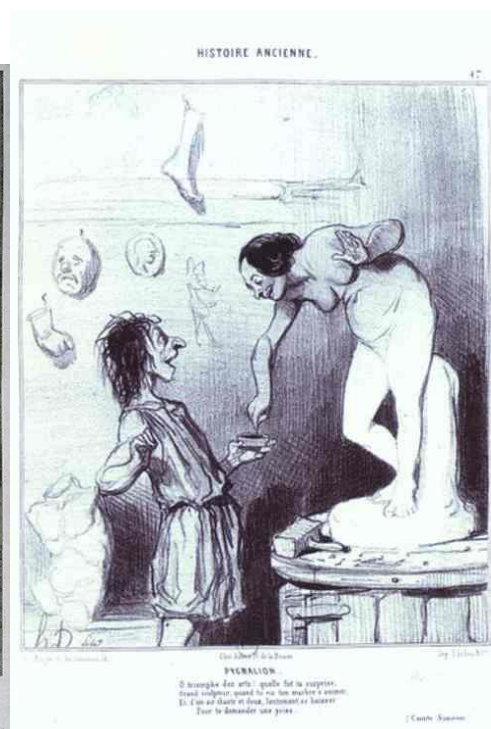


# ENGL 425 Classical Traditions: The Metamorphoses of Ovid

**Trimester 1 2014**

3 March to 2 July 2014

**30 Points**



Two versions of Pygmalion and his statue: by Antoine Denuelle, 1778; by Gustave Daumier, 1842

## IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 3 March to 6 June 2014

Easter/Mid-Trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Last assessment item due: 16 June 2014

Withdrawal Dates: Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds). If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

## CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

### Seminars

Tues                    2.00 – 4.50 pm                    Von Zedlitz VZ808

## NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff	Email	Phone	Room	Office Hours
Geoff Miles	<a href="mailto:geoff.miles@vuw.ac.nz">geoff.miles@vuw.ac.nz</a>	463 6809	VZ 906	TBA

## COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Course information will be communicated in class and posted on the Blackboard website. Email may also be used for urgent announcements; if you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

## PRESCRIPTION

A cross-disciplinary study of a central classical text, Ovid's epic poem *Metamorphoses*, and its afterlife in English literature from the middle ages to the early 21st century. No knowledge of classical languages assumed.

## COURSE CONTENT

In 2014 the course will focus specifically on a single Ovidian story, that of Pygmalion and his statue (Galatea). After a general introductory survey of the *Metamorphoses*, and a closer study of Book 10 (in which the Pygmalion story appears), we will trace English versions, adaptations, offshoots, and reinterpretations of the Pygmalion story from the middle ages through to the present day. We will explore the changing readings of this simple but multi-faceted story in relation to love and sexuality, gender politics, religion, art, science, social class and education. Some attention will be paid to major versions of the story in other European languages, and to film and television offshoots from *Metropolis* to *Ruby Sparks*.

## COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLO's)

Students who pass this course should be able to

1. demonstrate a close knowledge of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and conduct an informed discussion of its influence on English literature;
2. demonstrate both a wide and deep understanding of a range of English texts, from various periods, dealing with the Pygmalion story, and able to conduct comparative discussions of them;
3. construct a sophisticated discussion, drawing on various critical positions, of the interpretation of the Pygmalion story by English writers and other creators of texts.

## TEACHING FORMAT

The course is taught in weekly 3-hour seminar sessions. You should come to each session having carefully read the assigned material for that session and prepared to fully participate in class discussion. In addition, each student will be required to do a 15-20 minute presentation at one of the sessions, which will form part of your course assessment (see below). The course will be shaped to a large extent by the particular interests of its students; in particular, the choice of texts in the final sessions is up to the class, and you are encouraged to discover and bring along new material for discussion.

## MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, you must submit the essays and assignments on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work). You are expected to attend all seminars unless there is an overwhelming reason why you cannot do so. Failure to satisfy the course requirements will leave you with a fail grade.

## WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours per teaching week (i.e. 3 hours of class time plus 17 hours of personal reading, research, and assignment-writing). The actual distribution of workload will of course vary from week to week.

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment for the course is entirely internal.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Class presentation	15%	all	variable
2	Essay, around 2500 words	30%	1,2	15 April
3	Research proposal with annotated bibliography	15%	all	13 May
4	Research essay, around 4000 words	40%	all	16 June

Notes:

- **The class presentation** should be about 15-20 minutes, on a topic discussed in advance with me. It should serve as an introduction to class discussion and debate, and you should give me (by the Monday morning before the class) a list of questions for the class to discuss, which will be posted on Blackboard. A written-up version, which may be in 'note' form but should clearly set out arguments and evidence, should be submitted within a week of the seminar (date subject to negotiation!). Assessment will be based jointly on the oral and written versions.

- **The first essay** will be a close comparative discussion of the treatment of the Pygmalion story in Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and one other, pre-20th century English text.
- **Research project.** The 4000-word **research essay** itself, the major assessed item for the course, should be a discussion of some aspect of the Pygmalion tradition in English literature, normally drawing on at least three texts, together with critical and/or historical material. The **research proposal**, should be about 2 A4 sides, including an **annotated bibliography** containing 5-10 items; it should lay out the topic you propose to deal with, how you intend to approach it, and what earlier critical or historical materials you propose to draw upon.

All in-term work must be presented in accordance with the minimum standards outlined in the School's style sheet, which will be available on Blackboard.

**Please note:** Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Note also that Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made by the Honours programme examination committee.

#### SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Assignments are submitted in the drop slot outside the administration office: **von Zedlitz level 8**. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office. It is not necessary to hand in two copies (but you should, of course, keep a copy in case the assignment goes astray).

Your marked assignment will be handed back in class time or can be collected from my office (normally within three weeks of submission). Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the end of the course. Assignments will be held in the Administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the Administration office.

#### EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

##### Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. **No assignment without an extension will be accepted after Wednesday 25 June 2014.**

**The Course Coordinator will not give an extension beyond Wednesday 2 July 2014.**

**No assignment will be accepted after Wednesday 25 June 2014** (this is important to note in relation to the final research essay!).

## Penalties

Work submitted after the deadline without an extension will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

## SET TEXTS

Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, trans. A. D. Melville (Oxford World's Classics).

Geoffrey Miles (ed.), *Classical Mythology in English Literature: A Critical Anthology* (Routledge).

Shakespeare, *The Winter's Tale*, ed. Stephen Orgel (Oxford World's Classics).

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, ed. M. K. Joseph (Oxford World's Classics).

Bernard Shaw, *Pygmalion* (Penguin).

Richard Powers, *Galatea 2.2* (Atlantic Books).

Other readings (including extended versions of some of the texts excerpted in Miles) will be made available on Blackboard. There is no Student Notes reader for this course.

You can order textbooks online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz).

## RECOMMENDED READING

A bibliography will be provided on Blackboard.

## CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

## STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php).

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)
- School website: [www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms)

**COURSE PROGRAMME (PROVISIONAL)**

Week 1	Mar 4	Introduction to Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> , and Pygmalion; <i>Metamorphoses</i> book 1
Week 2	Mar 11	Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i> : a survey (books 2-6 and book 15)
Week 3	Mar 18	<i>Metamorphoses</i> book 10: Ovid's Pygmalion in context
Week 4	Mar 25	Pygmalion in the middle ages: Christianity and courtly love
Week 5	Apr 1	Renaissance Pygmalions, and Shakespeare's <i>Winter's Tale</i>
Week 6	Apr 8	Enlightenment and Romantic Pygmalions
Week 7	Apr 15	Uncanny Pygmalions: Shelley's <i>Frankenstein</i> and after <b>Essay 1 due</b>
<b>Mid Trimester Break:</b> Friday 18 April to Sunday 4 May 2014		
Week 8	May 6	19th century Pygmalions: idealism, satire, and the 'woman question'
Week 9	May 13	Shaw's <i>Pygmalion</i>
Week 10	May 20	Richard Powers, <i>Galatea 2.2</i>
Week 11	May 27	Contemporary Pygmalions (1).
Week 12	Jun 3	Contemporary Pygmalions (2). Conclusion
	Jun 16	<b>Research essay due</b>

Picture sources:

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pygmalion\\_\(Denneil\).jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pygmalion_(Denneil).jpg);

[http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fichier:Pygmalion\\_\(Daumier\).JPG](http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fichier:Pygmalion_(Daumier).JPG)