Latin lyric poetry is balanced between performing social functions, fulfilling the needs of patronage and the public on the one hand, and articulating an individual point of view on the other. Gift exchange is central to this paradox. With the focus on gift-exchange, this unit will consider the tension between the tradition of neoterics -- urbanity, polish, exclusivity - and the social and moral traditions of Rome (Stoicism, Epicureanism etc.) as they are expressed in the poems. Horace and Catullus worked in different circumstances, but for both poets, poems as an important part of friendship help create bonds of friendship and love that can involve both rivalry and conviviality. We shall read poems in the light of four major themes: the patronage problem, prayer and the gods, repaying debts, and poetry and conviviality. By examining both poems which themselves served as gifts and descriptions of gift-exchange in poetry, we can test the thesis that gift exchange mediates the realms of power and personal experience.

Upon completion of this unit, students will have a detailed knowledge of the lyrics written by Catullus and Horace, and a general understanding of their context in Republican and Augustan Rome. They will have developed their skills in translating and interpreting Latin poetry, and in scanning Latin metre. They will also have developed their written and oral communication.

Contact hours and mode of teaching: 3 hours per week, reading classes and seminars. Pre-requisites: students must have completed Latin Level B or the equivalent.

Set text and recommended editions:
Catullus: Carmina: 1, 5, 9, 11-14, 24, 25, 27, 28, 34, 42, 44, 50, 64, 65, 68, 76, 87, 93, 101, 107, 110, 116;
Horace: Odes Book 1, poems 1, 3, 6, 9, 11, 12, 16, 19-22, 26; Book 2, poems 4, 6, 12, 17; Book 3, poems 4-6, 12, 13, 18, 22, 29, 39; Book 4, poems 2,3, 6, 8, 11, 15; Carmen Saeculare

Books required for purchase – you must own copies of the following books

Books recommended for purchase – you should consider buying one or two of these
Bowditch, Phoebe Lowell. 2001. Horace and the Gift Economy of Patronage, Berkeley
Commager, Steele. 1967. The Odes of Horace: a critical study, Bloomington
Putnam, Michael C. J. 2006. Poetic Interplay: Catullus and Horace, Princeton

Assessment: 1 essay of 2,500 words (2nd year) or 3,000 words (3rd year) length (50 marks) and 3 class tests of 45 minutes each (equally weighted, total 50 marks). One of the three class tests will be on unseen translation, on one piece of text 20 lines in length, without use of a dictionary. The other two class tests will be on prepared text translation (10-12 lines, 10 marks) and context/interpretation knowledge (15 marks), on one piece of text 20 lines in length (no reference texts will be allowed in this test).