LATN 201, Letters from Rome, Autumn, 2019

Course Information
- Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 – 3:20 pm
- Location: Liberal Arts 420

Contact Information
- Instructor: Dr. Megan Bowen
- Office Hours: Mon. 1:00 – 2:00 pm, Tues. 3:30 – 4:30 pm, and by appointment
- Office: Liberal Arts 439
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Course Description
This course is designed to guide students through the difficult and rewarding transition from studying Latin in a textbook to reading unadulterated Latin literature with pleasure and fluency. It will advance students’ understanding of Latin prose through the study of Roman letters. As we read personal and literary correspondence from some of Rome’s most influential figures, we will gain insight into the lifestyles of Rome’s rich and famous—the political machinations of Cicero, the philosophical musings of Seneca, and Pliny’s famous accounts of Mount Vesuvius’ eruption. The method in this class will be review of essential grammar.
concepts followed by both prepared and unprepared (sight-) reading and translation, with a focus on grammar and style.

Course Outcomes

- An expanded Latin vocabulary, including knowledge of “Latin Core Vocabulary” (Dickinson College Commentaries)
- Thorough understanding of Latin grammar and syntax
- Understanding of the cultural context of Ancient Roman letters
- Proficiency in consulting reference works
- Ability to identify and analyze an author’s stylistic choices
- Improved attention to detail

Required Texts

- Luschnig, C. E. Latin Letters: Reading Roman Correspondence (Focus Classical Commentary) (Latin Edition). [abbreviation in syllabus = LL]
- *Note that additional resources and assignments will be provided online via Moodle

Course Requirements

Attendance (10%)

Attendance in class is mandatory. It is imperative to be present, engaged, and respectful for every class. Each class you will be assigned an attendance grade out of 10. Being physically present earns you 10 points. If you must miss class for a legitimate reason (e.g. illness, family emergency, or approved athletic travel), please contact me within 24 hours. Please also note that the homework schedule is subject to change. If you must be absent be sure to contact me or a classmate in order to ensure you complete the proper homework assignment.

Homework & Engaged Participation (15%)

15% of your grade can be earned through completing your homework and participating in class. Engaged participation includes sharing your homework answers, bringing your book to class, participating in sight-translation, reading Latin aloud, asking thoughtful /specific questions, and actively and respectfully listening to others. Learning a language takes practice; just as your muscles get stronger with exercise, your language skills get stronger as you exercise them through homework and
participation. Homework will not be graded on accuracy—this is a place to make and learn from mistakes!

**Quizzes (20%)**
Numerous studies show that frequent quizzing improves learning (e.g. "Studying With Quizzes Helps Make Sure the Material Sticks"; "To Really Learn, Quit Studying and Take a Test"). There will be seven 20-minute quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes will test a combination of material, including translation of prepared and unprepared passages, grammar, vocabulary, and Latin composition. The content and format of each quiz will be discussed further the week before it is given.

**Core Vocabulary Exam (5%)**
To assist you in developing fluency in Latin, you will be required to learn the most common words in Latin literature. These words were compiled by: Francese, Christopher. Latin Core Vocabulary. Dickinson College Commentaries (2014) and can be found on Moodle and at [Latin Core Vocabulary](https://example.com). The exam will allow 35 minutes to translate 35 words (English to Latin and Latin to English).

**Midterm Exam (25%)**
The midterm exam will include translation (both Latin to English and English to Latin), grammar, and vocabulary. The content and format will be discussed further in class prior to the exam.

**Final Exam (25%)**
The final exam will include translation (both Latin to English and English to Latin), grammar, and vocabulary. Since the nature of language is cumulative, the final will be cumulative, but will focus especially on content after the midterm, including grammar and translation of prepared and unprepared passages. The content and format will be discussed further in class prior to the exam.

**Grading Scale**
- A: 94–100%
- A-: 90–93%
- B+: 87–89%
- B: 83–86%
- B-: 80–82%
- C+: 77–79%
- C: 73–76%
- C-: 70–72%
- D+: 67–69%
D  63–66%
D-  60–62%
F  59% or Below

Other Information

Late Quizzes and Exams
If you expect to miss a quiz or exam, arrangements must be made ahead of time to make it up. If there is an unexpected emergency that results in your absence, you must contact me within 24 hours to avoid penalties on the make-up quiz/exam. Otherwise, a letter grade per day will be deducted from the quiz/exam score. For homework, if you are absent from class it is your responsibility to make sure you understand that day’s material (i.e. by consulting a classmate or attending office hours).

Financial Resource
The Sportula: Microgrants for Classics Students provides support for classics students who are struggling a little bit financially. Learn more about their microgrant program here: The Sportula.

Academic Honesty
All written work submitted for this course must be your own in both content and expression. Students are responsible for complying with the UM Student Conduct Code. Possible sanctions for misconduct range from failure on an assignment to expulsion from the university. The complete code can be found on the Student Affairs webpage at UM Student Conduct Code.

Accommodations
Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction for students with disabilities in collaboration with instructors and Disability Services for Students, which is located in Lommasson Center 154. The University does not permit fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications.

Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change as necessary)

Week 1

Tuesday August 27: Welcome to Latin 101

Thursday August 29: No class
  • Assignment: Diagnostic “Exam” on Moodle Due Sunday, Sep. 1 at 11:59pm
  • Before “Exam” Review Wheelock Chapters 1–27
- Watch Latin tutorial videos (on Moodle)
- Explore review resource from The Latin Library (on Moodle)

**Week 2**

**Tuesday September 3: Review of nouns, pronouns, and adjectives**
- Assignment: Read EGSL pp.120–140, 149–160
- Answer questions on Moodle
- Read words from “Latin Core Vocabulary” (on Moodle) and highlight words that you have not already memorized (turn in on Moodle before class)

**Thursday September 5: Review of verbs/participles**
- Assignment: Read EGSL pp.48–91
- Worksheet on Moodle
- Study core vocab

**Week 3**

**Tuesday September 10: Intro to the present subjunctive (Wheelock Ch. 28)**
- Quiz #1 (30 minutes)
- Assignment: Read EGSL pp.97–98
- Study for quiz
- Study vocab

**Thursday September 12: Practicing the present subjunctive**
- Assignment: Worksheet on Moodle
- Study vocab

**Week 4**

**Tuesday September 17: Intro to the imperfect subjunctive (Wheelock Ch. 29)**
- Quiz #2
- Assignment: Study for quiz (translation, grammar, vocab)

**Thursday September 19: Practicing the present subjunctive**
- Assignment: Worksheet on Moodle
- Study vocab

**Week 5**

**Tuesday September 24: Intro to the perfect and pluperfect subjunctive (Ch. 30)**
- Quiz #3
- Assignment: EGSL pp. 113–116
• Study for quiz
• Study core vocab

**Thursday September 26:** Practice
• Assignment: Worksheet on Moodle

**Week 6**

**Tuesday October 1:** Cum + Subjunctive (Ch. 31); Comparative adverbs, volo (Ch. 32)
• Quiz # 4
• Assignment: Study for quiz
• Study core vocab

**Thursday October 3:** Intro to conditions (Ch. 33)
• Assignment: EGSL pp. 117–119
• Worksheet on Moodle

**Week 7**

**Tuesday October 8:** Practice
• Quiz # 5
• Assignment: Worksheet on Moodle
• Screenshot and email me results of practice vocab quiz on http://latintutorial.com/vocabulary (link on Moodle) (due end of day)

**Thursday October 10:** Intro to deponent verbs (Ch. 34)
• Assignment: EGSL p. 92
• Worksheet on Moodle

**Week 8**

**Tuesday October 15:** Gerunds and gerundives (Ch. 39)
• Core Vocabulary Quiz
• Assignment: EGSL pp. 84–88
• Worksheet on Moodle

**Thursday October 17:** Practice and midterm review
• Assignment: Worksheet on Moodle

**Week 9**

**Tuesday October 22:** Midterm
• Midterm!
**Thursday October 24:** Go over midterm; Intro to Latin letters
- Assignment: no homework
- In class we will read Letter of Cornelia (LL p. 94)

**Week 10**

**Tuesday October 29:** Cicero on Lucretius
- Assignment: Ad Quintum Fratrem II.10 (LL pp. 24–25)

**Thursday October 31:** Cicero in Exile
- Assignment: Ad Familiares XIV.2.1–2 (LL p. 26)

**Week 11**

**Tuesday November 5:** Cicero in Exile
- Assignment: Ad Familiares XIV.2.3–4 (LL p. 27)

**Thursday November 7:** Cicero leaves Rome upon Caesar’s advance
- Assignment: Ad Familiares XIV.14 (LL p. 28)

**Week 12**

**Tuesday November 12:** Intro to Seneca
- **Quiz on Cicero**
- No homework: in class we will read Epistulae Morales 1.1 (LL p. 40)

**Thursday November 14:** Seneca
- Assignment: Finish Epistulae Morales 1 (LL pp. 40–41)

**Week 13**

**Tuesday November 19:** Intro to Pliny the Younger
- **Quiz on Seneca**
- No homework: in class we will Epistulae 1.1 (LL p. 48)

**Thursday November 21:** Pliny and the Eruption of Vesuvius
- Assignment: Piny’s Letter VI.16 (English on Moodle)
- Epistulae VI.20.1–6 (LL pp. 57–58)

**Week 14**

**Tuesday November 26:** Pliny and the Eruption of Vesuvius
- Assignment: Epistulae VI.20.7–12 (LL pp. 59–60)
Thursday November 28: No class

Week 15

Tuesday December 3: Pliny and the Eruption of Vesuvius
  • Assignment: Epistulae VI.20.13–18 (LL pp. 61–62)

Thursday December 5: Pliny and the Eruption of Vesuvius/ Exam review
  • Assignment: Epistulae VI.20.19–20 (LL p. 63)

Finals Week

Friday December 13: Final Exam 10:10 am–12:10 pm