lines every Monday. The lines should be the first 10 of the assignment for that Monday. I will grade this assignment more on the apparent effort of the process (hence translations copied from others are discouraged) than on the refinement of the product. The ulterior goal is for me to help you with your translations. I do not, however, recommend that you write out *all* your translations.

5. **Journal (Recommended):** I recommend that each of you write out thoughts, ideas, responses, or, perhaps best, questions about the text read for each day. Keep this material collected in one notebook, designated specifically for that purpose. Write as much as you can; include reasons why you have your ideas or why you are interested

in your questions. Your questions can be factual, if you wish, but preferably they will be interpretive (and we will talk about what that means throughout the semester).

6. **WRITING:** You will have one writing assignment in this class, a commentary. We will discuss the different types of commentary, our “ideal” target audience, and the challenges of expanding, condensing, and reworking. You may choose among the passages: *Meta.* 6.113-181 (the Lycian Farmers), *Meta.* 8.445-525 (Althaea and Meleager), *Meta.* 9.324-393 (Dryope and her child), and *Meta.* 10.86-147 (Cyparissus). Your commentary should be accompanied by an introduction and an interpretive essay.

7. We will have quizzes every few weeks on vocabulary and factual material. There will be one take-home examination and a cumulative final. The final will include translation and discussion questions, and a general format of the final will be discussed in class prior to exam time. There will be one commentary (10-12 pages) due during the semester. In addition to your written work, grades will be given for your participation. Letter grades represent the following averages: 100-92.5=A, 92.5-90=A-, 90-87.5=B+, 87.5-82.5=B, 82.5-80=B-, 80-77.5=C+, 77.5-72.5=C, 72.5-70=C-, 70-67.5=D+, 67.5-60=D, 60-0=F

All of you will be held to the standards of academic honesty as described in the 2009-2010 catalog, which can be found on UNC-A’s website as Catalog, under the heading “Academic Regulations and Procedures” and subheading “Student Responsibilities”, where academic misconduct is discussed. A breach of academic honesty will result in, at the very least, the unacceptability of the work under question; and at the very most, expulsion from the university. A breakdown of the grade distribution appears thus:

quizzes	- 10%
weekly translations	- 5%
take-home (due 10/9)	- 20%
commentary (due 11/11)	- 25%
final exam (12/11)	- 15%
preparation/participation	- 25%

Syllabus: This syllabus is not intended as a straitjacket, but we will follow it more or less to the letter. You are responsible for every reading listed below, whether it is fully discussed in class or not. You are to read and prepare each passage **thoroughly by the date beside which they appear**; we may also read lines at sight in class, and you are responsible for knowing these lines as well.

Wk. I: 8/17: Intro to course: syllabus, material, assignments. Intro to Ovid. In class, *Metamorphoses* 10.238-246 (Pygmalion). Before next class read Feeney’s introduction in our translation (pp.xiii-xxxiv) and the translation of book I (pp. 3-44)

8/19: *Meta.* 10.247-269. Scansion

8/21: *Meta.* 10.270-297. Read translation of *Metamorphoses* bk. II for Monday.

Wk. II: 8/24: Tereus, Procne, and Philomela: *Meta.* 6.412-432.

8/26: *Meta.* 6.433-457.

8/28: *Meta.* 6.458-482. Read translation of *Metamorphoses* bk. III for Monday.

Wk. III: 8/31: *Meta.* 6.483-510. **Quiz.**

9/2: *Meta.* 6.511-548.

9/4: *Meta.* 6.549-575. Read translation of *Metamorphoses* bks. IV-V for Wednesday.

Wk. IV: 9/7: **Labor Day:** NO CLASS

9/9: *Meta.* 6.576-609

9/11: *Meta.* 6.609-646 Read translation of *Metamorphoses* bk. VI for Monday.

Wk. V: 9/14: *Meta.* 6.647-674 **Quiz.**

9/16: Boreas and Orithyia: *Meta.* 6.675-700

9/18: *Meta.* 6.702-721. Read translation of *Metamorphoses* bk. VII for Monday.

Wk. VI: 9/21: Medea and Jason: *Meta.* 7.1-45

9/23: *Meta.* 7.46-73. **Quiz.**

9/25: *Meta.* 7.74-114. **Take-home exam given out in class.** Read translation of *Metamorphoses* bk. VIII for Monday.

Wk. VII: 9/28: *Meta.* 7.115-158

9/30: Cephalus and Procris: *Meta.* 7.661-699

10/2: *Meta.* 7.700-746. Read translation of *Metamorphoses* bk. IX for Monday.

Wk. VIII: 10/5: *Meta.* 7.747-778. **Quiz.**

10/7: *Meta.* 7.779-812.

10/9: *Meta.* 7. 813-834; lines 835-865 at sight in class. **Take-home exam due.** Read translation of *Metamorphoses* bks. X-XI for Wednesday.

Wk. IX: 10/12: **Fall Break!** (*Feriae Autumnales*)

10/14: Daedalus and Icarus: *Meta.* 8.152-192.

10/16: *Meta.* 8.193-235. Read translation of *Metamorphoses* bk. XII for Monday

Wk. X: 10/19: Philemon and Baucis: *Meta.* 8.611-650

10/21: *Meta.* 8.651-683. **Quiz.**

10/23: *Meta.* 8.684-724. Read translation of *Metamorphoses* bk. XIII for Monday

Wk. XI: 10/26: Iphis: *Meta.* 9.666-701

10/28: *Meta.* 9.702-734

10/30: *Meta.* 9.735-763. Read translation of *Metamorphoses* bk. XIV for Monday

Wk. XII: 11/2: *Meta.* 9.764-797. **Quiz.**

11/4: Orpheus and Eurydice: *Meta.* 10.1-39

11/6: *Meta.* 10.40-71. Read translation of *Metamorphoses* bk. XV for Monday

Wk. XIII: 11/9: *Meta.* 10.72-105

11/11: Myrrha: *Meta.* 10.298-333. **Commentary due.**

11/13: *Meta.* 10.334-367

Wk. XIV: 11/16: *Meta.* 10.368-401 **Quiz.**

11/18: *Meta.* 10.402-430

11/20: *Meta.* 10.431-464

Wk. XV: 11/23: *Meta.* 10.465-502.

11/25-27: **THANKSGIVING** (*festivitas americana ad gratias agendas*)

Wk. XVI: 11/30: Apotheosis of Julius Caesar: *Meta.* 15.745-778 (in class, 15.779-817).

12/2: *Meta.* 15.818-842 (in class, 15.843-870)

12/4: Last day of class; final remarks; preview of final

Final exam: Friday, December 11, 11:30-2:00