

# LATI 103

## Introduction to Latin

TRIMESTER 1 2016



'Interior of Diocletian Baths, Rome - constructed 298-305 CE'

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 2016

### Key dates

**Trimester dates:** 29 February to 29 June 2016

**Teaching dates:** 29 February to 5 June 2016

**Easter break:** 24–30 March 2016

**Mid-trimester break:** 25 April to 1 May 2016

**Study period:** 6–9 June 2016

**Examination/Assessment Period:** 10–29 June 2016

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds).

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)).

### Class times and locations

*Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 3:10 – 4pm in AM 102*

### Names and contact details

*Course Coordinator: Julia Simons*

*Email: [juliasimons01@gmail.com](mailto:juliasimons01@gmail.com)*

*Phone: 463-8044*

*Office Hours: Fridays 2.10-3pm OK519*

### Communication of additional information

*Any additional information will be posted on the Noticeboards in the Classics Programme Foyer (Level 5, Old Kirk Building) and on the courses Blackboard page.*

## Prescription

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

## 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.

## 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.	60% (15% each)	1, 2, 3, 4	Friday 18 March, Friday 1 April, Friday 22 March, Friday 13 May
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	Friday 25 May
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 3 June

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 and Penalties

All in-term tests must be taken on the day set (or turned in on the specified day in the case of the take-home assignment), unless there are medical or other demonstrable extenuating circumstances. Variances will be considered upon application—preferably before the event.

## Set texts

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.

Both can be purchased from Vic Books. <http://www.vicbooks.co.nz>

## 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.

## Student feedback

We have carefully reviewed feedback and results from student evaluations of past iterations of LATI 103. These were largely positive, with no salient suggestions for changes to the course. Thus we are continuing to offer LATI 103 in its present form. Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at [www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)

- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)