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## Dickinson College Commentaries

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### Ovid, *Amores* (Book 1)

 Read it online

WILLIAM TURPIN

From Catullus to Horace, the tradition of Latin erotic poetry produced works of literature which are still read throughout the world. Ovid's *Amores*, written in the first century BC, is arguably the best-known and most popular collection in this tradition.

Born in 43 BC, Ovid was educated in Rome in preparation for a career in public services before finding his calling as a poet. He may have begun writing his *Amores* as early as 25 BC. Although influenced by poets such as Catullus, Ovid demonstrates a much greater awareness of the funny side of love than any of his predecessors. The *Amores* is a collection of romantic poems centered on the poet's own complicated love life: he is involved with a woman, Corinna, who is sometimes unobtainable, sometimes compliant, and often difficult and domineering. Whether as a literary trope, or perhaps merely as a human response to the problems of love in the real world, the principal focus of these poems is the poet himself, and his failures, foolishness, and delusions.

The *Amores* were originally published in five books, but reissued around 1 AD in their current three-book form. This edition of the first book of the collection contains the complete Latin text of Book 1, along with commentary, notes and full vocabulary. Both entertaining and thought-provoking, this book will provide an invaluable aid to students of Latin and general readers alike. Turpin's commentary is also available online at <http://dcc.dickinson.edu/ovid-amores/preface>

### Cornelius Nepos, *Life of Hannibal*

Latin Text, Notes, Maps, Illustrations and Vocabulary

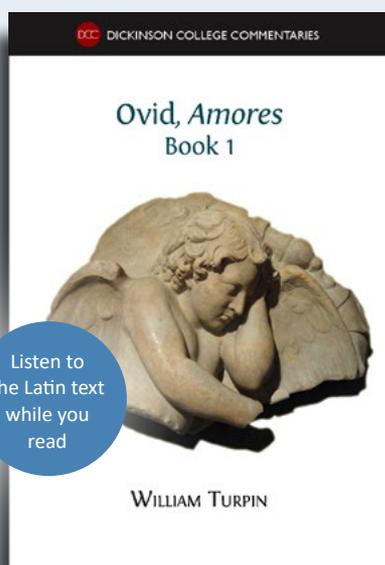
 Read it online

BRET MULLIGAN

As Rome completed its bloody transition from dysfunctional republic to stable monarchy, Nepos labored to complete an innovative and influential collection of concise biographies. Putting aside the detailed, chronological accounts of military campaigns and political machinations that characterized most writing about history, Nepos surveyed Roman and Greek history for distinguished men who excelled in a range of prestigious occupations. In the exploits and achievements of these illustrious men, Nepos hoped that his readers would find models for the honorable conduct of their own lives. Although most of Nepos' works have been lost, we are fortunate to have his biography of Hannibal. Nepos offers a surprisingly balanced portrayal of a man that most Roman authors vilified as the most monstrous foe that Rome had ever faced.

Nepos' straightforward style and his preference for common vocabulary make *Life of Hannibal* accessible for those who are just beginning to read continuous Latin prose, while the historical interest of the subject make it compelling for readers of every ability.

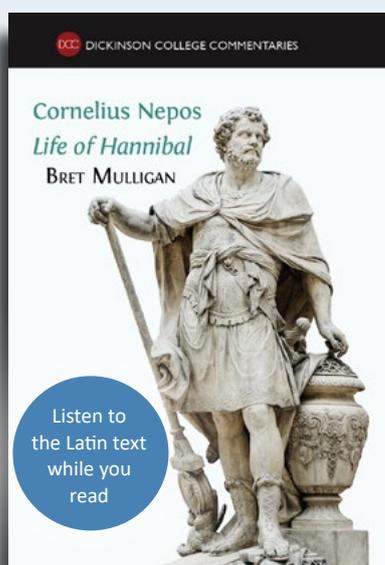
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# Classics Textbooks Series

## Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, 3.511-733

Latin Text with Introduction, Study Questions, Vocabulary Aid and Commentary

INGO GILDENHARD AND ANDREW ZISSOS

 Read it online

This extract from Ovid's 'Theban History' recounts the confrontation of Pentheus, king of Thebes, with his divine cousin, Bacchus, the god of wine. Notwithstanding the warnings of the seer Tiresias and the cautionary tale of a character Acoetes (perhaps Bacchus in disguise), who tells of how the god once transformed a group of blasphemous sailors into dolphins, Pentheus refuses to acknowledge the divinity of Bacchus or allow his worship at Thebes. Enraged, yet curious to witness the orgiastic rites of the nascent cult, Pentheus conceals himself in a grove on Mt. Cithaeron near the locus of the ceremonies. But in the course of the rites he is spotted by the female participants who rush upon him in a delusional frenzy, his mother and sisters in the vanguard, and tear him limb from limb.

The episode abounds in themes of abiding interest, not least the clash between the authoritarian personality of Pentheus, who embodies 'law and order', masculine prowess, and the martial ethos of his city, and Bacchus, a somewhat effeminate god of orgiastic excess, who revels in the delusional and the deceptive, the transgression of boundaries, and the blurring of gender distinctions.

This course book offers a wide-ranging introduction, the original Latin text, study aids with vocabulary, and an extensive commentary. Designed to stretch and stimulate readers, Gildenhard and Zissos's incisive commentary will be of particular interest to students of Latin at AS and undergraduate level. It extends beyond detailed linguistic analysis to encourage critical engagement with Ovid's poetry and discussion of the most recent scholarly thought.

## Cicero, *On Pompey's Command (De Imperio)*, 27-49

Latin Text, Study Aids with Vocabulary, Commentary, and Translation

INGO GILDENHARD, LOUISE HODGSON, ET AL.

 Read it online

This course book offers a portion of the original Latin text, study aids with vocabulary, and a commentary. Designed to stretch and stimulate readers, the incisive commentary will be of particular interest to students of Latin at both AS and undergraduate level. It extends beyond detailed linguistic analysis and historical background to encourage critical engagement with Cicero's prose and discussion of the most recent scholarly thought.

## Tacitus, *Annals*, 15.20-23, 33-34

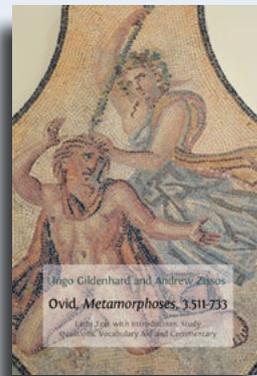
Latin Text, Study Aids with Vocabulary, and Commentary

MATHEW OWEN AND INGO GILDENHARD

 Read it online

*Affordable for anyone with access to the Internet (including a free printable version), this selection of excerpts from the Annals functions well for a college-level course of reading and interpreting Tacitus in Latin. [...] the overall approach for this edition has been to produce a very scholarly and thought-provoking textbook available to anyone regardless of cost. The philosophy of Open Book Publishers is part of a movement that is challenging the established publishing order not only in terms of price but in quality of scholarship, as this textbook proves [...]. With the source of this textbook housed on a website, any of these sections can be augmented, revised, and appended from day to day. Readers are allowed to comment on any paragraph, so the potential for interactive reading across geographical boundaries exists through this portal. This is the first textbook of this kind that I have encountered, and I hope it will not be the last of this caliber.*

—Andre Stipanovic, *Classical Journal online*



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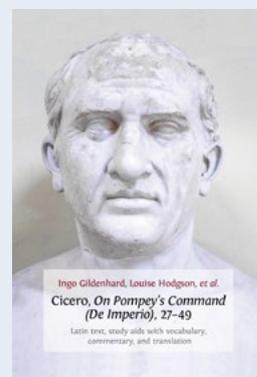
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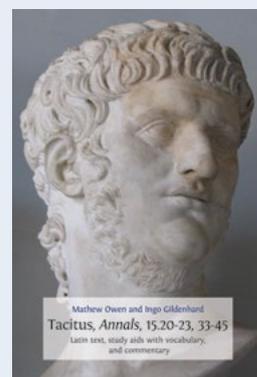
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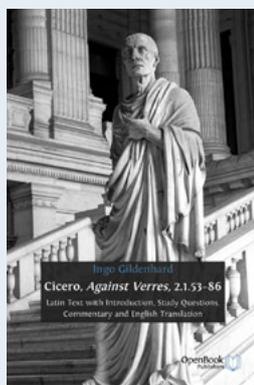
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## Virgil, *Aeneid*, 4.1–299

Latin Text, Study Questions, Commentary and Interpretative Essays

INGO GILDENHARD



*The commentary begins with a list of “study questions,” some of which are answered in the commentary proper [which includes] references to other relevant texts—the rest of the Aeneid, the Argonautica, Greek tragedy, and so on—and to scholarship. Gildenhard gives a lot of attention to meter and sound play, encouraging students to read aloud and to pay attention to the Latin itself, not just to the story. The story is hardly neglected, though, and there are many good observations.*

*After the commentary come four “interpretive essays,” one each on content and form, the historiographical Dido, allusion, and religion. [...] This exercise is beautifully done and should help students begin to understand what a scholarly commentary can do. [...] Gildenhard’s breezy style and highly detailed notes will challenge the more proficient students while not overwhelming those who are struggling.*

— Anne Mahoney, ‘Latin Commentaries on the Web’, *Teaching Classical Languages*

## Cicero, *Against Verres*, 2.1.53–86

Latin Text with Introduction, Study Questions, Commentary and English Translation

INGO GILDENHARD



*Everything about this book makes it immediately and brilliantly valuable and exciting for the student of Latin and Cicero, and teachers of A Level Latin have much reason to thank Professor Gildenhard.*

— Stephen Jenkin, *The Classics Library*

Looting, despoiling temples, attempted rape and judicial murder: these are just some of the themes of this classic piece of writing by one of the world’s greatest orators. This particular passage is from the second book of Cicero’s Speeches against Verres, who was a former Roman magistrate on trial for serious misconduct. Cicero presents the lurid details of Verres’ alleged crimes in exquisite and sophisticated prose.

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