

LATIN POETRY: OVID'S

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Latin**

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

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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

