

Albert O. Greef Translation Award 2025

The Classics Department is pleased to announce this year's competition for the Albert O. Greef Translation Award for the best translations of passages from Greek and Latin literature. The competition is open to any student currently enrolled in a Greek or Latin course at the University of Kansas. This award includes a cash prize.

Submissions will be handled through the Classics Competitions Canvas site. If you wish to participate, please contact Paul Touyz (touyz@ku.edu) by **Friday, April 4** to be added to the site. **Deadline for submission is Monday, April 7.**

The competition is judged anonymously, so please be sure to remove all identifying markers from your entry.

Students may compete in either or both Greek and Latin, and may consult dictionaries, commentaries, and even other translations. Submissions will be judged for originality, literary quality, and overall effectiveness. The aim of the competition is to look beyond classroom translations and to encourage instead a deeper, more creative level of engagement with the selected passages. For discussion about the difference between classroom and literary translations, you can read this short essay: <https://eidolon.pub/the-twists-and-turns-of-translation-33f1272dffa8>

The Greek and Latin passages for 2025 are attached below. This year both passages relate to the Orpheus and Eurydice myth. The Greek is taken from Euripides' *Alcestis*, while the Latin is from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*.

Greek

Euripides *Alcestis* 340-368

Addressing Alcestis before she dies, Admetus laments the loss of such a good wife and pledges to live out his days in mourning.

σὺ δ' ἀντιδοῦσα τῆς ἐμῆς τὰ φίλτατα
ψυχῆς ἔσωσας. ἄρα μοι στένειν πάρα
τοιᾶσδ' ἀμαρτάνοντι συζύγου σέθεν;
παύσω δὲ κώμους συμποτῶν θ' ὀμιλίας
στεφάνους τε μοῦσάν θ' ἢ κατεῖχ' ἐμούς δόμους.
οὐ γάρ ποτ' οὔτ' ἂν βαρβίτου θίγοιμ' ἔτι
οὔτ' ἂν φρέν' ἐξάραμι πρὸς Λίβυν λακεῖν
αὐλόν· σὺ γάρ μου τέρψιν ἐξείλου βίου.
σοφῆ δὲ χειρὶ τεκτόνων δέμας τὸ σὸν
εἰκασθὲν ἐν λέκτροισιν ἐκταθήσεται,
ᾧ προσπεσοῦμαι καὶ περιπτύσσω χέρας
ὄνομα καλῶν σὸν τὴν φίλην ἐν ἀγκάλαις
δόξω γυναῖκα καίπερ οὐκ ἔχων ἔχειν·
ψυχρὰν μὲν, οἶμαι, τέρψιν, ἀλλ' ὅμως βάρος
ψυχῆς ἀπαντλοίην ἂν. ἐν δ' ὀνειράσιν
φοιτῶσά μ' εὐφραίνεις ἂν· ἡδὺ γὰρ φίλους
κάν νυκτὶ λεύσσειν, ὄντιν' ἂν παρῆ χρόνον.
εἰ δ' Ὀρφέως μοι γλῶσσα καὶ μέλος παρῆν,
ὥστ' ἢ κόρην Δήμητρος ἢ κείνης πόσιν
ὑμνοῖσι κηλήσαντά σ' ἐξ' Ἄιδου λαβεῖν,
κατῆλθον ἂν, καί μ' οὔθ' ὁ Πλούτωνος κύων
οὔθ' οὐπί κώπη ψυχοπομπὸς ἂν Χάρων
ἔσχον, πρὶν ἐς φῶς σὸν καταστῆσαι βίον.
ἀλλ' οὔν ἐκεῖσε προσδόκα μ', ὅταν θάνω,
καὶ δῶμ' ἐτοίμαζ', ὡς συνοικήσουσά μοι.
ἐν ταῖσιν αὐταῖς γάρ μ' ἐπισκήψω κέδροις
σοὶ τούσδε θεῖναι πλευρά τ' ἐκτεῖναι πέλας
πλευροῖσι τοῖς σοῖς· μηδὲ γὰρ θανῶν ποτε
σοῦ χωρὶς εἶην τῆς μόνης πιστῆς ἐμοί.

Latin

Ovid *Metamorphoses* 10.40-71

Orpheus wins over the gods of the Underworld with a rousing speech but fails to bring Eurydice back.

Talia dicentem nervosque ad verba moventem
exsanguis flebant animae: nec Tantalus undam
captavit refugam, stupuitque Ixionis orbis,
nec carpsere iecur volucres, urnisque vacarunt
Belides, inque tuo sedisti, Sisyphus, saxo.
Tunc primum lacrimis victarum carmine fama est
Eumenidum maduisse genas. Nec regia coniunx
sustinet oranti nec qui regit ima negare,
Eurydicenque vocant. Umbras erat illa recentes
inter et incessit passu de vulnere tardo.
Hanc simul et legem Rhodopeius accipit Orpheus,
ne flectat retro sua lumina, donec Avernas
exierit valles: aut inrita dona futura.
Carpitur acclivis per muta silentia trames,
arduus, obscurus, caligine densus opaca.
Nec procul afuerunt telluris margine summae:
hic, ne deficeret, metuens avidusque videndi
flexit amans oculos; et protinus illa relapsa est,
bracchiaque intendens prendique et prendere certans
nil nisi cedentes infelix arripit auras.
Iamque iterum moriens non est de coniuge quicquam
questa suo: quid enim nisi se quereretur amatam?
Supremumque "vale," quod iam vix auribus ille
acciperet, dixit revolutaque rursus eodem est.
Non aliter stupuit gemina nece coniugis Orpheus,
quam tria qui timidus, medio portante catenas,
colla canis vidit, quem non pavor ante reliquit,
quam natura prior, saxo per corpus oborto;
quique in se crimen traxit voluitque videri
Olenos esse nocens, tuque, o confisa figurae,
infelix Lethaea, tuae, iunctissima quondam
pectora, nunc lapides, quos umida sustinet Ide.