

# LATIN (LATN)

## LATN 101 Elementary Latin I

An introduction to the Latin language for beginners. Students begin learning grammar and vocabulary, with practical exercises in reading and writing. By the end of the course students will be able to read and analyze simple Latin texts, including selected Roman inscriptions in the Penn Museum.

For BA Students: Language Course

Course usually offered in fall term

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

## LATN 102 Elementary Latin II

Prerequisite(s): LATN 101 or equivalent. Completes the introduction to the Latin language begun in 101. By the end of the course students will have a complete working knowledge of Latin grammar, a growing vocabulary, and experience in reading simple continuous texts.

For BA Students: Language Course

Course usually offered in spring term

Prerequisite: LATN 101

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

## LATN 112 Intensive Elementary Latin

An introduction to the Latin language for beginners, with explanation of basic grammatical concepts and intensive exercises in reading and writing. Ideal for undergraduates or graduate students from Penn or elsewhere with some background in learning other languages, or who need to learn Latin rapidly. The course covers the first year of college-level Latin, equivalent to LATN 101 + 102 at more than twice the normal pace. This is an online course. 2 c.u. Students are not required to be in Philadelphia. Course activities will involve a series of intensive online exercises completed each day according to the students own schedule, plus one daily video-linked session 5.30-7.00pm EST (Monday thru Thursday). The textbook is *Learn to Read Latin* (Keller & Russell; textbook only, not workbook). The instructor for summer 2020 is Daniel Mackey, a Ph.D. student in Classical Studies. For further information about the course, please contact Prof. James Ker ([jker@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:jker@sas.upenn.edu)).

For BA Students: Language Course

Course usually offered summer term only

Activity: Seminar

2.0 Course Units

## LATN 203 Intermediate Latin Prose

Prerequisite(s): LATN 102 or equivalent (such as placement score of 550). Introduction to continuous reading of unadapted works by Latin authors in prose (e.g., Cornelius Nepos, Cicero, Pliny), in combination with a thorough review of Latin grammar. By the end of the course students will have thorough familiarity with the grammar, vocabulary, and style of the selected authors, will be able to tackle previously unseen passages by them, and will be able to discuss questions of language and interpretation.

For BA Students: Language Course

Course usually offered in fall term

Prerequisite: LATN 102

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

## LATN 204 Intermediate Latin Poetry

Prerequisite(s): LATN 203 or equivalent (such as placement score of 600). Continuous reading of several Latin authors in poetry (e.g., Ovid, Virgil, Horace) as well as some more complex prose, in combination with ongoing review of Latin grammar. By the end of the course students will have thorough familiarity with the grammar, vocabulary, and style and style of the selected authors, will be able to tackle previously unseen passages by them, and will be able to discuss language and interpretation. Note: Completion of Latin 204 with C- or higher fulfills Penn's Foreign Language Requirement.

For BA Students: Last Language Course

Course usually offered in spring term

Prerequisite: LATN 203

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

## LATN 212 Intensive Intermediate Latin

An introduction to the basic history and conventions of Latin prose and poetry, with continuous readings from classical authors accompanied by grammar review and exercises. Ideal for undergraduates or graduate students from Penn or elsewhere who have completed the equivalent of one year Latin (e.g., LATN 112). The course covers the second year of college-level Latin, equivalent to LATN 203 + 204 at more than twice the normal pace. This is an online course. 2 c.u. Students are not required to be in Philadelphia. Course activities will involve a series of intensive online exercises completed each day according to the students own schedule, plus one daily video-linked session 5.30-7.00pm EST (Monday thru Thursday). The focus of the course will be Romans and Carthaginians, combining readings on Hannibal and the second Punic war (mostly in prose, focusing on Cornelius Nepos *Life of Hannibal*) with readings from the story of Dido (mostly in poetry, focusing on Ovid's *Heroides*). The instructor for summer 2020 is Zachary Elliott, a Ph.D. student in Classical Studies. For further information about the course, please contact Prof. James Ker ([jker@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:jker@sas.upenn.edu)).

For BA Students: Last Language Course

Course usually offered summer term only

Activity: Seminar

2.0 Course Units

## LATN 298 Study Abroad

This course code is assigned to a course taken abroad that lacks an equivalent course on the Penn roster.

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

**LATN 301 Latin Prose Composition**

For this introduction to Latin prose composition we will be using Bradley's Arnold, *Latin Prose Composition*, edited and revised by J. F. Mountford, which offers a thorough grammar review and challenging exercises. The exercises will give you an active command of Latin syntax: you'll be asking 'how do I say X?' rather than 'what does this author mean by X?' This is an important step towards awareness of the variety of possible expressions for any given X. And awareness of this variety is one of the things that will help you appreciate an author's style. What advantage does a participle have over a clause? or vice versa? Why use an abstract noun rather than an indirect question? or vice versa? Gerund vs. gerund-replacing gerundive? Repraesentatio? We will also read passages from a variety of Latin prose authors with an eye to their style. My aim in this course, which is open to undergraduate and graduate students alike, is that your ability to read and appreciate Latin prose improve substantially.

Taught by: Damon

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: LATN 501

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

**LATN 308 Latin Love Letters**

In this course we look at an intersection between emotion and rhetoric, reading ancient theorists and practitioners in the art of love-letter writing. Readings will include Cicero, Ovid, Propertius, Horace, Seneca, and Petronius. 'Love' will include the full breadth of affections from intellectual friendship to erotic desire, and 'letters' will include the whole spectrum of written communication, both formal and informal. A special goal of this course will be to gently develop our speaking and writing skills in Latin. Final projects will be flexible, ranging from a traditional term-paper to creative experiments in speaking and writing Latin.

Taught by: Ker

Course not offered every year

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

**LATN 309 Triangulating Augustanism: Livy, Horace, and Ovid**

What is a Roman? How does the rise of Augustus Caesar change the meaning of Romanness? In this course, we will read selections from the historian Livy and the poets Horace and Ovid as they try (and sometimes fail) to navigate and accommodate the new regime. Livy's prose history of Rome, *Ab Urbe Condita*, looks to the past for moral guidance and attempts to draw lessons for the imperial future. Horace's Odes veer from ironic to patriotic (and back again) as he works out the new reality and his place in it. Ovid's *Fasti*, written during the poet's exile from Rome, report the origins of Rome's sacred festival calendar. Through close readings of these three texts, this course will consider Augustanism from several angles and distances, and attempt to construct a richer picture of a complicated and vibrant period. Prerequisite: Reading knowledge of Latin or permission of instructor.

Taught by: Mulhern

One-term course offered either term

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

**LATN 310 Seneca, On the Brevity of Life and other essays**

Seneca was the most important writer of Latin in the early imperial period. In addition to poetry, satire, and natural philosophy, he wrote ethical philosophy in the form of letters, dialogues, and essays. His works 'On the Brevity of Life' and 'On Leisure' speak both the ethical issues of his own time and those of many others, including our own. In this course we will read both these essays with the goals of becoming familiar with Seneca's thought and style of expression, both as an individual and as a writer representative of his age. Students will have the opportunity to respond to Seneca in the form of critical essays, essayistic or epistolary responses, or other forms of their choosing.

Taught by: Farrell Jr.

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

**LATN 311 Plague and Pestilence in Latin Literature**

Plagues and pestilences were a common feature of life in the ancient world. As such, they fueled the literary imagination. Historians, doctors, poets, and others have left many accounts of diseases, both endemic and epidemic. This literature can be considered a kind of literary genre with its own conventions, literal and metaphorical frames of reference, and intertextual relations. We will focus on a few representative examples in Latin literature to read in the original, and will read others Greek and Roman accounts in translation to gain familiarity with the broader context. Students will gain experience in reading upper-level Latin while broadening their knowledge of Latin literature and literary history.

Taught by: Farrell

Course not offered every year

Prerequisite: Completion of 200-level Latin sequence or high school equivalent

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

**LATN 399 Supervised Study in Latin Literature**

This course is taken by students doing independent work with a faculty advisor, such as students approved to work on a senior research paper in pursuit of honors in the major.

Activity: Independent Study

1.0 Course Unit

**LATN 501 Latin Prose Composition**

For this introduction to Latin prose composition we will be using Bradley's Arnold, *Latin Prose Composition*, edited and revised by J. F. Mountford, which offers a thorough grammar review and challenging exercises. The exercises will give you an active command of Latin syntax: you'll be asking 'how do I say X?' rather than 'what does this author mean by X?' This is an important step towards awareness of the variety of possible expressions for any given X. And awareness of this variety is one of the things that will help you appreciate an author's style. What advantage does a participle have over a clause? or vice versa? Why use an abstract noun rather than an indirect question? or vice versa? Gerund vs. gerund-replacing gerundive? Repraesentatio? We will also read passages from a variety of Latin prose authors with an eye to their style. My aim in this course, which is open to undergraduate and graduate students alike, is that your ability to read and appreciate Latin prose improve substantially.

Taught by: Damon

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: LATN 301

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

**LATN 540 The Latin Text: Language and Style**

What do we need to read texts in Latin? In these courses we read just one prose text and one poetic text, or a very limited number of texts and passages, with a focus on language and formal analysis (such as diction, grammar, stylistics, metrics, rhetoric, textual criticism). A range of exercises will be used to develop this, including composition, lexical studies, recitation, memorization, exegesis, written close-readings, and sight-translation.

Course not offered every year

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

**LATN 541 Latin Literary History**

In this course we survey an extensive range of readings in a variety of authors in both prose and poetry, and consider the problems and opportunities involved in literary history.

Course not offered every year

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

**LATN 600 Tacitus' Annals**

In this seminar we will read Tacitus' Annals, a work replete with stirring history presented in a style that eschews complacency. Through careful study of this work and selected passages of its predecessor, the Histories, we will develop a richly detailed understanding of Tacitus' historiographical method, principles, and practice. Consideration of surviving epigraphic parallels will allow us to see a particularly important element of his historiographical practice, namely, his awareness of but deviation from the official record of events. Each class session will involve close reading of the text and student-led discussion of important features of Tacitus work. As a group project we will produce a variorum edition of the Annals for on-line publication. Final projects will take the form of papers suitable for presentation at the SCS Annual Meeting.

Topics will vary.

Taught by: Damon

One-term course offered either term

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Notes: Topics will vary

**LATN 603 Julio-Claudian Literature**

The years between the principates of Augustus and Nero are commonly regarded as a 'fallow' period in Latin literary history. In fact, this is objectively untrue in terms of both the amount of literature produced during this time and in terms of its influence. If one considers the relationship between contemporary Latin and Greek literature or the evidence for increased institutional support of literature during this period, the sense of its importance increases. In this course we will study the formative aspects of literature culture during the regimes of Tiberius, Gaius, and Claudius and their decisive influence on the Latin and Greek literature of the subsequent Imperial Period.

Taught by: Farrell

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

**LATN 605 The Mostly Latin Epigram**

In this seminar we will explore the themes and aesthetics of the Latin epigram, a genre (or is it?) best known for its brevity and wit but one whose precise nature is tantalizingly elusive. After orienting ourselves in the epigrams of Hellenistic Greek epigrammatists and late Republican authors like the so-called Neoterics (Catullus, Cinna, Calvus, Caesar), we will turn our attention to the poetry of Martial, whose accounts of Rome, its inhabitants, and their foibles exerted a profound influence on subsequent epigrammatists. Among the themes we will engage are: epigram as a genre; persona in tessellated textual collections; the interaction of refined and obscene language; and the artistic and intellectual implications of replication, anthology, and remix.

Taught by: Bret Mulligan

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

**LATN 607 Roman Humor and Invective**

This seminar will explore Roman humor in epigram, iambic, oratory, and satire as a method of constructing and policing norms of sexuality, the body, and social identity. We will read from a wide range of authors including Catullus, Martial, Cicero, Quintilian, Petronius, and Juvenal, as well as texts that discuss or depict laughter and ridicule. Beyond focused analysis of the works at hand, we will evaluate modern theories of humor and laughter according to the ancient evidence and develop models for understanding Roman humor. In addition to weekly readings, students will be responsible for class presentations, contributing to works-in-progress workshops, and a final research paper.

Taught by: Brassel

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: CLST 607

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

**LATN 999 Independent Study**

For doctoral candidates.

One-term course offered either term

Activity: Independent Study

1.0 Course Unit