

Women Scorned: Ovid's *Heroides***IDH2930 (Fall 2024)**

Course Number 29297 | Section Number F006 | R 8 (3:00pm-3:50pm) | Honors Village 114 | 1 credit

Instructor: [Anthony Smith](#), Department of Classics (a.smith2@ufl.edu)

Student Hours: TR 7 (1:55pm-2:45pm), W 2 (8:30am-9:20am), or by appointment, in Dauer 125E

Course Description and Objectives

Greco-Roman mythology is populated by many female characters who, despite their contributions toward the goals of their male counterparts, are often mistreated, harmed, and abandoned. Compounding their poor treatment is the reality that ancient storytellers almost always focus their narratives on the male characters of the mythological world. Who has their story told is a key element to consider when studying the literature of any culture. So, who tells women's stories in the Greco-Roman world? Ovid's *Heroides*, a collection of poems written as letters from women to men (and some from men to women) offers a unique insight into one ancient Roman's attempt to uncover the lost stories of scorned women, albeit still from a male author's perspective. How do the heroines populating Ovid's work think about their roles in the stories of powerful men, and how do they handle the emotional and physical abandonment and mistreatment of these men? In this course, we'll explore Ovid's work in English translation as we consider the plight of his mythological women letter-writers. We'll also consider other sources for the Greco-Roman female perspective, including selections from Sappho's corpus, Euripidean drama, and Ovid's epic *Metamorphoses*. Finally, we'll think about contemporary parallels to Ovid's *Heroides*, namely in the realm of popular music.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- engage with the translation of Ovid's *Heroides* and the mythological tradition of the women and men in each letter.
- consider the plight of the ancient Roman literary woman and how that might connect to modern heartbreak (across the spectrum of sex and gender).
- develop their own comprehension and letter-writing skills by responding to one of Ovid's heroines.

Content Notice: The readings for this course will engage with topics of love, sex, gender, sexuality, and possibly violence and vulgarity. We will examine the text and Greco-Roman society through a critical lens with an understanding that a two-millennia-old society had different values from ours. Students with concerns about specific topics should speak with the instructor ASAP.

Course Supplies**Required Textbook**

- Murgatroyd, Paul, Bridget Reeves, and Sarah Parker. 2017. *Ovid's Heroides: A New Translation and Critical Essays*. New York, NY: Routledge. ISBN: 978-1-138-72216-3.

If you'd like a hard copy of your own, the book can be purchased or rented online or through the UF Bookstore or can be purchased at local bookseller The Lynx.

If you're okay with a digital copy only, the book is on the UF Libraries Course Reserves. Because of this, students are expected to use only this version of the book and translation of the *Heroides*. Critical background information is provided by the authors. When accessing the Course Reserves from off campus, be sure to use the [UF VPN](#).

Technology

Students will need access to Canvas and may sometimes need the use of a cell phone, tablet, or laptop in class (with advance notice given).

Course Communications

The instructor's student hours are TR 7 (1:55pm-2:45pm), W 2 (8:30am-9:20am), or by appointment in Dauer Hall 125E. Students may also request an appointment outside of these times in person or via Zoom.

Dauer Hall is located at the corner of Buckman Drive and Union Road north of Pugh and Newell Halls. To find the office, enter the building at the doors on the corner of Buckman and Union. In the foyer, go up one flight of stairs. At the landing of the second floor, turn right and go up the short set of stairs. The office is directly behind the door at the top of these stairs.

The best method of communication is via Canvas Mail. If an email message (to a.smith2@ufl.edu) is required, please put IDH2930 in the subject line. Expect a response within 24-48 hours (but not over the weekend or on holidays).

Course Assignments

The course will be graded based on three categories:

30%	Attendance and Participation
30%	Parallel-o-Gram
40%	Letter

Attendance and Participation: There are 14 in-person meetings (in the classroom or elsewhere) – students should arrive to class prepared to participate in the discussion-based meetings. Only approved excused absences will be allowed. Please consult [university policy](#) and inform the instructor ahead of time for excused absences, whenever possible.

Parallel-o-Gram: Students will find a modern piece of media (something in short form like a song or a poem) and analyze it for the feelings of heartbreak, abandonment, scorn, etc. that they find parallel the feelings expressed in Ovid's *Heroides*. The work doesn't have to be from the perspective of a scorned woman, as gender-bending approaches are allowed. The work will be presented visually with more details to be found on Canvas.

As part of this assignment, students will submit a **Pitch** for their project and a **Draft** concept before submitting the **Final Version**.

Letter: Based on the style of Ovid's 'double' *Heroides* (poems 16-21), students will write a response letter to one of the 'single' *Heroides* (poems 1-15) by considering the mythological background of the woman letter-writer and the man/people who wronged her. This assignment will be scaffolded so that students can receive instructor feedback on their choice of single letter, their research into the character backgrounds, and draft of their letter. They will then read and present their letters aloud to the class during our final meeting.

As part of this assignment, students will participate in a workshop where the instructor and peers will go over a draft before students submit their **Rough Draft**. The **Final Draft** will be due to the instructor at the end of the semester after students give an oral **Presentation** concerning their project. The length and details of the final presentation is dependent on course enrollment.

Course Policies

- All students are expected to complete 100% of the required course activities.
- If a student misses an assignment for an excused absence (having provided the appropriate documentation), they will be expected to make it up in a timely manner after contacting the instructor with appropriate documentation. The responsibility of communication lies with the student.

- Students should check Canvas (Announcements and their Inbox) regularly and respond, when needed, within a reasonable time.
- Cell phone use in class is not allowed unless expressly stated for a class activity. Students are welcome to take important calls in the hallway outside of the classroom. Cell phone use in the classroom will result in deducted points in the Participation category.
- Earbuds or headphones are never allowed unless an accommodation has been granted. An automatic 0 for the day's Participation will be considered.

Grading Scale

900-1000 (A), 4.00

700-799 (C), 2.00

600-699 (D), 1.00

800-899 (B), 3.00

0-599 (E), 0.00

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards Honors Completion Requirements. (Exception: Honors Quest I and II sections require a C). Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Completion credit.

Land and Labor Acknowledgement

The University of Florida acknowledges the Timucua, Seminole, and all other Indigenous peoples who live, have lived, and recognize their ancestral connection to these lands since time immemorial. We further acknowledge the enslaved peoples, primarily of African descent, whose labor was exploited to fund the construction of the East Florida Seminary School, the historical forerunner institution to the University of Florida.

To learn more about the significance of the Indigenous peoples in this region and throughout the nation, we encourage all to inquire more at [Know the History of the Land you Inhabit](#) and explore [native-land.ca](#) for additional insight. Additional sites for further education can be found [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

UF Policies

Classroom Accommodation

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (or call 352-392-8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. If there are any accessibility issues with the Canvas course page or course files, please inform the instructor as soon as possible so that a correction can be made.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available [here](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or [here](#). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students [here](#).

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: 'On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.'" The [Honor](#)

[Code](#) specifies several behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor of this course.

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may **not** publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is **prohibited**. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student [Honor Code](#) and Student Conduct Code.

Getting Help

Technical Difficulties

For issues with technical difficulties for Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk [online](#), via phone at (352) 392-4357, or via walk-in at HUB 132.

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues should be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You should email your instructor **within 24 hours** of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a makeup.

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or call (352) 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit [website](#) or call (352) 392-1575 or the University Police Department at (352) 392-1111. Call 911 for emergencies.
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): For the Student Health Care Center, call (352) 392-1161.
- University Police Department: Call (352) 392-1111 (or 911 for emergencies) or visit [website](#).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center: For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call (352) 733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608.

Academic Resources

- Career Resource Center: Visit the office at the Reitz Union or call (352) 392-1601. Reach out for career assistance and counseling. Visit [website](#).
- Library Support: Visit [website](#). Reach out for various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center: Visit the office at Broward Hall or call (352) 392-2010 or (352) 392-6420. Reach out for general study skills and tutoring. Visit [website](#).
- Writing Studio: Visit the office at Tigert Hall 302 or call (352) 846-1138. Reach out for help with brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. Visit [website](#).
- Student Complaints Campus: Visit [website](#).

Honors Program

- Honors Program, 201 Walker Hall, (353) 392-1519
- Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu.
- Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings: <https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>.

Schedule

This schedule is subject to change. Selected readings will be posted to Canvas in advance. The listed page numbers refer to the course textbook.

When	What		Where
	In Class	Before Class	
Aug. 22	Introduction biography of Ovid mythology crash course	N/A	Hon. Vill. 114
Aug. 29	Epic Lovers I <i>Odyssey</i>	Introduction (1-6) Penelope to Ulysses (7-21)	Hon. Vill. 114
Sep. 5	Epic Lovers II <i>Iliad, Argonautica, Aeneid</i>	Briseis to Achilles (32-41) Oenone to Paris (56-65) Hypsipyle to Jason (66-75) Dido to Aeneas (76-88)	Hon. Vill. 114
Sep. 12	Heroic Lovers selections from the stories of heroes	Phyllis to Demophoön (22-31) Deianira to Hercules (99-110) Ariadne to Theseus (111-120)	Hon. Vill. 114
Sep. 19	Double Letters I <i>Iliad, Odyssey</i> the Judgment of Paris	Helen and Paris (186-211)	Hon. Vill. 114
Sep. 26	Double Letters II tragic love, happy love	Hero and Leander (212-229) Acontius and Cydippe (230-249)	Hon. Vill. 114
Oct. 3	Visual Project Workshop	prepare a draft	Hon. Vill. 114
Oct. 10	Dramatic Lovers I <i>Oresteia, Medea, Hippolytus</i>	Phaedra to Hippolytus (43-55) Hermione to Orestes (89-98) Medea to Jason (132-152)	Hon. Vill. 114
Oct. 17	Dramatic Lovers II the women of Greek drama	selected readings [Canvas]	Hon. Vill. 114
Oct. 24	Debate Week the trial of Paris	selected readings [Canvas]	Hon. Vill. 114

Oct. 31	Other Lovers love, marriage, and family	Canace to Macareus (121-131) Laodamia to Protesilaus (153-163) Hypermestra to Lynceus (164-172)	Hon. Vill. 114
Nov. 7	Final Project Workshop	prepare a draft	Hon. Vill. 114
Nov. 14	Historical Lovers Sappho and Sapphic love	Sappho to Phaön (173-185)	Hon. Vill. 114
Nov. 21	Presentations	prepare presentation	Hon. Vill. 114
Nov. 28	Thanksgiving Break		NO CLASS
Dec. 5	Study Days		NO CLASS

Students will be presented well in advance with discussion questions to consider for each primary source reading and, usually, a reading guide for any mandatory secondary readings. However, this course will be student-driven; therefore, students are expected to come to class prepared to ask questions and discuss about any element of the readings which intrigued them, puzzled them, etc.

Critical Dates

- Fri., Sept. 27** Parallel-o-Gram Pitch due on Canvas
- Sun., Oct. 13** Parallel-o-Gram Draft due on Canvas
- Sun., Oct. 27** Parallel-o-Gram due on Canvas
- Sun., Nov. 10** Letter Rough Draft due on Canvas
- Thu., Nov. 21** Letter Presentation in class
- Wed., Dec. 4** Letter Final Draft due on Canvas