

**Catullus and his Successors**  
**(aka Problems in Augustan Literature)**  
**16:190:579 Spring 2005**  
**Wed 5:00-7:40 pm; RAB-003, D/C**

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### **Course Description**

This course will focus on the poet Catullus and his influence on Augustan literature. We will begin by reading Catullus' poetry in Latin and will aim to work our way through much of his corpus, paying attention to issues of genre, language and meter, as well as to the historical, intellectual, and cultural context of his poetry. The primary text readings will be supplemented by a selection of secondary literature reflecting a variety of theoretical approaches. Finally, we will look at how some of the first readers and critics of Catullus, namely Horace, Virgil, Propertius, and Ovid, constructed their own version of Catullus through intertextual engagement with his poetry.

### **Course Website**

The course website is accessible through the WebCT homepage. Go to <https://webct.rutgers.edu> and follow the instructions for logging in as a student. You will need to have a NetID and password to access the website.

### **Required Texts** (Available at RU Ferren Mall bookstore)

1. *C. Valerii Catulli Carmina*. Ed. R. A. B. Mynors. Oxford University Press.
2. *Catullus: the Poems*. Edited with introduction, revised text, and commentary by Kenneth Quinn. Bristol Classical Press 1973.

Note: other commentaries are acceptable

### **Grading and Evaluation**

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| 1. Class participation and presentations | 20% |
| 2. Tests (2)                             | 40% |
| 3. Paper (May 2)                         | 40% |

## Schedule (subject to change)

*Week 1:* Wed Jan 18: Introduction

*Week 2:* Wed Jan 26 Polymetrics (1-17)

*Week 3:* Wed Feb 2 Polymetrics (21-38)

*Week 4:* Wed Feb 9 Polymetrics (39-60)

*Week 5:* Wed Feb 16 Carmina docta (61-62)

*Week 6:* Wed Feb 23 test #1 (1-62)

*Week 7:* Wed Mar 2; Carmina docta (63, 64 Part 1)

*Week 8:* Wed Mar 9 Carmina docta (64 part 2)

*Week 9:* Wed Mar 23 Elegies (65-68)

*Week 10:* Wed Mar 30 Elegies (69-87)

*Week 11:* Wed Apr 6 Elegies (88-116)

*Week 12:* Wed Apr 13 test # 2 (63-116)

*Week 13:* Wed Apr 20 Catullus and Horace

*Week 14:* Wed Apr 27; Catullus and the elegists

## Presentation Topics

Lesbia and Clodia (Leah)

male friends, enemies, and lovers

invective and obscenity

love, marriage, and sexuality

epyllion (Leah)

neoteric circle

Catullan language

Epicureanism in Catullus (Leah)

genre of elegy and epigram

political invective

Virgil and Catullus (Leah)