

## Divine Sight and Daphne's Flight in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*

In this panel discussion, I will give an overview of an intermediate-level teaching unit on “Apollo and Daphne” designed as an introduction to Latin poetry. With its many contrasts, this tale is especially engaging for intermediate students reading Ovid’s poetry for the first time. It is at once a story of desire and scorn, of flight and capture, of male and female, of divinity and humanity; all the while, Ovid combines poetic genres, employing dactylic hexameter and other epic conventions to craft the kind of elegiac love scene that gave him popular appeal. I will share discussion questions and reading techniques to help students appreciate how Ovid balances lighthearted playfulness with profound psychological insight. In addition, I will demonstrate how wordplay, allusion, and visual language can inspire a variety of activities: exploring other works of Ovid as well as the myth in English translation and modern poetry, reflecting on Ovid's legacy in the work of visual artists, and bringing Daphne to life in the school garden.