



**Carnegie  
Mellon  
University**  
Modern  
Languages

## Opening the Language Classroom: Public-facing courses and podcasts for diversity, equity, and inclusion

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# Classics and Hate

- Latin and the classical world have been co-opted by hate groups.

Podcasts

Discussion boards

YouTube/TikTok, etc.



“Proud Boys” members, Washington DC, Dec. 2020

# Ideologies in the classroom

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- 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

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- 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?

# Open Courses: why and how?

# Why open courses?

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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	video	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, <a href="#">article</a> , <a href="#">article</a>	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 + <a href="#">article</a>	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 reflection	30 min
17	Diversity in teaching	lesson plan	60 min

# Open courseware: publication avenues

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

# Creating a podcast for your course

# 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)

## Ancient ethnonationalism and its modern legacy



## Queerness and relationships in the ancient world



## Teaching Latin inclusively



# Podcasts – Publication venues

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

# Public engagement

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- 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!

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- **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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