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 in 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 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
Prerequisites: LATN 101 or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 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 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 2018 is Marcie Persyn, a Ph.D. student in Classical Studies. For further information about the course, please contact Prof. James Ker (jker@sas.upenn.edu).
For BA Students: Language Course
Course usually offered summer term only
Activity: Seminar
2 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
Prerequisites: LATN 102 or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 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 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. *Please note: the MW 3:30-5:00 section combines Latin reading with practical Latin-based tutoring in a West Philadelphia elementary school.*
For BA Students: Language Course
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisites: LATN 203 or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 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 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 Ovids Heroides). The instructor for summer 2018 is Brian Credo, a Ph.D. student in Classical Studies. For further information about the course, please contact Prof. James Ker (jker@sas.upenn.edu).
For BA Students: Last Language Course
Course usually offered summer term only
Activity: Seminar
2 Course Units

LATN 309 Roman Satire
This course is for those who have completed Latin 204, Latin 212, or equivalent (such as placement score of 650, or AP score of 4 or 5). Close reading and discussion of a Latin author or a particular genre of Latin literature. Topics will vary each semester, and the course may be repeated for credit. Assignments will include syntactic and literary analysis on a daily basis, a midterm, a paper, and a final exam. This advanced Latin class will explore the contrarian and comical poetry of the great Roman satirists, with special attention to Horace's Sermones) and Juvenals Satires. Such poetry was direct, aggressive and delightfully irreverent, but also complex and often inscrutable. By combining translation work with literary study, we will address the many aspects of Roman satire that continue to fascinate, such as the tension between the serious and the comic, the politics' of Roman satirists, and the many connections we can find in this poetry with the satirical arts of our own time.
Taught by: Rosen
One-term course offered either term
Prerequisites: Reading knowledge of Latin or permission of instructor.
Activity: Seminar
1 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 Course Unit

LATN 401 Latin for Advanced Students
For graduate students in other departments needing individualized study in Latin literature.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Independent Study
1 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 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 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.
Taught by: Damon
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Topics will vary

LATN 602 Graduate Latin Poetry: Ennius
Ennius writings, and particularly his epic poem Annales, proved to be foundational for many genres of Latin literature. Editions of his work by Jocelyn (tragedies) and Skutsch (Annales) have attracted more and more critical attention to these works in recent years. A spate of criticism over the past few years considers Ennius from a variety of points of view, including some that call for a radical reassessment of basic assumptions concerning the Annales in particular. The purpose of this seminar is to introduce students to Ennius, to acquaint them with the tools and methods they will need to study Ennius in depth, and to involve them in current debates surrounding the poet.
Taught by: Farrell
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

LATN 609 Problems in Ancient History
A separate topic is offered in either the history of Ancient Near East, Greece or Rome.
Taught by: Grey
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: HIST 535
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

LATN 999 Independent Study
For doctoral candidates.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Independent Study
1 Course Unit
Notes: Topics will vary