

Latin Literature: Culture, Environment and Gender (A005718)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1) Dutch Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Formisano, Marco	LW07	lecturer-in-charge
Loporcaro, Laura	LW03	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Swedish)	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin)	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Latin literature, prose, poetry, incest, zoophilia, metamorphosis, myth, gender, sexuality, obscenity, pudicitia.

Position of the course

This course discusses a fundamental aspect of Latin literature: gender and sexuality. We shall observe how these concepts are configured in a vast array of Latin texts.

Contents

Forbidden loves. Gender, sexuality, and perversion in Roman literature

The literature of ancient Rome has often been approached as a repertory of extravagant love stories. Post-classical, Christian, or modern readers have seen and been confronted with diverse, sometimes alienating and often unusual forms of love. Such love disturbs the norm and is then called "perverse." But such love, which is "forbidden" or "unthinkable" according to our morality, was perceived differently in the past.

Within this course we will read and discuss a number of texts, from a variety of literary genres and periods. The protagonist is Ovid (in particular the Metamorphoses and the Ars amatoria), but we will also examine rhetoric, historiography, epigrams, epyllia, novel and hagiography. Thus, we cover the time from the Republic to Christian late antiquity.

Using this rich and diverse selection of texts and authors, we will analyze the variety of gender categories that govern discourses around sexuality in Rome.

Initial competences

Students have successfully completed Ancient Literature and Latin Tradition in Europe or obtained a demonstrable knowledge of the envisaged competencies.

Final competences

- 1 to understand how to read Latin literature
- 2 to translate and discuss the selected texts in terms of style and literary analysis.
- 3 to acknowledge the texts in their individuality.
- 4 to acknowledge the role of sexuality and gender construction in different texts and genres.
- 5 to be able to critically adapt the acquired knowledges.
- 6 to discuss the selected texts in broad cultural terms.
- 7 to get acquainted with the most important methodologies in Latin literary studies.
- 8 to understand the difference between a research question and a methodology.
- 9 to read the scholarly discussions through the direct knowledge of the original Latin text.
- 10 to be able to produce a basic research question.
- 11 to acquire familiarity with basic approaches and theoretical model to be developed critically.
- 12 Use Generative AI responsibly.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- 1 introductory lecture to the topic.
- 10 lectures with interactive reading and analysis of original texts (27,5 hours = twice 75 minutes for 11 weeks).
- midterm test.
- (online) groupwork: presentations.

Study material

Type: Reader

Name: primary and secondary sources

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

References

- Metamorphoses / P. Ovidi Nasonis, ed. R. J. Tarrant, Oxford 2004 (ca.25 €).

Course content-related study coaching

Weekly preparations; intensive reading assistance, comments. An appointment with the lecturer or the collaborator can be made by e-mail.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions, Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions, Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Presentation, Oral assessment open-book, Written assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment moment

Periodical and non-periodical

Assessment

Oral exam: open book exam (including written preparation) with 3 questions

(situating, paraphrasing, literary analysis)

Written exam: five knowledge and application questions about metrics, stylistics, textual transmission, and the Latin text

Permanent evaluation of the discussion contributions on Ufora and the presentation of the smallgroup in the final class, midterm test.

If student fail the non-periodical evaluation, a second chance is offered through a compensatory activity between the first and second examination period.

The examination is in line with the envisaged competencies of the course.

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical: written 60%

Non-periodical: 40 %.

If students have 10/20 for one of the course units, they cannot pass the course. In this case, the mark will be reduced to the highest unsuccessful grade if the final score would still be ten or more out of twenty. If students demonstrate insufficient command of Latin during the written examintion, they will also fail the course. They may take a reexamination in which only the knowledge of Latin is tested.

Facilities for Working Students

It is possible to agree with the instructor upon an alternative study programme if the student cannot actively follow the class.

It is possible to agree upon an alternative date for the exam.

Feedback available on appointment.

For more information visit <http://www.flw.ugent.be/flexibelstuderen>