**Spring 2014 Heyman Center Friends/Carl Hovde Colloquium**

***Virgil and Ovid***

Tuesdays, 5.30-7.30 p.m.

Gareth Williams

*Course Description:*

This colloquium will be led by Gareth Williams, the Violin Family Professor of Classics. The overriding objectives of the course will be to explore (i) the social, political and cultural context in which Virgil’s *Aeneid* and Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* were composed at Rome in the very late first century BCE; (ii) the ways in which these two seminal works of the surviving Latin literary tradition of in thematic tension with each other, offering competing commentaries on the regime of the emperor Augustus; and (iii) the enduring value and relevance that both works have as texts that touch on so many issues of twenty-first century socio-cultural and political experience. We shall revisit the *Metamorphoses* in the 2004 Penguin translation of David Raeburn, with an excellent introduction by Dennis Feeney of Princeton University; and for the *Aeneid,* we shall use Allen Mandelbaum’s elegant verse translation (Bantam, 1961 and often reprinted thereafter). Further suggestions for secondary reading are available upon request.

**Syllabus**

January 28: Introduction to the Aeneid; analysis and discussion of Books 1-4.

February 11: *Aeneid* Books 5-8.

February 25: *Aeneid* Books 9-12.

March 11: Introduction to the *Metamorphoses*; analysis and discussion of Books 1-5.

April 1: *Metamorphoses* Books 6-10.

April 22: *Metamorphoses* Books 11-15.

April 29: Make-up class should it be required.