

LATN 201-01, Intermediate Latin, Spring 2011

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Latin 201-01: Intermediate Latin (*Quintus Famosus Poeta Romanus Fit*)

Carpe diem quam minimum credula postero...

Horace, *Odes* 1.11.8

SYLLABUS

General Information

- Meeting Time: MWF 11:00-11:50 and T 6:00-6:50 OR R 4:30-5:20
- Meeting Place: Palmer 208
- Instructor: David Sick
- Office: Halliburton 407
- Office Hours: Wednesday, 12:00-1:00 p.m., in Halliburton 407; Friday, 3:00-4:00 p.m., *in Mediâ Terrâ*. (In campo paene cottidie adsum. Si tu mecum loqui vis, ad meum tablinum veni. Saepe tibi occurrere sine tempore constitutô mihi licet. Si occupabor, haec tibi dicam; igitur, te quaeso, noli esse iratus/a. constituere horam alteram pro conventionem poterimus.)
- Telephone: (901) 843-3907 (office), (901) 276-2261 (home). Licet tibi me domi vocare, si Horatius ab te somnio videtur.
- Degree Requirements: The course fulfills the tenth foundation in the Rhodes curriculum, namely to develop intermediate proficiency in a second language (F10).

Objectives

- o To promote the acquisition of the more complex structures of the Latin language by reading, writing, hearing, and conversing.
- o To complete a comprehensive survey of the grammar and syntax of the Latin language by introducing some of the more subtle elements of the language and by reviewing the more basic ones. Some of the grammatical items to be covered this semester will include indirect statement, the subjunctive mood and its uses, irrational tenses of the fifth dimension, and deponent verbs, conditional clauses, and gerundives.
- o To give students a sufficient grounding in the language so that they may be able to read any Latin author on their own with the use of a dictionary.
- o To expose students to a range of the types, authors, and styles of Latin literature and by

this exposure to increase students' knowledge of the position of this literature in the development of Western culture.

o To consider, discuss, and compose Latin poetry, in keeping with our study of Q. Horatius Flaccus

Approach

This is the third part of the three-part course; Latin 101 begins the introduction to the Latin language; Latin 102 continues it, and 201 completes it. With the successful completion of the course the student will have encountered most of the major grammatical and syntactical structures of Latin. The student should be relatively proficient in Latin and will have thus fulfilled the second language requirement at Rhodes. At the end of the semester, students who pass the course will receive a *SCIO LATINE* tattoo on any part of the body they so desire. Naturally, such branded students will be well prepared to take any of the upper-level Latin courses and will be strong candidates for the next Pontifex Maximus.

I plan to proceed at a pace that the class finds comfortable but allows the new material to be covered and previous material to be reviewed by the end of the semester. Our approach to the study of Latin will be rather straightforward: we will proceed steadily through our text. The innovation and diversity will come through the methods used in learning the concepts in each chapter. We will use various means in practicing each new aspect of the language we encounter. Sometimes we will compose and create in Latin; sometimes we will hold discussions; sometimes we will perform or recite ancient texts that demonstrate the concepts; sometimes we will translate passages from English to Latin, and always we will read and analyze the examples in your text. I do plan to introduce excerpts from the works of various ancient authors, as now you have had enough experience in the language to begin working with more challenging texts.

With about fourteen weeks of class and four class meetings per week, that gives us approximately 56 meetings. I do not put out a schedule of assignments for the entire semester but set the schedule each week in order to accommodate difficulties or facilities as they arise. Every Monday, (**beginning January 17**) I will update schedule of events on the course Moodle site and send it to you via e-mail; every Wednesday (**beginning January 19**) I will collect your written assignments; every Friday, (**beginning January 21**), there will be a brief exam covering the week's material.

(If you should foresee a prolonged absence on account of dire circumstances, see me, and I will give you a notion of the upcoming events for our class.)

The assignments and tests are not the only work in the class, however. To be successful in the acquisition of any second language, in this case Latin, your interaction with that language must be regular. The orderly organization of the class is intended to promote such frequent interaction, but you will still need to review and prepare vocabulary, readings, and exercises on your own in order to become comfortable with the language.

For example: I will review the material covered in each chapter in class, but you should, of course, read the discussions in Balme and Morwood, whether or not I specifically state as much in a particular class period. In other words, there is always *Latina perficienda*. In fact, since we will be moving through the book in a regular fashion, if I should be suddenly called away to find the final horcrux for HP, you should be able to prepare for the next class, even if I haven't told you specifically what to do.

The weekly exams in this class will include both the memorization of forms and the reading and translation of Latin. Generally, the Latin passages will be ones that you have not seen previously. On occasion they will contain questions of grammar or questions on Roman literature and culture, as we will be encountering more authors of different time periods, backgrounds, and genres. The exams will be about 20 minutes in length and will always occur at the end of the period. The assignments will often be exercises taken directly from the *Oxford Latin Course* but some will also come from other sources, including *mente Magistri Aegri*.

Hints

As you know by now, the study of Latin requires the memorization of a significant amount of material. I realize that memorization is not a skill that is particularly honored or cultivated in our society and that individuals' abilities to memorize vary. (How many U.S. presidents can you name? How many popes? How many Roman emperors?) Our approach, the inductive approach, where we use the target language in multiple ways and in multiple contexts, should help with the acquisition of vocabulary. Attempting to memorize and review material in the hour before class will be ineffective in the long run. The regular review and use of material for an hour or two each day is usually more effective. Placing vocabulary and grammatical items on note cards is one successful means of review. If you do not attempt to memorize the assigned materials, you will have difficulties in this class.

If you do fall behind in the class, despite my warnings, it will be very difficult to catch up, since the forms and grammatical and syntactical concepts always build on previous material and increase almost geometrically. If you miss one concept or fail to memorize one paradigm, it will be difficult to grasp the subsequent ones. If you find you are having a problem understanding the material or keeping up with the class, please come and see me during my office hours or at a mutually agreeable time.

Tutorials

Our sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays are essentially the lab component of the class. They are to be devoted to the practice of the concepts and characteristics introduced in the regular class sessions. Through conversation, recitation, reading, and other creative methods, we will induce familiarity with the structures of Latin. You should always bring Harnett's *By Roman Hands* to tutorial. The sessions will provide you with an excellent opportunity to practice your Latin and lessen the amount of time you will need to spend

outside of class. Attendance at tutorial sessions, as with all class sessions, is required. Furthermore, students are not only expected to attend but to make a positive contribution to each tutorial session. Because of this approach, students may attend either the Tuesday or the Thursday session in any given week of the class.

Final Exam

There will be a comprehensive final exam administered on **Tuesday, May 3, at 5:30 p.m.** (Quinto Die ante Nonas Maias, sub vesperem) and **Wednesday, May 4, at 8:30 a.m.** (Die Quarto ante Nonas Maias, prima luce). Students may take the exam at either of these times but no other. The objective of the exam is to allow students the opportunity to review all the material covered in the semester. Toward this end, the final will consist **mainly** of material taken **directly** from the weekly quizzes. Students therefore should keep their quizzes to use in preparation for the exam. The final exam is secondarily the ultimate arbiter of proficiency in the language.

Grading

The final grade for this class will be computed by weighting the following required components:

- Attendance, Preparation, and Participation: 15%
- Weekly Assignments: 32.5%
- Weekly Exams: 32.5%
- Final Exam: 20%

A Few Important Notes on Grading:

•I will drop the lowest exam score and the lowest assignment grade for each student.

*Late assignments and exams will be marked down by 3% per day beginning with the day itself (ipsa die).

*Assignments to be handed-in on Wednesdays are to be completed without the consultation of other members of the class, Latinists on campus, or sources other than those required for the class. This prohibition includes translations or commentaries found on the interwebs. Any violation of this policy constitutes an Honor Code violation.

*I will excuse absences for illnesses, other crises, and important extra-curricular events. **Students must notify me of their reason for absence**, however. Illness must be complete for the day of absence. Students may not attend other classes, extra-curricular activities, or social events on the day of absence. Assignments and exams must be completed prior to absence from class for extra-curricular activities or they will be penalized

accordingly.

*Students will also be given several chances to make-up unexcused absences by attending special events related to the class, the most notable of these will be *Mensa Latina* on Mondays from 12:00 to 1:30 in the North Dining Hall. *Mensa Latina* is dedicated to conversation **in** or **about** Latin. *Mensa Latina--est Aegra*. Students who come to Latin Table for at least one hour and who participate or at least listen attentively will be awarded one class credit.

*Students may accumulate up to 110% in attendance.

Course Materials

Balme, Maurice and James Morwood. *Oxford Latin Course* (Part III). 2nd edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996).

Hartnett, Matthew. *By Roman Hands: Inscriptions and Graffiti* (Newburyport, Mass.: Focus publishing, 2008).

a Latin/English & English/Latin dictionary; I recommend the dictionary by John Traupman available in the college bookstore.