

## CLAL 101 Beginning Latin (1<sup>st</sup> semester)



### Course Description

*Beginning Latin* introduces students to classical Latin. Students will become acquainted with the language, style, and grammatical and syntactical structures which form the core of classical Latin. Through a systematic and in-depth presentation of vocabulary and language forms students will develop their skills in the reading, comprehension, and translation of phrases and, eventually, short texts. Assisted by the instructor, students will also be encouraged to explore the impact of style and to discover the connections between the linguistic features of Latin and the modern languages which they have already mastered.

Apart from the exercises in our textbook, students who will begin Latin at CYA will have the opportunity to develop their language skills through additional quizzes, puzzles, and language-games designed especially for them. We consider active teaching and learning as vital in order to support and boost memorization and acquisition of this demanding but also fascinating language. Another innovative element of the course is that the material used will consist not only of literary sources but also of short inscriptions carved in a variety of media (e.g. stone, ostraca, vases) and simple texts written on coins and papyri.

### Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Read, analyze, and translate into fluent English simple texts of original classical Latin
- Identify the ways in which meaning is conveyed in Latin by analysis of language structures and comparison with English
- Access and evaluate appropriate resources, e.g. dictionaries, word lists, commentaries, grammar and syntax references, websites
- Utilize the acquired knowledge in order to proceed to independent translation of phrases and short texts
- Explain and discuss key features of the Roman world as learned through the study of language

## Course Requirements

The course assumes no previous knowledge of Latin or other inflected languages.

Latin is a demanding language and you are strongly encouraged to allow 2 hours per day for homework. In order to master Latin, it is important to introduce its study into your daily schedule. Studying every day will enhance your understanding, deepen and consolidate your knowledge and, of course, you will feel more confident as regards the tests and final exams. Thus, maintaining a systematic learning pace is crucial for the successful completion of this course.

## Tests and Exams

In this course you will have weekly quizzes after the completion of each book chapter, a midterm and the final exam. Quizzes will test your skills in grammar, syntax, and the translation of phrases and/or short passages from Latin into English and vice versa. In the midterm and final exams you will be asked to demonstrate your knowledge in a series of more composite exercises (translation, prose composition, syntax and vocabulary)

## Grading and Evaluation

Your grade for this course will be based on the following distribution:

30% Final

25% Midterm

30% Quizzes

15% Participation-Attendance

### Grading Scale:

A+ 100-98	B+ 89-87	C+ 79-77	D+ 69-67	F 59-
A 97-93	B 86-83	C 76-73	D 66-63	
A- 92-90	B- 82-80	C- 72-70	D- 62-60	

## Class Participation:

You are expected to participate in class, to speak up, to ask questions and contribute to the discussions. Collaborative discourse is a vital element of this course and thus you are encouraged to be curious, have different interpretations and, of course, share your thoughts. Your active participation in the classroom will be graded.

## Attendance:

Class attendance is required. Our course is designed to promote teamwork; one of its methodological tools is to create a small community among the co-students and the instructor who all strive to achieve a specific goal, while also having fun. Consequently your attendance is essential to the educational objectives of this course. Absences are recorded and have consequences. Illness or other such compelling reasons which result in absences should be reported immediately to the Student Affairs Office.

## Policy on Original Work:

Unless otherwise specified, all submitted work must be your own original work. Any excerpts from the work of others must be clearly identified as a quotation, and a proper citation provided. (Check Student handbook, pg 9)

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** If you are a registered (with your home institution) student with a disability and you are entitled to learning accommodation, please inform the Director of Academic Affairs and make sure that your school forwards the necessary documentation.

## **Books**

F. M. Wheelock, R. A. LaFleur, 2011. *Wheelock's Latin*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, Harper Collins Publishers: NY, Chapters 1-20

A. H. Groton, J. M. May, . *Thirty-eight Latin Stories*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, Designed to accompany Wheelock's Latin (6<sup>th</sup> ed. Revised), Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc.: Wauconda, Illinois, USA

## **Beginning Latin – Some Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What do I need to bring to this class?**

Your book, a notebook and a pen/pencil. Try not to forget your notebook: we will be working based on your own notes and homework exercises, so, if you leave it at home, you won't be able to integrate fully into the classroom experience.

Since we will often be using grammar and syntax charts, bring some color markers also! It has been shown that the use of colors triggers memory and it can improve your reading and learning comprehension!

A file folder will prove really useful to better organize the assignments that I will correct and return to you every week, and also the additional material that I will distribute in class. By organizing your materials, you will greatly increase your productivity for this class, save time, and thus feel more confident overall!

Most importantly! Come to class with a positive mood and a mind eager to learn! See each class as a unique chance to discover more, to practice your already acquired knowledge, and to communicate with your colleagues and your instructor!

### **Can I use electronic devices in class?**

Recent studies have demonstrated that the use of electronic devices can hamper the learning process for larger numbers of students and they have been related to poorer class performance. Moreover, research suggests that note-taking on laptops or other devices is less effective than when done by hand. Even having our cell phones on the table in front of us could diminish our learning opportunities!

This course encourages active learning and active student engagement via non-electronic means (e.g. games, student presentations, and co-operative techniques) and so the use of mobile phones, tablets, laptops and eBooks is not permitted during class.

### **What is the homework for this course?**

#### *Drills*

There will be many short-term drills assigned in class, which I will expect you to return to me in the next class. These exercises will be assigned to each student or to groups of students but either way they should be handed in on time.

The short-term drills will include:

- reading short sentences and/or short texts in Latin
- translating short sentences and/or short texts from Latin to English
- translating short sentences from English to Latin
- memorizing vocabulary
- memorizing grammar theory

- producing your own Latin, in terms of conjugating and/or declining parts of speech

## *Quizzes*

There will be a 20-30 min quiz each week. It will include all the material discussed during the previous week and no material presented during the current week (unless otherwise agreed between students and instructor). Of course we can add as many non-graded quizzes as you wish in order to practice your acquired skills.

Quizzes help you retrieve knowledge from memory, assess what you have learned, and measure your overall progress. In other words, they can provide you with strong motivation: try to view them not as a source of anxiety but as a tool to organize and retain successfully what you have learned.

## *Practice makes Perfect!*

Plan to spend 10 hours per week on average to complete the assignments. Try to devote some time *every day* to this course. Your everyday practice is important not only for the progress of each one of you individually but also so that you tune in with the rest of the learning team.

## **How can I succeed in this course?**

Although this is your very first contact with Latin, which suggests that lots of information will be directed from me to you, this class is designed to be as highly interactive as possible.

The key to the success for this course is PARTICIPATION. Participation can actually take many different forms:

Ask questions, answer questions, take notes, discuss with the instructor and your fellow students, contribute your ideas and thoughts, play the games that have been designed especially for this course, write on the board, cooperate with your fellow students, teach each other, feel inspired and inspire others!

Doing your homework will boost your participation: as you will see, many times the assigned exercises serve as the basis for the next day's discussion; if you have prepared them, you will feel more confident and more eager to participate.

## **3 Ways to get the most out of this class!**

- Read the Latin aloud as often as your living/studying condition allows
- Make Latin part of your daily routine! Do an assignment, even a small one, every day!
- Form a study group and meet up with other students to prepare for class