LATI 103

Introduction to Latin

TRIMESTER 1 2015

SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS & RELIGIOUS STUDIES

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
CLASSICS PROGRAMME
LATI 103: INTRODUCTION TO LATIN

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 2 March to 1 July 2015

Teaching dates: 2 March to 5 June 2015

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 3–19 April 2015

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 1.10-2.00 pm

Alan MacDiarmid Building 106

Names and contact details

Course Coordiator:

Babette Puetz, OK 513

Phone 463 7407

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Office hour: TBA

Classics Administrator:

Hannah Tokona, OK 508

hannah.tokona@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

Any further announcements concerning the course will be announced in class and communicated to students on the Classics notice board on the corridor of Level 5 Old Kirk.

Prescription

An introduction to the Latin language for beginners, with emphasis on the acquisition of basic reading skills.

Course content

LATI 103 aims to provide students with a general knowledge of Latin, and more importantly, the tools with which to read and understand simple Latin. This is an introductory course, and we cover roughly 40% of basic Latin grammar and syntax. The main focus will be on reading, understanding and translating Latin into English.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of basic Latin vocabulary, morphology and syntax;
2. read and translate basic Latin sentences into English;
3. identify and discuss basic linguistic concepts for Latin; and
4. continue the study of Latin in LATI 104.

Teaching format

This course is taught via a seminar format in which the lecturer explains Latin grammar, vocabulary and translation as necessary. Students will participate in all activities, including reading and translating sentences and passages and writing answers on the board. Students are expected to bring all homework exercises, completed in advance, to class.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. attempt all 4 tests
2. hand-in the take-home assignment
3. achieve at least 40% in the final test.

Workload

Students should expect to spend about 200 hours in total on a 20-point course. Because there is no examination for this course, this equates to **sixteen hours per week** for the average student. This includes **four hours in class** and **twelve hours of independent study** (three hours per class). Note that this is only a guideline! Approximately two hours per week will be taken up with preparation for tests or completion of assignments.

See below, **Learning a language**, on the different tasks which should make up your independent study time.

Learning languages is a cumulative process. Each step builds on the previous one and is consolidated through practice. There is no attendance requirement for this course. However, **students who do not attend and participate in at least 80% of classes should not expect to succeed.**

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 a day, you may not be able to catch up afterwards. If you *do* keep up, of course, you are likely to enjoy success.

Learning a language

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 shorter 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 understand something.

Exercises: For each lesson there are exercises 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.

Many students find it very helpful to form study groups.

Note-keeping: 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: 'Preparing' a piece of Latin means working 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 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 pre-paring 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 10 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. 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.

Assessment

LATI 103 is **100% internally assessed**.

	Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	4 tests, 20 minutes each, focusing on translation of Latin passages into English, some English into Latin, grammar and vocabulary. Each test will assess your understanding of all the material covered so far, especially of the previous 2 weeks since the last test. You must attempt all 4 tests to receive a pass in the course.	60% (15% each)	1, 2, 3, 4	Tuesdays of week 2, 6, 8, 10
2	1 take-home assignment, focusing on translation of Latin passages into English, some English into Latin, grammar and vocabulary.	15%	1, 2, 3 ,4	Monday, 20 April 2015
3	Final test, 50 minutes, focusing on translation of Latin passages into English, some English into Latin, grammar and vocabulary.	25%	1, 2, 3, 4	Friday, 5 June 2015

Marking criteria: Students are being assessed on accurate knowledge of Latin. Partial credit will be given for incorrect answers which nevertheless demonstrate correct understanding of Latin language.

At this stage in students' language learning, accurate translation of Latin is more important than refined English; "translationese" is acceptable.

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 (preferably typed) within a specified time frame after which penalties will apply;
- 🖉 the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) and lateness penalties apply;
- 🖉 if the student does not transcribe it to an acceptable standard, the work will be accepted as 'received' (so any associated mandatory course requirements are met) but not marked.

Submission and return of work

Students must sit the tests in class on the set days. Marked tests will usually be returned in the next class (barring unforeseen circumstances).

Extensions

Students should contact the course coordinator as soon as they are aware of any issue with sitting the tests on the set days. Extensions and opportunities for make-up tests will be granted within reason in cases of exceptional circumstances.

Set Text

Kitchell, Jr., Kenneth F. and Thomas J. Sienkewicz. *Disce! An Introductory Latin Course*, Volume 1 (Prentice Hall). Available from Vic Books.

Students continuing with Latin will need Volumes 1 and 2 of *Disce!* for LATI 104.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details below:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progess (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin

- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz