

Texts and Contexts: Catullus
Dr Gail Trimble
TT 2025

These two lectures will examine the poems of Catullus set for Texts and Contexts in the context of the rest of Catullus' oeuvre and the social and literary world that it evokes.

Week 6: Friends, enemies and poetry

Catullus' cast of contemporary characters, including fellow poets, political figures, and the perpetrators of various social 'crimes'. The variety of genres in Catullus' collection (if it is one), and what we can learn about the literary culture of which it may have formed a part.

Week 7: Love, hate and poetry

Lesbia, Juventius, Ipsitilla, Furius and Aurelius, love, sexuality and hate. Approaching the relationship between emotion in Catullus' poetry and the literary forms and allusive techniques he seems to use to express it, including poem 64 as an emotional epic.