

Latin Texts: Catullus

Dr Gail Trimble

HT 2026

Week 1: Friends, enemies and poetry

Catullus' cast of contemporary characters, including fellow poets, political figures, and the perpetrators of various social 'crimes'. Connections between social values and literary values.

Week 2: Love, hate and poetry

Lesbia, Juventius, Ipsiilla, Furius and Aurelius, love, sexuality and hate. Approaching the relationship between emotion in Catullus' poetry and some of the literary forms and allusive techniques he seems to use to express it.

Week 3: Cycles and collections

Possible ways of grouping or connecting the poems in Catullus' eclectic corpus, and the question of whether the whole collection or any part of it preserves an arrangement by Catullus himself. Evidence for Catullus as one of the 'neoterics'.

Week 4: The long poems

A deep dive into poems 61 and 62 (wedding songs), 63 (an anti-hymn), 64 (an epic), and 65–68 (elegy meets letter, translation, satire, and then invents love elegy).