

Elementary Latin (Latin 101)

Instructor: Chris Maisto

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Office: Room 19, Wallace Hall

Office Hours: 1-2 pm MTWTH and by appointment

Meeting: MTWTH, 9:00-9:50 pm

Capron Classics Room, Wallace Hall 115

Text: *Disce*, Volume 1 & MyLatinLab Access

Course Description and Aims

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

The aim of these courses is to learn basic reading and writing skills in Latin as quickly and as thoroughly as possible. At the end of two terms of Elementary Latin a student should know the fundamentals of Latin grammar, have a basic Latin vocabulary, and be able to read any Latin text with the help of a dictionary. Speaking and listening skills in Latin will be encouraged only in order to assist the development of reading and writing Latin. Reading Latin is much more important than speaking or writing it; however, doing written assignments that ask you to translate from English to Latin will vastly improve your knowledge of the grammatical forms, and so enhance your ability to read the language.

Meetings

Class meets on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 2:00 to 2:50 pm in the Capron Classics Room of Wallace Hall. On Fridays there may be review sessions held, so please do not make any ongoing commitments for this time during the semester.

Assignments

There will be daily homework assignments. In addition to the workbook, these may include a number of supplementary readings in Latin, handouts with extra exercises, and even map work.

Grading

The goal is for all students to earn the best possible grade in the course. The grading system is designed to give each student maximum control of the final grade earned. However, keep in mind that the focus of all assignments, quizzes, and texts is not grading but learning.

There will be four full-period exams (*probationes*) during the semester. The dates for all exams will be announced at least one week in advance. Students will be encouraged to correct their exams for half credit on points lost.

Class participation and daily homework assignments (*meditationes*) will count as one exam grade. Remember that in order to participate, you must attend class; unexcused absences will count against you

and make it more difficult to succeed, so come to class. Sometimes homework assignments may be graded in class, but more often they will be graded outside of class by the instructor. Regardless assignments will always be collected and a grade recorded. The grading system is simple: you will receive 75 points for submitting the assignment and another 25 points for giving it a good try. So everyone should be able to 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 a grade (except, of course, in the case of illness or other mitigating circumstances).

There will be at least one quiz per week (I recommend two). There may be unannounced quizzes. They will be given at the end of class, and will take approximately 10 minutes. The average of these will counts as one exam grade (at least one grade will be dropped).

Final Exam

The format of the final exam will be an oral presentation making use of textbook materials. More to follow on this and exact date and time of the exam.