

Carnegie Mellon University Modern Languages Opening the Language Classroom: Public-facing courses and podcasts for diversity, equity, and inclusion

- NEALLT 2023
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### Classics and Hate

 Latin and the classical world have been coopted by hate groups.

**Podcasts** 

Discussion boards

YouTube/TikTok, etc.





"Proud Boys" members, Washington DC, Dec. 2020

### Ideologies in the classroom



Ideologies are infused in teaching, including racial ideologies in the language classroom

Modern interpretations of Romans as "White", "European"

Roman ethno-imperialist ideologies of biologically-endowed superiority over "inferior" peoples

Uncritical praise of Roman social structures

The Classics community is split on this issue

Is it our job to combat these ideologies?

Can we impose modern lenses on the ancient world?

### Ideologies in your classroom

- What unspoken, unaddressed assumptions and ideologies are infused in the pedagogical materials and public-facing resources for your language/culture?
- How would you (or do you) address those issues in your classroom?



# Why open courses?

Provide open access to knowledge

Connect people with resources related to a centralized course theme

Combat misinformation in other public-facing media

Reach a broader audience

Nontraditional format

Students can optionally participate

Cater to multiple different audiences at the same time

# The Senate and the Roman Peoples: On Diversity in the Ancient Mediterranean

- 5-week mini course
- Open, online, self-paced
- Discussion-focused
- Publicly-available materials preferred
- Three target audiences:
  - Laypeople with no pre-existing knowledge
  - Students of the classics
  - Teachers of the classics

## Planning

- Start with your desired learning outcomes
- Plan out your "learning steps" in a spreadsheet or table
- Link your materials in your planning document
- Estimate the amount of time for learners to complete each task
- Don't build in any publication venue yet

# Planning

	Gender roles			
4		Gender as a social construct, misogyny, toxic masculinity	page	
5		Growing up roman	<u>video</u>	25 min
6		Ordinary men	knapp ch 1	90 min
7		Ordinary women	knapp ch 2	80 min
8		Prostitution in Rome	Knapp ch 7	60 min
		Women as sexual objects for conquest	Ovid Ars Amatoria selections	
9		Appropriation of Ovid by modern pick-up-artists	article (Zuckerberg ch3)	80 min
	Heteronormativity			
10		Heteronormativity & gay erasure in the classics	brief page, article, article	40 min
11		Catullus' love poems to women (5, 7, 32)	literature	
12		Catullus' love poems to men (48, 50, 15)	literature	
13		Catullus 16: against toxic masculinity + article	literature + article	x + 10 min
14		Podcast with Miriam Kamil: gay erasure in Classics	podcast	30 min
	Summary activities			
15		Pop culture depictions, family structures	discussion	30 min
16		Reflection	written reflcetion	30 min
17		Diversity in teaching	lesson plan	60 min

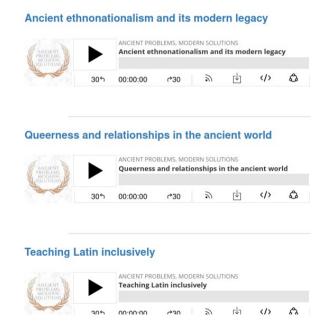
## Open courseware: publication avenues

- Massive Open Online Courses (e.g., Coursera, FutureLearn)
- Canvas Commons
- Personal websites
- Open Learning Initiative / your campus equivalent



# Making a podcast

- A subject-matter expert
- A loose script:
  - Questions that you know the other person can answer
  - What answers you're expecting to hear
- A microphone
- Audacity audio-editing program (or a more expensive one)



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## Podcasts - Publication venues

- Personal website (e.g. WordPress—anything with RSS, really)
- LibSyn.com
- Apple/Spotify/corporate podcasts

# Public engagement

- How can/do you engage with the wider public about common misconceptions affecting your field?
- Who else is addressing these problems in your field?

## Thank you!

 The Senate and the Roman Peoples: On Diversity in the Ancient Mediterranean https://learning.cmu.edu/enroll/KRDEKX

Ancient Problems, Modern Solutions podcast https://sites.libsyn.com/417605

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