

# OVERVIEW of the Tutorial

## *Love and Transformation: An Introduction to Ovid*



© R. A. LaFleur, Franklin Professor of Classics, Emeritus, University of Georgia [rev. 9/1/2018]

### A Brief Overview of the Tutorial

This independent tutorial will introduce you to the delight-filled verse of one of the most widely popular and influential (and easiest to read!) of all the Roman poets, Publius Ovidius Naso, “Ovid.” Your work in the tutorial will involve the following:

- careful reading in Latin and translation into English of selections from Ovid’s masterfully narrated, quasi-epic compendium of myths, the *Metamorphoses*, and his spritely love poems, the *Amores*
- an overview of Ovid’s life and works, and his influence on later art and literature
- an introduction to Latin metrics, scansion of the meters known as dactylic hexameter and elegiac couplet, and expressive oral reading
- an examination of the poetic, rhetorical, and metrical devices and figures of speech commonly employed by Ovid and other classical Latin poets

Your principal objectives in this tutorial should be to acquire the ability 1) to read, comprehend, and translate Ovid’s poetry with some facility, 2) to scan and expressively read aloud dactylic hexameter and elegiac couplet, and 3) to appreciate and discuss the literary and poetical qualities of Ovid’s verse. Secondly, you should have gained some familiarity with the historical and literary context of his work and its extensive influence.

If you approach your work with enthusiasm and determination, I am confident that you will find this introduction to Ovid a valuable and enjoyable learning experience. It is my sincere hope that the tutorial will serve your interests well and that together we will enjoy savoring what one 18<sup>th</sup> century writer termed Ovid’s “infinite variety of inimitable excellencies”!

*Et quod temptābam scribere versus erat.*

**And whatever I attempted to write became verse.**

**Ovid *Tristia* 4.10.26**

## The Textbooks

The required readings for this tutorial include the basic text *Love and Transformation: An Ovid Reader* (2d ed.) and Sara Mack's *Ovid* (a lucid and sensitive introduction to the poet for the generalist), as well as the supplementary notes in my course-guide. The readings in Mack should adequately provide the background on Ovid's life and works that would normally be developed through classroom lectures and reports, while the *Love and Transformation* text presents selections for reading, translation, and discussion from the *Metamorphoses* and the *Amores*. Both books should be easily and inexpensively available from AMAZON and other online booksellers.

*Wheelock's Latin* and the exercises in Comeau and LaFleur's *Workbook for Wheelock's Latin* are recommended for basic grammar review and reference (for ordering and ancillary resources, visit [www.wheelockslatin.com](http://www.wheelockslatin.com)).

## Preparing Assignments

Each of the 12 lessons in this tutorial contains discussion and detailed reading and written assignments. The reading assignment includes selections from Ovid in Latin, as well as discussion material in the textbooks and/or the course-guide. Only a portion of your work for each lesson will actually be typed and emailed to me (directly in the body of your email, or if you much prefer in a commentable WORD document). This work will generally consist of 1) your translation of a portion of the Latin assigned to be read, 2) your scansion of selected lines from those assigned for reading, and 3) short answer and discussion questions. Obviously you should avoid use of published or online translations, answer keys, teacher's guides, or any such resources, whatever the source. Whatever questions you may have that do not seem to be answered in either the textbooks or my tutorial guide should be emailed along with your written work. After reading your assignment, I will email it back to you, usually within a few days, with thorough feedback, including corrections, if any, follow-up discussion, etc.

The initial assignment has a listening-oral reading component: once you have emailed me that first assignment and I have returned it to you with my detailed comments, we will schedule an appointment for an hour-long telephone meeting (or an in-person meeting if you are in, or visiting, the Athens GA area), which will serve two purposes (a) to let us get better acquainted and (b) for me to provide you some assistance with expressive oral reading of Ovid's text, and, if necessary, with scansion. Additional, optional telephone meetings can be arranged for any of the subsequent lessons, should you wish, at the rate of \$25 per half-hour.

Scheduling is pretty much up to you, except that I STRONGLY RECOMMEND doing SOME reading from Ovid in Latin, *every single day*, even if only 10-15 minutes. And be aware that you must be prepared to invest the large amount of quality time that this tutorial will require

for success; you should expect to spend 10-12 hours per lesson, including time for thoughtful reading and translation of the assigned passages from Ovid and the chapters in Sara Mack's book, as well as answering discussion questions. If you were taking this tutorial as a course in a university classroom, you'd ordinarily be in class 3 hours/week for 15 weeks = 45 hours, and typically students need 2 hours of study/preparation time outside of class for each hour in, which means another 90 hours, for a total of ca. 135 hours. Decide how many weeks you'll spend in the tutorial and do the math: if you want to finish in 12 weeks (the fastest allowable schedule, given the limit I set of *one lesson per week*), for example, expect to spend up to 12 hours per week on the work; if you wish to do only one lesson per month, then you'll finish in a year. (*And I should add that if it appears a student is not making adequate progress, I reserve the unrestricted right to terminate the tutorial, refunding payment for any assignments not completed.*)

### **Websites**

A wealth of information on Ovid is available online, of course. Some specific sites will be referenced in the individual lessons and are also linked on my Tutorials website at <http://wheelockslatin.com/tutorials/ovid/ovid.html>.

### **Optional Examinations**

Detailed information about the *optional* midterm and final examinations is provided in the course-guide, immediately following Lessons 7 and 12. These two exams are comprehensive in nature and designed with the assumption that all the requirements of each lesson have been satisfied, not merely the written work.