

Latin 119b: Ovid's *Metamorphoses*

MWTh 1-2 (Block F)
Office Rabb 348
Office Hours: MWTh11

Prof. Patricia A. Johnston
Tel: (781-73) 6-2182
email: johnston@brandeis.edu

Required Texts:

Ovid's Metamorphoses Books 1-5, ed. W. S. Anderson (Oklahoma 1997) ISBN 0 8061-2894-1.
Ovid's Metamorphoses Books 6-10, ed. W. S. Anderson (Oklahoma 1972) ISBN 0 8061-1456-1.

Recommended Translations include:

Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, trans. Mary M. Innes (Penguin 1955)
Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, trans. D. Raeburn (Penguin 2004).
Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, trans. R. Humphries (Indiana 1955).
Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, trans. A. D. Melville (Cambridge 1990).

Other recommendations:

Hermann Fränkel, *Ovid: A Poet between Two Worlds*. Berkeley 1945.
C. Martindale, ed., *Ovid Renewed: Ovidian Influences on Literature and Art from the Middle Ages to the Twentieth Century*.
Theodore Ziolkowski, *Ovid and the Moderns*. Cornell 2005.
P. M. C. Irving, *Metamorphosis in Greek Myths*. Oxford 1990.

Ancient Greek and Latin poetry was generally categorized by its form—particularly by its meter and its length. Epic poetry was an extended narrative in dactylic hexameter. Whether Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, which qualifies in form and length, can be considered an “epic” poem, is a long-standing issue. Ovid's poem confounds such generalizations in numerous other ways as well, as he toys with our expectations. His Latin is not difficult, but its rich layers of allusion demand close attention. In this course we will translate extensive passages of his poem, and students will be expected to read the remaining sections in translation so that we can examine some of the intriguing questions that persist about it. [Passages which will be assigned, with some modification depending on the class, are listed on the following page.] Then students will choose or be assigned topics to present and debate in class. There will also be one mid-term and one final exam.

Preliminary Class Schedule

Aug. 27 Th **First Class:** Begin Book 1.1-60 Introduction, Prologue, and Creation
1 M
3 W Ages of Man: 1.76-162
4 Th

Sep. 7 M **Labor Day – No class**
9 W (= **Brandeis Monday**)
10 Th
14 M [students will choose topic for their paper/presentation]
16 W

17 Th
21 M
23 W
24 Th
28 M *Yom Kippur – No Class*
29 Tu (= *Brandeis Monday*)
30 W

Oct. 1 Th
5 M *Sukkot – No Class*
7 W
8 Th
12 M
14 W
15 Th
19 M
21 W
22 Th
26 M
28 W
29 Th

Nov. 2 M
4 W
5 Th
9 M
11 W
12 Th
16 M
18 W
19 Th
23 M
25 W
26 Th *Thanksgiving – No Class*
30 M

Dec. 2 W **(Last Class)**
Dec. 7-14 Three-hour final exam (to be scheduled by Registrar)

Tentative reading assignments in the *Metamorphoses*:

1.1-68:	Introduction, Prologue, and Creation
1.76—162	Ages of Man
1.313-451	Deucalion and Pyrrha and a New Race of Mortals
1.452-567	Daphne and Apollo
1.588-688	Io
2.401-530	Callisto and Arcas
3.138-252	Actaeon and Diana
3.339-510	Narcissus and Echo
6.1-145	Minerva and Arachne
6.146-312	Niobe
8.183-235	Daedalus and Icarus
8.738-884	Erysichthon

Hercules-cycle: (9.1-402)

9.98-133	Nessus
9.134-272	Hercules cycle
9.273-323	Hercules' birth

Orpheus-cycle:

10.1-77	Eurydice
10.78-105; *[11.1-66]	Orpheus' sorrow

Songs of Orpheus (10.143-749):

10.155-161	Ganymede
10.238-242	Propoetides
10.243-297	Pygmalion
10.298-502	Myrrha

*Other:

Selections from Books 13, 14, 15: Aeneas and his journey

15.745-879 Apotheosis of Julius Caesar and Epilogue

*[bracketed items are not in the assigned texts]