

## **Latin 101G, Section 2: Elementary Latin I Fall 2010**

**Class Meeting:** M, T, W, F: 9:00 – 9:50; Capron Room, Wallace Hall 115

Instructor: Ben Costello  
Office: 16 Wallace Hall  
Office Hours: T: 10:00-10:50; Th: 2:00-2:50 (or whenever the door is open)  
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### **Required Text:**

Kitchell, K.F. and Sienkewicz, T.J. 2010. *Disce! An Introductory Latin Course*.  
Vol. 1. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Education, Inc.

**Bring this text to every class meeting. It will be used every day.**

### **Optional Texts:**

Grammar: Griffin, R.M. and Phinney, E. 1992. *A Student's Latin Grammar*.  
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Dictionary: *The New College Latin and English Dictionary* or *Cassell's Latin Dictionary* are both good and relatively inexpensive.

### **Course Objectives:**

This is the first half of an introductory course to acquaint students with the fundamentals of the Latin language. To accomplish this task, the class will cover the first half (Vol. 1) of the *Disce!* textbook. A background in Latin is a great benefit to the study of English, particularly in terms of vocabulary as well as comprehension and use of grammar, medicine, law, and many other professional fields. Knowledge of Latin will also be an asset for those desiring to take exams for graduate studies (e.g. GRE, LSAT) and will greatly facilitate the learning of other romance languages (French, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Portuguese).

This course is primarily directed towards students desiring to meet the requirements for graduation under the foreign language component of the Monmouth College General Education requirements. Latin can also fulfill partial requirements for a major in Latin or Classics.

The aim of Latin 101 is to begin the process of learning basic reading and writing skills of the language as quickly and as thoroughly as possible. Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of Latin grammar, develop a basic Latin vocabulary, and be able to read basic Latin texts.

### **Course Procedure:**

The class meets Monday – Wednesday as well as Friday from 9:00 – 9:50 am. As this is a four credit course, the work load and expectations are inevitably higher. We will introduce new material, review recently discussed topics, and discuss assignments. A short vocabulary quiz will be given each Wednesday, and a more comprehensive quiz will be given each Friday to emphasize the material covered up to date in the class. In addition three one-hour exams will be given over the course of the semester.

### **Summary of Grading:**

10% : Attendance	15% : Friday Quizzes
10% : Participation, Preparation & Performance	15% : Vocabulary Quizzes
30% : Exams (including finals presentation)	20% : Homework

- Final grades will be based on the following scale: A =  $\geq 92\%$ ; A- = 88.0 – 91.9%; B+ = 85.0 – 87.9%; B = 82.0 – 84.9%; B- = 78.0 – 81.9%; C+ = 75.0 – 77.9%; C = 72.0 – 74.9%; C- = 68.0 – 71.9%; D+ = 65.0 – 67.9%; D = 62.0 – 64.9%; D- = 58.0 – 61.9%; F =  $\leq 57.9\%$ .

\*All grades are non-negotiable.

### **Course Requirements:**

- **Attendance; Participation, Preparation & Performance:**

Learning another language is a lot easier in a group, but only if everyone in the group is working together. This kind of course requires daily attention. You cannot study only before tests and quizzes. You must attend class faithfully and be prepared everyday. Attendance at all meetings of the class is required. Each student is permitted three (3) unexcused absences during the semester. All other absences must be cleared with the instructor in advance or explained by a written excuse from the Office of the Dean of Students or by a written excuse from the Student Health Service, another physician, or other acceptable form of documentation (jury duty notice, speeding ticket, booking slip, etc.). A student with more than three unexcused absences will drop one grade point on the final semester grade for each unexcused absence (for example, with four unexcused absences an 83 would become an 82; with five unexcused absences an 83 would become an 82; etc.). Arrive to class on time, and plan to remain in class for the entire time. Late arrivals and early departures are disruptive to the entire class and the learning process in general. If you have to leave early, please let me know in advance.

Active participation by all students in the class is very important. You are expected to ask and answer questions, volunteer to translate, and recite when called upon. This is one of the keys to succeeding in this course.

Note regarding Student Athletics, Religious Holidays, and/or Academic Commitment (i.e. Conference): Absences related to these situations must be pre-approved by the instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to provide a complete list of any classes missed during the semester by the end of the second week of the classes. In some cases further documentation may be required. Please pay particular attention to conflicts with dates of exams.

- **Homework:**  
Homework assignments will be given daily in order to practice and master new grammatical forms and vocabulary, and to review and reinforce material previously covered. Sometimes homework assignments will be graded in class. Other time they will be graded outside of class by the instructor. Homework will ALWAYS be collected and a grade recorded. Grading of these assignments is simple. You will receive 3 points for submitting the assignment on time and another point for putting forth a good effort in its completion. There is no reason, then, why anyone cannot earn an average of 100 on homework assignments. You will automatically be excused from three homework assignments but will receive no points for any additional unsubmitted assignments. No late homework will be accepted for grade.
- **Vocabulary Quizzes:**  
Every Wednesday for the final ten minutes of class there will be a quiz to test your knowledge of vocabulary from the chapters covered that particular week. Generally the material will emphasize new words for that week, although on occasion words from previous chapters may appear as well. In the calculation of the final grade, the lowest of these quiz scores will be dropped.
- **Friday Quizzes:**  
Every Friday the majority of the class period will be devoted to a quiz that covers grammatical material emphasizing material covered in class that week. Due to the nature of learning a language, the material covered by these quizzes will be of a more cumulative nature. As with the vocabulary quizzes, the lowest of these quiz scores will be dropped in calculating the final grades.
- **Exams:**  
Three 50 minute exams will be administered over the course of the semester, which will be taken during the class meeting. The dates for these will be announced in class and via e-mail at least one week in advance. The exams are designed to demonstrate your understanding of the grammar and assignments covered in class. No make-up exams will be given unless documentation is provided.
- **Oral Presentation:**  
During the final exam period, and in lieu of a traditional final exam, students (working individually or in groups) will prepare an oral presentation for the class. This presentation will be created in consultation with the instructor and will make significant use of textbook materials. This presentation will be graded based upon accuracy and quality of preparation. This grade will count as one exam grade.

### Course Policies:

- **Accessibility/Office Hours:**  
I encourage students to come to my office to discuss any questions, concerns, ideas, special considerations or other important issues. If you have class during my office hours, I will schedule appointments at other times with advance notice. Students are welcome to stop by and see me whenever my office door is open. If my office door is closed, please feel free to e-mail me and I will make every effort to respond within 24 hours.

- **Extra Credit:** Opportunities for extra credit will take the form of attendance at Classics Department and Archaeological lectures during the course of the semester.
- **Make Up Policy:** The only way to make up an exam is with an excused absence. For the absence to be excused, you must provide acceptable documentation from a qualified professional of a serious crisis. If such an event occurs, the instructor must be notified within 24 hours.
- **Tutoring:** Tutors will be available several hours a week to help students individually with class assignments. Working with the tutors also does them a favor, because it provides them the opportunity to explain concepts clearly, as well as review the basics of Latin.
- **Academic Honesty:** Students in this course are encouraged to do their homework together. All other classwork, especially quizzes and exams, must be the student's own work. Plagiarism, i.e., copying someone else's work without giving credit, is to be avoided. Such copying--from a book, another classmate's paper, or any other source--is dishonest. At Monmouth College we view academic dishonesty as a threat to the integrity and intellectual mission of our institution. Any breach of the academic honesty policy – either intentionally or unintentionally - will be taken seriously and may result not only in failure in the course, but in suspension or expulsion from the college. It is each student's responsibility to read, understand and comply with the general academic honesty policy at Monmouth College, as defined in the Scots Guide (<http://department.monm.edu/stuserv/student-handbook/academic.htm>) and to the specific guidelines for each course, as elaborated on the professor's syllabus. The following areas are examples of violations of the academic honesty policy:
  1. Cheating on tests, labs, etc;
  2. Plagiarism, i.e., using the words, ideas, writing, or work of another without giving appropriate credit – THIS INCLUDES WEBSITES.
  3. Improper collaboration between students, i.e., not doing one's own work on outside assignments unspecified as group projects by the instructor. If two papers with identical or nearly identical work are submitted by different students, **both papers will receive a failing grade.**
  4. Submitting work previously submitted in another course, without previous authorization by the instructor.
 (This list is not intended to be exhaustive.)
- **Miscellaneous:**
  - Please be sure to turn off all electronic devices before class begins. If you use a computer to take notes, please insure that the sound is turned off, or power up before class.
  - Please do not bring pets and/or children to class.
  - Any student with a documented disability needing accommodations is requested to speak directly to Disability Services ([mellinger@monm.edu](mailto:mellinger@monm.edu) or 309-457-2257) and to the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester. All discussions will remain confidential.

### **Tips for Success in Latin 101:**

- 1) **Attendance** – It is important to attend every class because we will be regularly introducing new concepts, correcting homework, and doing exercises. You cannot hope to learn Latin passively, and I can only stress from experience that attending class can make learning a language much easier.
- 2) **Vocabulary** – Writing down vocabulary on flashcards helps immensely with committing them to memory.
- 3) **Homework** – The homework assignments are designed to give you practice at using new information that is introduced in class. Do your homework regularly and carefully. The assignments give you the opportunity to get questions answered before seeing them on the quizzes or exams.
- 4) **Be Patient** – Much of Latin 101 is memorization of the various verb and noun forms that the language is built upon. This may seem incredibly tedious and boring (and at times it can be), but it is a necessary evil in learning a language and the payoff is tremendous. Careful and thorough study and memorization will make things much easier in the end. Don't expect to look at something once and have it engrained permanently in your brain. However, through steady and constant review, everything will stick.

**Caveat:** The professor reserves the right to make changes or additions to this schedule. Changes will be announced either in class or via e-mail. If you are not in class when such an announcement is made, it is the student's responsibility to obtain updated schedule information from either the professor or a classmate. Misunderstandings of the schedule will not be considered a sufficient excuse for lack of preparation or missing an assignment or exam.