

Metamorphosis in Latin Poetry & Prose: Ovid's *Metamorphoses* & Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*

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PROVISO I: DISABILITIES. If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

PROVISO II: ACADEMIC HONESTY. You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. Brandeis University policy on academic honesty is contained in your Student Handbook in section 5 under "Rights and Responsibilities". Instances of cheating, plagiarism, or other alleged dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Campus Life for possible referral to the Student Judicial System. The adjudication process is also outlined in your Handbook. Potential consequences of academic dishonesty include (in addition to an "E" on the assignment) failure in the course, disciplinary probation, and suspension from the University. A record of any offense will remain in a student's disciplinary file in the Office of Student Affairs throughout his or her career at Brandeis. If you have any questions about my expectations, please see me immediately.



The present course seeks not only to reinforce the grammatical, lexical, and syntactical skills which students will have gained (and alas lost) from their elementary Latin studies, but also to engage with two exciting works of literature written by two different authors who lived during two different historical periods in two different continents. Notwithstanding the aforementioned authorial dissimilarities, Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and Apuleius' *Metamorphoses* similarly contain narratives (as their titles will have suggested) about transformation.

To the extent that Ovid lived *circa* 43 BC to 17 or 18 AD whereas Apuleius lived *circa* 125 AD to 170 AD, we shall, in addition to strengthening our grasp of the Latin language, explore the literature from a range of perspectives—allegorical, marital, mythological, narratological, philosophical, religious, etc. Ovid and Apuleius will thus provide as it were a window looking out onto two substantively similar but socio-historically disparate landscapes of Roman culture and—from a linguistic perspective—Latinity. That is, while Ovid's poem *Metamorphoses* seems to anticipate the literary proclivity for "mannerism" in the Empire, Apuleius' novel *Metamorphoses* is encyclopedic in its use of archaisms, vulgarisms, Platonisms, and rhetoricisms. Apuleius was, after all, famous in Late Antiquity not *qua* novelist (as he is today) but *qua* magician, philosopher, and orator *par excellence*. We shall have the opportunity to enjoy poetry which is (at least in its outer form) 'epic', and prose which constitutes our only ancient novel in Latin which has (*mirabile dictu!*) survived intact.

The titular coincidence of their works notwithstanding, Ovid and Apuleius will afford other fascinating comparisons and juxtapositions. Suffice it (not) to say that both Ovid and Apuleius are erotically, legally, and politically problematic figures: Ovid—for reasons still unclear, but possibly for involvement in the scandalous adultery of Augustus' granddaughter—was relegated in 8 AD to the Black Sea at Tomi;

Apuleius was accused in 158 AD of practicing magic in order to win as it were his wife's hand in marriage. Ovid spent the last years of his life writing works in elegiac couplets as an exile from Rome; Apuleius, apparently having won acquittal from the law-suit brought by his wife's parents, spent the last years of his life in Carthage as a prominent orator at the centre of Roman African political life. While our primary aim is to exercise and to increase our knowledge of Latin through a close reading of Ovid and Apuleius, the aforementioned social, political, and religious issues present us with an exciting opportunity to engage with Latin writers' lives—and thereby to bring our so-called 'dead' language to *life*.

In the process of *reading* Latin we shall also consider stylistics from the perspective of *writing* Latin, with a view toward preparation for Advanced Latin Composition (LAT 110b, spring 2008). Hence my inclusion, among Required Texts, of *Bradley's Arnold Latin Prose Composition*.



Evaluation will be apportioned as follows:

- I. 20%, eleven ten-minute-long weekly quizzes (translation and grammatical parsing; you are permitted, at the end of the semester, to 'drop' your lowest quiz grade if you so wish);
- II. 20%, mid-semester examination (translation, grammatical parsing, and short essay);
- III. 20%, final examination (translation, grammatical parsing, and short essay);
- IV. 20%, several short written homework assignments (one-page textual explications based on a topic assigned by me in class);
- V. 10%, 5-7 page paper (subject to be determined by students' independent discussions with me);
- VI. 10%, participation.

"Participation", not unlike Ovid's relegation, can be a difficult subject. To my mind, neither shyness nor loquaciousness necessarily reflects one's ability to read and to discuss Latin language and literature. Item VI above, therefore, is based on certain expectations which you are required to meet and which you are welcome to exceed.

You are expected to have translated each assigned passage on our schedule *before* we meet in class, so that we can move through our reading not only with good pace but also with good cheer. Our goal is not only to render accurately our Latin literature into good English, but moreover to have lively discussions about that which we are reading. In order to provide everyone with the chance to participate actively, I shall call at random upon students to translate, in class, the assigned passages.

Attendance is mandatory: more than three absences without an acceptable reason or document will reduce your grade by one-third of a letter-grade: that is, an A will—appositely—*metamorphose* into an A-; a B+ into a B; and so on, and so forth. Be there, be honest if you are not there, be attentive, and your "participation" grade will be in good stead. I shall be readily available in both fixed office hours and informal office hours: you can always reach me via email or telephone to make an appointment or to discuss matters of concern, of interest, of digression, etc.



REQUIRED TEXTS

Available for purchase at the Campus Bookstore

I. LATIN

Anderson, W. S. 1997. *Ovid's Metamorphoses. Books 1-5*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press.

Arnold, T. K. 2006 [reprint of the 1938 ed. published by Longmans, London]. *Bradley's Arnold Latin*

Prose Composition. Revised by G. G. Bradley and then by Sir James Mountford. Wauconda, IL : Bolchazy-Carducci.

Helm, Rudolf. 1991. *Apulei Platonici Madaurensis Opera Quae Supersunt*, vol. 1, *Metamorphoseon Libri XI*. Teubner: Stuttgart & Leipzig.

Kenney, E. J. 1990. *Apuleius. Cupid & Psyche*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.*

* Keeney's commentary to Apuleius' narrative of "Cupid & Psyche" (*Metamorphoses* Books 4.28-5.24) will be posted on WebCTVista. The commentary will doubtless help you grammatically end lexically in translating the passages from Apuleius' *Metamorphoses* which are assigned on the schedule below.

II. TRANSLATIONS

To the extent that we shall, of course, not have adequate time to read Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and Apuleius' *Metamorphoses* in their entirety, students are required to read the following translations of the whole narratives in order that we might situate our selected passages within the broader narrative contexts:

Kenney, E. J., trans. 1999. *Apuleius. The Golden Ass*. New York: Penguin Classics.

Humphries, Rolfe., trans. 1955. *Ovid. Metamorphoses*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.



SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

I shall provide you with supplementary grammatical materials (in facsimile form) as topical from the following texts, as well as handouts of my own design. You are, however, encouraged to own or to have ready access to at least one of the grammar books listed below. Other supplementary readings—such as academic articles, other translations for comparison exercises, etc.,—will be provided by me (also as topical).

Do please note that I have ordered Gildersleeve (2003) at the campus bookstore as an 'optional' text. Therefore, if you are not presently in possession of one of the following grammar books, I encourage you to exercise your option to purchase *Gildersleeve's Latin Grammar*.

Allen, J. H. and J. B. Greenough. 2002 [reprint of the 1903 ed. published by Ginn, Boston]. *Allen and Greenough's New Latin Grammar*. New York : Aristide D. Caratzas.

Bennett, C. E. 1994 [reprint of the 1908 ed. published by Allyn and Bacon, Boston]. *New Latin Grammar*. Wauconda, Ill.: Bolchazy-Carducci.

Gildersleeve, B. L. and G. Lodge. 2003 [reprint of the 1895 edition published by Macmillan, London]. *Gildersleeve's Latin Grammar*.



SCHEDULE

Nota bene: To reiterate, that which is listed under ASSIGNMENT details what I expect you to have read before we meet in class.

Nota quoque bene: That which is listed under QUIZ will consist of a brief, 5-10 minute quiz, on which you will be asked to translate a short passage excerpted from that which we shall have already read together

in class prior to the date of the quiz. Each QUIZ will also contain three questions concerning the grammar and syntax of the passage before you. More details in class.

- THURS.
30 AUG. AN INTRODUCTION TO OVID
- ASSIGNMENT
Please have read by Wednesday, 5 September, the following:
Books 1-5 in Humphries' translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (see REQUIRED TEXTS above [II. TRANSLATIONS]).
- LECTURE
"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." the life, times, & works of Ovid
- ~
- MON.
3 SEPT. LABOUR DAY
- No University exercises*
- WED.
5 SEPT. THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE FROM CHAOS
- ASSIGNMENT
Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Liber Primus, vv. 1-20 (in Anderson, p. 45)
- LECTURE & DISCUSSION
Ovid's Inner & Outer Form(s): toward an understanding of Ovidian dactylic hexameters
- THURS.
6 SEPT. THE FOUR AGES: CREATION CONTINUED
- QUIZ 1
Liber Primus, vv. 1-20 (in Anderson, p. 45)
- ASSIGNMENT
Liber Primus, vv. 21-59 (in Anderson, pp. 45-46)
- ~
- MON.
10 SEPT. NO CLASS
- Professor Dhuga will be attending a conference from Mon., 10 Sept. through Tues., 11 Sept. Please note that Friday, 19 October (see below) not only will stand as a day of open office hours, but also will serve as a make-up class for Monday, 10 September. Exact date, location, and time of the make-up class: TBA.*
- WED.
12 SEPT. THE FOUR AGES: CREATION CONCLUDED
- ASSIGNMENT
Liber Primus, vv. 60-88 (in Anderson, pp. 46-47)
- GRAMMATICAL REVIEW
Neu & et ne: the negative purpose clause revisited
- LECTURE & DISCUSSION
New Forms, Changing Forms: neologisms & the diction of metamorphosis
- THURS.
ROSH HASHANAH

13 SEPT.

No University exercises.



MON.
17 SEPT.

THE GOLDEN AGE

ASSIGNMENT

Liber Primus, vv. 89-112 (in Anderson, pp. 47-48)

LECTURE & DISCUSSION

The 'Golden Line' & Ovid's Chromatism

WED.
19 SEPT.

THE SILVER & LATER AGES

QUIZ 2

Liber Primus, vv. 21-112 (in Anderson, pp. 47-48)

ASSIGNMENT

Liber Primus, vv. 113-150 (in Anderson, pp. 48-49)

Handout: excerpts from Hesiod's *Theogony*: moral decline in the 'Generation of Silver'
**I shall have provided you a handout with translated excerpts from Hesiod's Theogony on Mon., 17 Sept.*

LECTURE & DISCUSSION

Comparative Mythology: Ovid's vs. Hesiod's 'Generation of Silver'

THURS.
20 SEPT.

THE GIGANTOMACHY

ASSIGNMENT

Liber Primus, vv. 151-198 (in Anderson, pp. 49-50)

GRAMMATICAL REVIEW

Litotes (the 'double-negative'); the ablative of cause

LECTURE & DISCUSSION

Civil War & the Augustan 'Golden Age'



MON.
24 SEPT.

LYCAON

QUIZ 3

Liber Primus, vv. 113-198 (in Anderson, pp. 49-50)

ASSIGNMENT

Liber Primus, vv. 199-252 (in Anderson, pp. 50-51)

GRAMMATICAL REVIEW

The jussive subjunctive

LECTURE & DISCUSSION

Augustan Propaganda?

WED.
26 SEPT.

THE DELUGE

ASSIGNMENT

Liber Primus, vv. 253-312 (in Anderson, pp. 51-53)

GRAMMATICAL REVIEW
The passive periphrastic revisited

LECTURE & DISCUSSION
A Glimpse at Roman Literary Criticism: Seneca* on Ovid
**I shall have provided you on Mon., 24 Sept., a handout containing excerpts from Seneca's Naturales Quaestiones 3.27—the only extant scientific work written by Seneca—in which Seneca also engages in literary criticism, expressing both approval and disapproval as regards Ovid's poetic treatment of the Deluge.*

THURS.
27 SEPT.

SUKKOT
No University exercises



MON.
1 OCT.

DEUCALION & PYRRHA
QUIZ 4
Liber Primus, vv. 199-312 (in Anderson, p. 51-53)

ASSIGNMENT
Liber Primus, vv. 313-347 (in Anderson, p. 53)

GRAMMATICAL REVIEW
The objective genitive

WED.
3 OCT.

DEUCALION & PYRRHA CONCLUDED
ASSIGNMENT
Liber Primus, vv. 348-415 (in Anderson, pp. 54-55)

GRAMMATICAL REVIEW
Conditionals revisited: handout: focus on Ovid's vv. 377-380

LECTURE & DISCUSSION
Comparative Mythology: Ovid's vs. Apollodorus'* & Hyginus'* Deucalion & Pyrrha
**I shall have provided you, on Mon., 1 Oct., a handout containing translated excerpts from Apollodorus 1.7.2 & from Hyginus 152, that we might discuss how the 'same' myth is told quite differently by three different writers.*

THURS.
4 OCT.

SHEMINI ATZERET
No University exercises



MON.
8 OCT.

APOLLO & DAPHNE
QUIZ 5
Liber Primus, vv. 313-415 (in Anderson, pp. 54-55)

ASSIGNMENT

Liber Primus, vv. 452-503 (in Anderson, pp. 56-57)
Please (re-)read vv. 416-51—viz., the story of Python—in Humphries' translation

- TUES.
9 OCT. 'BRANDEIS THURSDAY'. APOLLO & DAPHNE IN ROMAN SCULPTURE
ASSIGNMENT AMNESTY
SLIDE-SHOW, LECTURE, & DISCUSSION
Intersections of Roman Literary & Visual Arts
- WED.
10 OCT. APOLLO & DAPHNE CONCLUDED
ASSIGNMENT
Liber Primus, vv. 504-567 (in Anderson, pp. 57-59)
GRAMMATICAL REVIEW
Ne + subjunctive: negative commands & negative wishes
LECTURE & DISCUSSION
Ovidian Ambiguity & 'Metamorphosis' of Genre: epic & erotic
- THURS.
11 OCT. IO
ASSIGNMENT
Liber Primus, vv. 568-624 (in Anderson, pp. 59-60)
GRAMMATICAL REVIEW
The Subjunctive in indirect questions & disjunctive questions: *an*, *utrum*, or *-ne*?
- ☛
- MON.
15 OCT. MIDTERM EXAMINATION
Details to be discussed in class
- WED.
17 OCT. IO REVISITED
QUIZ 6
Liber Primus, vv. 452-624 (in Anderson, pp. 59-60)
ASSIGNMENT
Liber Primus, vv. 625-663 (in Anderson, pp. 60-61)
- THURS.
18 OCT. IO CONCLUDED
ASSIGNMENT
Liber Primus, vv. 713-746 (in Anderson, pp. 63-64)
Please (re-)read vv. 664-712 in Humphries' translation
LECTURE & DISCUSSION
Metamorphosis & Reverse-Metamorphosis on both Narrative & Linguistic Levels
- FRI.
19 OCT. I. TUTORIALS, OPEN OFFICE HOURS, MID-SEMESTER GRADE DISCUSSIONS
II. MAKE-UP CLASS FOR MONDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER
Details to be discussed in class

MON.
22 OCT.

PHAETON & OVID'S BOOK-END TRANSITION; CONCLUSION TO OVID

QUIZ AMNESTY

ASSIGNMENT

Liber Primus, vv. 747-779; Liber Secundus, vv. 1-18 (in Anderson, pp. 64-65)
Please (re-)read Book 2 in Humphries' translation

LECTURE & DISCUSSION

Closing Remarks on Ovid

WED.
24 OCT.

AN INTRODUCTION TO APULEIUS

ASSIGNMENT

Please have read as much as you can of Kenney's translation of Apuleius' The Golden Ass (i.e., Apuleius' Metamorphoses). You are expected to have read the entirety of The Golden Ass by the end of the semester: knowledge of the narrative (in English) as a whole—not just of the Cupid & Psyche 'embedded' narrative (in Latin)—will be tested on the final examination.

LECTURE & DISCUSSION

Apuleius: Magician, Orator, Scientist, Philosopher (& Novelist)

THURS.
25 OCT.

ACT I. PSYCHE INNOCENS

ASSIGNMENT

Metamorphoses 4.28.1-4.28.4

GRAMMATICAL REVIEW

The ablative of quality & the ablative of cause revisited

LECTURE & DISCUSSION

The Story within the Story: Lucius, the Drunken Old Woman, & Charite

MON.
29 OCT.

ACT I CONTINUED. PSYCHE INNOCENS

QUIZ 7

Met. 4.28.1-4.28.4

ASSIGNMENT

Met. 4.29.1-4.30.5

Handout: Ovid, *Met.* 10.529-531*

**I shall have provided you on Thurs., 25 Oct. a handout of Ovid's Met. 10.529-531*

LECTURE & DISCUSSION

Apuleius' Allusive Reversal of Ovid?

WED.
31 OCT.

ACT I CONTINUED. PSYCHE INNOCENS

ASSIGNMENT

Met. 4.31.1-4.32.6

LECTURE & DISCUSSION

Sun-Tanning in Ancient Rome

THURS.
1 NOV.

ACT I CONCLUDED. PSYCHE INNOCENS

ASSIGNMENT
Met. 4.33.1-4.35.4

GRAMMATICAL REVIEW
Impersonal passive verbs; deponent verbs; (non-deponent?) deponent verbs



MON.
5 NOV.

ACT II. PSYCHE NOCENS

QUIZ 8
Met. 4.29.1-4.35.4

ASSIGNMENT
Met. 5.1.1-5.2.4

GRAMMATICAL REVIEW
The genitive of respect

LECTURE & DISCUSSION
Ekphrasis: a comparison of Cupid's palace to the Sun's palace in Ovid, *Metamorphoses*

Bk. 2*

**Please bring with you today both Anderson's edition of Ovid's Metamorphoses and Humphries' translation of Ovid's Metamorphoses (in addition, of course, to your Apuleius text)*

WED.
7 NOV.

ACT II CONTINUED. PSYCHE NOCENS

ASSIGNMENT
Met. 5.3.1-5.3.5

GRAMMATICAL REVIEW COMBINED WITH LECTURE & DISCUSSION
Apuleius' 'Un-Classical' Latinity: 'incorrect' (?) usage of a genitive of the personal pronoun vs. your grammar books' insistence that you must use a possessive adjective

THURS.
8 NOV.

ACT II CONTINUED. PSYCHE NOCENS

ASSIGNMENT
Met. 5.4.1-5.5.6



MON.
12 NOV.

ACT II CONTINUED. PSYCHE NOCENS

QUIZ 9
Met. 5.1.1-5.5.6

ASSIGNMENT
Met. 5.6.1-5.7.6

LECTURE & DISCUSSION
Apuleius' & Platonism: *anima* vs. *animus*

WED.
14 NOV. ACT II CONTINUED. PSYCHE NOCENS

ASSIGNMENT
Met. 5.8.1-5.9.8

LECTURE & DISCUSSION
Apuleius & Religion: Fortuna vs. Isis

THURS.
15 NOV. ACT II CONTINUED. PSYCHE NOCENS.

ASSIGNMENT
Met. 5.10.1-5.11.6

GRAMMATICAL REVIEW
Positive questions with negative nuances

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MON.
19 NOV. ACT II CONTINUED. PSYCHE NOCENS

QUIZ 10
Met. 5.6.1-5.11.6

ASSIGNMENT
Met. 5.12.1-5.13.6

GRAMMATICAL REVIEW
The limiting or restrictive use of the subjunctive

WED.
21 NOV. ACT II CONTINUED. PSYCHE NOCENS

ASSIGNMENT
Met. 5.14.1-5.16.5

LECTURE & DISCUSSION
Apuleius' Ovidian Latinity?: *in-* + the perfect passive participle

THURS.
22 NOV. THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

No University exercises

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MON.
26 NOV. ACT II CONTINUED. PSYCHE NOCENS

QUIZ 11
Met. 5.12.1-5.16.5

ASSIGNMENT
Met. 5.17.1-5.19.5

WED.
28 NOV. ACT II CONTINUED. PSYCHE NOCENS

ASSIGNMENT
Met. 5.20.1-5.21.5

THURS. ACT II CONTINUED. PSYCHE NOCENS

29 NOV.

ASSIGNMENT
Met. 5.22.1-5.23.6

LECTURE & DISCUSSION
Another Allusion to Ovid? Apuleius *Met. 5.23.2-3* vs. Ovid *Met. 10.525-8**
**I shall provide you a handout of the relevant Ovidian passage in class*



MON.
3 DEC.

ACT II CONCLUDED. ACT III BEGUN. PSYCHE ERRANS

QUIZ AMNESTY

ASSIGNMENT
Met. 5.24.1-5.25.6

GRAMMATICAL REVIEW COMBINED WITH LECTURE & DISCUSSION
The Verb *Scilicet* & Apuleius' Authorial Interventions

WED.
5 DEC.

ACT III CONTINUED. PSYCHE ERRANS

ASSIGNMENT
Met. 5.26.1-5.27.5

GRAMMATICAL REVIEW COMBINED WITH LECTURE & DISCUSSION
Dum + Subjunctive: Apuleius' post-classical Latinity revisited

THURS.
6 DEC.

PSYCHE FELIX. CONCLUSION TO APULEIUS

ASSIGNMENT
You should by now have read Kenney's translation of The Golden Ass in its entirety. For today, please re-read (in translation) Met. 5.28.1-6.24.4 so that we can round out our Cupid and Psyche narrative and discuss its ending.

LECTURE & DISCUSSION
Closing remarks on Apuleius
Nuptiae legitimae et iure civili congruae: Roman marriage & civil law



MON.
10 DEC.
&

OPEN OFFICE HOURS FROM 1PM – 6PM & BY APPOINTMENT

I shall post a sign-up sheet on my office door. You are also welcome (as throughout the semester) to make appointments with me via email.

TUES.
11 DEC.

FINAL EXAMINATION

Date, location, and time to be determined by the Registrar