



LATI 103
Introduction to Latin
SUMMER TRIMESTER 2008/9

CRN 8308

School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies
Old Kirk, 5th floor

Course Organisation

Lecturer: James McNamara (course co-ordinator)
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Office hours: Mon, Tues Thurs, Fri 9 - 10 am and 12 -1 pm.

Timetable: LATI 103 meets four days per week:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at **10:00-11:50 am** in **MY 632** for five weeks from 5 November to 19 December 2008.

The last test (see **assessment** section) will be scheduled during examination week (11-15 February).

Any additional information or information on changes will be announced in class and posted on the noticeboards on the 5th floor of Old Kirk.

Course Aims and Objectives

This course aims to provide students with a general knowledge of the Latin language and, more importantly, the tools with which to read and understand simple Latin. We cover roughly one third of the basic grammar and syntax of Latin.

This is an introductory level course and is designed to give students who wish to continue with Latin the necessary level of competence to take LATI 104. Both LATI 103 and LATI 104 are prerequisites for taking Latin at 2nd-year level.

A student who has successfully completed LATI 103 and 104 will have read unadapted passages of classical Latin and, with the aid of a dictionary, will be able to read the more straightforward passages of Latin authors.

The main focus will be on reading, understanding and translating Latin into English. Emphasis is placed on understanding morphology, grammar and syntax within a literary context. Students who pass this course should have a sound comprehension of the elements of Latin.

Course Requirements

There are no mandatory course requirements for LATI 104, however it is strongly recommended that students attend at least 90% of classes. The cumulative process of language learning requires constant application and it is difficult to catch up on frequent non-attendance and non-completion of preparatory work (see workload statement).

Assessment

The assessment in this course aims to establish the extent to which a student can demonstrate her or his developing knowledge of the Latin language. Assessment is designed to help the student and the lecturer evaluate progress in three key areas as well as to provide a final grade. The main areas to be tested are: (i) learning of vocabulary and grammar; (ii) understanding of how vocabulary and grammar are used, tested by the translation of simple sentences of Latin to English or English to Latin; and (iii) application of the student's knowledge, by translating longer passages from Latin into English.

This course is 100% internally assessed. All assignments must be submitted by the due date and tests must have been taken on the day set, unless there are medical or other demonstrable extenuating circumstances. Variances will be considered upon application—preferably before the event.

The internal assessment itself may be broken down as follows:

SHORT TESTS: 30%

Three 30-minute tests will be completed in class on the dates designated in the schedule below. Each will count for 10% of the total marks of the course. These tests are primarily intended to reinforce the recent grammar and vocabulary learned on a regular basis, though some revision of earlier material may be necessary.

TAKE HOME ASSIGNMENTS: 30%

Two assignments are to be completed outside class and handed in on the dates designated below. Each will count for 15% of the total marks of the course. Written work submitted as part of the internal assessment of this course should be handed to me or deposited in the Assignment Box (located next to OK 508). Do not place written work in lecturers' pigeonholes or under people's doors. Work must be handed in by 5 pm on the day due. You will incur a 5 mark a day penalty per weekday for the late submission of work. Plagiarised work will not be accepted (see below on plagiarism). Emailing assignments to James is fine as long as they are sent before 5pm on the due day.

BIG TESTS: 40%

Two long tests, each 60 minutes in duration, are to be completed in class on the dates designated below. Each will count for 20% of the total marks of the course.

All assessment will be graded and returned to students in the following class where possible.

In order to pass LATI 103 students must attain a total of at least 50% over all assessments.

Relationship between assessment and course objectives

The assessment and internal course work (including non-assessed exercises & drills) are designed to allow both student and lecturer to evaluate progress in accomplishing the objectives of the course. As a result, you are expected to learn vocabulary, to prepare for, to attend, and to participate in classes.

Learning Latin - Workload and Methods

PREPARATION FOR CLASS: Learning languages is a cumulative process. Each step builds on the previous one and is consolidated through practice. It is highly recommended that students attend and participate in all classes and complete all preparation for each class. Do not get left behind! If you 'take a rest' for even just half a week, you may not be able to catch up afterwards. If you *do* keep up, of course, you are likely to enjoy success.

The single most beneficial thing you can do in learning a language is to work on it every day. Beginning language courses require constant learning, practice and revision. I recommend that you put in 2-4 hours daily, in addition to class time. The assessment consists of several short tests and assignments, rather than one larger final examination, to encourage you to prepare, practise and revise regularly.

HOMEWORK: You must prepare the translations and exercises assigned for each class. It is your responsibility to see that you understand by the end of each class what errors you have made in your preparation and why. Don't be afraid to ask questions! You are unlikely to be the only one confused, so please ask in class if you don't get it.

EXERCISES: For each lesson there are exercises at the end of the book which give practice on Latin grammar and morphology. You are responsible for learning the paradigms, forms and vocabulary in the lessons as well. There is also a Reference Grammar section with tables that summarise all of the word-forms that you need to know. The more practice you get, the more comfortable you will be with the material. We will do most of the exercises in class, and you are expected to attempt answers.

PRACTICE: Reading over Latin can only get you so far and it will prove fruitless to hope that information will transfer itself into your brain by osmosis. It always pays to write things down, to draw up lists and tables, to ask and answer questions, to quiz a friend—in short, anything that promotes *active* engagement with the language.

Note that the *Oxford Latin Course* contains short supplementary passages on Roman culture in each lesson. While you will not be tested on any of this material, I strongly urge you to read these passages and to raise any questions that arise in class. One obvious goal of learning Latin is to gain an understanding of Roman civilisation.

It is a good idea to maintain a reference grammar of your own. Not only will your own Reference Grammar be laid out as you want it, so you can find what you are looking for much more quickly and understand it more easily, but also writing things out helps you learn them. Use a folder subdivided into sections (e.g. 'Nouns', 'Verbs', 'Miscellaneous', etc.) where you can add pages to each section as we cover more material. I know it sounds a bit like primary school, but coloured pens and highlighters really help a lot.

PREPARING A TRANSLATION: When you are asked to prepare a piece of Latin, this means that you should work your way thoroughly through it, looking up any words that you do not know and trying to understand how they fit together and what each sentence means. You should come to class ready to attempt to translate the Latin into English.

Preparation can be time-consuming. You will need to make a note of what each unfamiliar word seems to mean. There are different opinions about the best way to keep notes: some people just make a list of the unfamiliar vocabulary, for instance, while others write in the text, in pencil, the meaning of anything they have looked up.

Do not write out a separate English translation of the whole passage. Simply reading in class from your translation will do nothing for your grasp of Latin. In fact, you will be expected to translate in class without reading your translation.

It is advisable to make notes on any parts of the Latin you did not initially understand as we go over them in class. Going over previous class translations is a very useful way of preparing for tests, since doing so fixes the grammar and vocabulary in your mind, and helps you to develop a “feel” for the language.

VOCABULARY LEARNING: Learning vocab is the part of learning any language that takes the most discipline. It is ongoing, persistent, and inevitable. You can *never* afford to skimp on it. Spend 30-60 minutes after every class learning vocabulary. Learn words from the chapter covered that day (about 25 words/day) and make sure that you can still remember the vocabulary from a previous chapter, since these words carry on throughout the course. Ensure that you can translate both ways—Latin to English *and* English to Latin. Then you will be learning *actively*, rather than just recognising words *passively*. You are also very likely to be tested on your skills in translating from English into Latin. It will help to maintain your own vocab list. This way not only will you will have a full list of all the words you need to know, but the act of recording them will help you learn them.

Statement on Legibility

Students are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed illegible, the options are:

- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard within a specified time frame after which the penalty for a missed assessment will apply;
- if the student does not transcribe it to an acceptable standard, the work will not be marked and no credit will be awarded.

Set Text

M. Balme and J. Morwood (eds.), *Oxford Latin Course*, 2nd edition (Oxford University Press, 1996), Parts I and II. Parts II and III will be used in LATI 104.

If you are not familiar with English grammar and its terminology you may wish to purchase an inexpensive reference text available in the Classics Department office (see our administrative assistant, OK 508) written by Kathleen Loncar, *English Grammar: A short guide for English speakers who are learning another language*. Students interested in general advice on learning languages may also wish to purchase *How to Learn Another Language: Insights for successful language learning* by Sara Cotterall and Alison Hoffmann from Student Notes (\$5.30).

General University Statutes and Policies

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Student and Staff Conduct
- Academic Grievances
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

LATI 103

Summer 2008/9 Proposed Schedule

OXFORD LATIN COURSE: PARTS I & II

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|----|--------------------|--|--|
| in | <p>WEEK ONE:</p> | <p>Mon 17 Nov Tue 18 Nov Thur 20 Nov Fri 21 Nov</p> | <p>Introduction, chapter 1 Chapter 2 and grammatical concepts English. Chapter 3 Chapter 4; Short test 1 (10%) chh. 1-3 and basic grammatical concepts.</p> |
| | <p>WEEK TWO:</p> | <p>Mon 24 Nov Tue 25 Nov Thur 27 Nov Fri 28 Nov</p> | <p>Chapter 5 Chapter 6 Chapter 7 Short test 2 (10%); chapter 8</p> |
| 10 | <p>WEEK THREE:</p> | <p>Mon 1 Dec Tue 2 Dec Thur 4 Dec Fri 5 Dec</p> | <p>Chapter 9 Assignment 1 due (15%); Chapter Chapter 11 BIG TEST 1 (20%); Chapter 12</p> |
| | <p>WEEK FOUR:</p> | <p>Mon 8 Dec Tue 9 Dec Thur 11 Dec Fri 12 Dec</p> | <p>Chapter 13 Chapter 14 Chapter 15 Short test 3 (10%); Chapter 16</p> |
| 17 | <p>WEEK FIVE:</p> | <p>Mon 15 Dec Tue 16 Dec Thur 18 Dec Fri 19 Dec</p> | <p>Assignment 2 due (15%); Chapter Chapter 18 Chapter 19 BIG TEST 2 (20%)</p> |
| | <p>WEEK SIX:</p> | <p>NO CLASSES</p> | |