

**Ovid: *Heroides*, *Tristia*, Catullus 64**  
**Dr G Trimble**  
**HT 2024**

This lecture course will take a thematic approach to *Tristia* 1 and the single and double *Heroides* set for the Ovid paper, and will also look at Catullus 64. The lecture in week 5 could also be useful to students of the Mods Texts and Contexts paper or to anyone else wanting to know more about Catullus 64.

### **1 Letters**

Epistolarity and its characteristic forms and effects. Other ancient literary letters, especially Horace's. Men's and women's letters. Letter-writing and speech.

### **2 Books**

The poetry as literary text and abiding physical object. Links between and arrangement of poems. *Tristia* 1 and Ovid's earlier works. Love elegy. Images for Ovid's relationships with his books.

### **3 Readers**

Addressees and other readers. The possibility of Augustus. Heroines as both readers and writers: dialogue. What the reader may or may not know. The author's attempts to control the reader.

### **4 Authors**

The heroines and heroes as authors, not just letter-writers. Their self-presentation, and their presentation by Ovid. Ovid's persona in the exile poetry as sufferer, frustrated lover, weak author.

### **5 Catullus 64**

A one-hour crash course.

### **6 Ovid and Catullus 64**

Why is a poem by Catullus set as a beta text for the Ovid paper? What did Ovid (and other Latin poets) learn from Catullus 64?

### **7 Myth**

Allusions to specific literary versions of the *Heroides* myths, and new angles on them. Mythical comparisons in *Tristia*. Contrasting modernity. Myths are unstable, but their endings are fixed.

### **8 Exile**

Evidence for Ovid's exile and its causes. The effects of absence and distance in both collections. The journey in *Tristia* 1. The sea and storms. Problems of fictionality.