LAT 101-01: Elementary Latin I  
Binghamton University  
Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. Randall Souza (email: rsouza@binghamton.edu)

Class meetings: MW 10:50-11:50am, Science II and TTh 11:40-12:40, Library North G335
Office hours: M 2:30-3:30pm, T 10:30-11:30am, and by appointment, Library Tower 1104
Credit hours: This course is a 4-credit course, which means that students are expected to do at least 12.5 hours of course-related work or activity each week during the semester. This includes scheduled class meeting times as well as time spent completing assigned readings, studying for tests and examinations, participating in lab sessions, preparing written assignments, and other course-related tasks.

General Education: FL1 - Foreign Language 1
Students who satisfy the Foreign Language requirement will demonstrate (1) Basic proficiency in the understanding and use of a foreign language; and (2) Knowledge of the distinctive features of cultures(s) associated with the languages they are studying.

Course texts: 
Additional essential resources will be posted to Blackboard.

Course description and goals:
In this course you will begin to learn one of the most influential languages in the history of the world: Latin. Latin began as the local dialect of a few small towns in central Italy, but it spread with the expanding Roman empire and was spoken by tens of millions of people around the Mediterranean in antiquity. It was the international language of science and philosophy in Europe for more than a thousand years after the end of the Roman empire. Latin is a window into ancient history, archaeology, literature, linguistics, and much more. The focus of the course is the Latin language, but we will also take time to explore many of these connections.

You will learn the fundamentals of Latin morphology (word forms), syntax (word arrangements), and vocabulary (word meanings). You will begin to read sentences written two thousand years ago by inhabitants of the Roman empire. You will learn how language works, and how languages change over time. You will learn about Roman society and material culture, literature, philosophy, and politics. You will begin to see the origins of English words in Latin ones, and you will understand the mechanics of English in order to become a better writer and a more perceptive reader.

In this course we will use Chapters I-VIII of our textbook, Learn to Read Latin. With this preparation you will be able to take Latin 102, in which we will finish the textbook and begin to read documents and works of literature in unmodified and unadulterated Latin.

Course logistics:
Regular attendance and participation are essential to success in this course. If you must miss a class meeting, please email me in advance, as you will not be able to make up missed work otherwise. I do understand that life happens, so only unexcused absence in excess of four (4, i.e. one week of class) will affect your grade. Acceptable reasons for missing a class are a family emergency, illness, or religious observance; please let me know as soon as possible if you will be absent so that we can arrange for you to make up the work. You will get the most out of this class if you listen actively, speak freely, and above all maintain the curiosity that got you here in the first place.

I reserve the right to modify the readings, policies, and structure of this course as necessary for the benefit of the class, but I will ask for your advice and give you plenty of advance notice before any changes.
Expect to spend around 2 hours working on homework and preparing for each class, depending on your own learning style and disposition toward analytical thinking. Vocabulary can be especially challenging, but you must keep at it with whatever method works best for you (i.e. flashcards, writing lists, reading with a partner, etc.). I will post updated assignment schedules to our Blackboard site (blackboard.binghamton.edu) each weekend, so plan to check the site regularly. I will occasionally and randomly collect and evaluate homework exercises, so make sure to complete these exercises when they are assigned. Latin requires constant practice, and regular homework will help solidify your understanding of the important concepts.

We will have a short quiz at the beginning of each week based on material covered in previous classes. These quizzes will force you to spend some time thinking about Latin over weekends and breaks, and will ensure that we begin each week already warmed up. They will also give both you and me an idea of how you're handling the material so that we can identify strengths and areas for improvement as we move forward. If you are participating in class, putting time into the homework, and asking questions in class or in office hours, you will have no trouble on the quizzes. I will drop your one (1) lowest quiz grade, but a makeup will not be available except in the case of an excused absence (described in the paragraph on attendance). Note that if you miss class on a quiz day, you use up one of your four dropped absences and your only dropped quiz.

Two midterm exams will be spaced out over the semester, and the final exam will take place at the end. These three exams account for 60% of your final grade, and you will need to devote significant time to preparing in the weeks leading up to each of them. Since the class constantly builds on previous concepts and information, exams are by nature cumulative. We will review material in class but I am also happy to work with students in office hours or to arrange for additional review sessions.

Finally, in addition to the instructor there will be three department tutors available for help outside of class. These experts in Latin will hold regular office hours in the CNES conference room (LT 1107), so please take advantage of the assistance they can offer. They've been here before!

**Classroom etiquette:**
We will all enjoy learning together if we maintain an attitude of respect toward each other. Please do not communicate electronically with anyone during class meetings. The use of electronic devices for recreation in class is disrespectful; using them during an evaluation of any kind will result in an F on that assignment (see below on Academic Integrity). Note also that you may not record or photograph me or anyone else in the class without permission.

**Course requirements and grading:**
- ca. 10% homework, attendance, and participation
- ca. 30% weekly quizzes (15)
- ca. 30% midterm exams (2)
- ca. 30% final exam

**Course policies:**
- **Academic Integrity:** Each student's grade should reflect only that student's achievement. Thus cheating, plagiarism, assisting or allowing someone else to violate academic honesty are each grounds for receiving a grade of "F" for the course. The Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies adheres to the University’s Academic Honesty Code found in the current University Bulletin. For a complete copy of the Academic Honesty Code, go to http://buweb.binghamton.edu/bulletin/program.asp?program_id=1004.
- **Enrollment:** The professor reserves the right to drop from the course any student who has not attended all class meetings prior to the add/drop/delete deadline.
• **Office Hours**: I will be available for individual help during posted office hours or by appointment.

• **Make ups**: A student may not take makeup quizzes or tests without previously submitting to the instructor a written official, verifiable excuse.

• **Final Grades**: 93-100 = A; 90-92 = A-; 87-89 = B+; 83-86 = B; 80-82 = B-; 77-79 = C+; 73-76 = C; 70-72 = C; 60-69 = D; 0-59 = F.
  
  All grades will be given as percentages.

• **Special accommodations**: Students who are in need of disability-related academic accommodations must register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), phone: 607-777-2686 (voice/TTY), e-mail: bjfairba@binghamton.edu. Students with authorized disability-related accommodations should provide a current Accommodation Authorization Letter from SSD to the instructor and review those accommodations with the instructor. Accommodations, such as exam administration, are not provided retroactively; therefore, planning for accommodations as early as possible is necessary. For further information, see the SSD’s website at http://www.binghamton.edu/ssd/index.html.

• **Email**: I am happy to communicate by email, but please make sure that emails to me are professional and necessary. If you have a question that can be answered by looking at the syllabus, I am likely to refer you to it. Below is an example of an appropriate email:

  Dear Professor Souza,

  I have a question about... or I am concerned about... or I would like to let you know that...

  [question, concern, information]

  Thank you,
  [Your name]
Seven tips for success in this course:

1. Spend time learning and memorizing vocabulary! Words are the building blocks of any language and unfortunately there is no way to learn Latin without learning lots of Latin words. Find a vocab memorization method that works for you, but this is an area in which you can easily help each other out. Practicing vocabulary is perfect for work with a study partner or study group. Look ahead on the schedule so that you are not struggling to memorize an entire vocabulary list the night before you will be responsible for it.

2. Read the entire sentence before beginning to translate! In Latin, word forms tell you almost everything and word order tells you almost nothing. You will get into trouble if you translate sentences from left to right as in English.

3. Ask questions! It’s best to ask questions in class so that everyone can benefit from hearing the response. You can also come talk to me in office hours, or stop in to see one of the tutors in the department. This is an introductory class, and we don’t expect you to understand everything perfectly the first time. Understand that you will make mistakes and don’t be afraid to admit them, but do ask questions so that you are always improving.

4. Review topics and assignment after class! This is by far the most underused method of solidifying your understanding. Taking ten minutes after class (ideally with some of your classmates) to look over the material we just covered will save you lots of stress and frustration before quizzes and exams.

5. Come to class! Latin is a logical but elaborate system that takes time to master fully. It is extremely unwise to skip class with the idea that you can learn the material from the textbook on your own. Likewise, Latin is not conducive to cramming. We will learn Latin systematically, and this requires nearly constant effort and practice.

6. Remember why you are taking Latin! Whatever your personal motivation may be, keep it in mind and it will help you to remain dedicated to succeeding.

7. Stay curious! Latin as a language is incredibly rich in vocabulary and almost mathematically systematic in its logic, in addition to which it is also a window into the complex and fascinating world of the Romans. Focus on the aspects of Latin that most interest you and you will find the course that much more rewarding.
Provisional Schedule:

Week of August 31: Welcome; Nouns (Chapter I)
- M Introductions, syllabus, questions, a first look at Latin
- T Chapter I vocabulary; §1
- W §2-3
- Th §4

Week of Sept. 7: Verbs (Chapter II)
- Monday Sept. 7 No class (Labor Day)
- T Quiz on §1-4; Chapter II vocabulary; §5-6
- W §7-8
- Th §9
- Friday Sept. 11 Add/drop deadline

Week of Sept. 14: Verbs (Chapter II)
- Monday Sept. 14 No Class (Rosh Hashanah)
- Tuesday Sept. 15 No Class (Rosh Hashanah)
- W Quiz on §5-9; §10
- Th §11-14

Week of Sept. 21: Verbs (Chapter II)
- M Quiz on §10-14; §15
- Tuesday Sept. 22 Classes recess 1pm
- Wednesday Sept. 23 No Class (Yom Kippur)
- Th §15

Week of Sept. 28: Adjectives and more case uses (Chapter III)
- M Quiz on §15; Chapter III vocabulary; §16-18
- T §19-21
- W §22-23
- Th §24-29

Week of Oct. 5: New verb conjugations (Chapter IV)
- M Quiz on §16-29; Ch. IV Vocabulary, §30
- T §31-33
- W midterm review
- Th First midterm exam

Week of Oct. 12: Personal pronouns/adjectives, perfect active system, reflexives (Chapters IV-V)
- M Quiz on §30-33; §34-37
- T §38-39
- W Chapter V vocabulary; §40-42
- Th §43-45

Week of Oct. 19: Subordinate clauses (Chapters V and VI)
- M Quiz on §34-45 (Ch. V vocab from §44-45 only); §46
- T §47
- W §48
- Th §49

Week of Oct. 26: The perfect passive system and the third declension (Chapter VI)
- M Quiz on §46-49; Chapter VI vocabulary; §50-52
Friday Oct. 30 Withdraw/change grade option deadline

Week of Nov. 2: More third declension and more case uses (Chapter VI)
  M Quiz on §50-55; §56
  T §57-62
  W midterm review
  Th Second midterm exam

Week of Nov. 9: Subjunctive forms (Chapter VII)
  M Quiz on §56-62; §63
  T Chapter VII vocabulary; §64-65
  W §66-67
  Th §68-69

Week of Nov. 16: Subjunctive uses and more dative uses (Chapter VII)
  M Quiz on §64-69; §70
  T §71
  W §71
  Th §72-73

Week of Nov. 23: Deponents (Chapter VIII)
  M Quiz on §70-73; §74
  T Chapter VIII vocabulary; §75
  Wednesday Nov. 25 Classes recess 1pm
  Thursday Nov. 26 No Class (Thanksgiving)

Week of Nov. 30: Demonstrative and relative pronouns (Chapter VIII)
  M Quiz on §75; §76
  T §77
  W §78
  Th §78

Week of Dec. 7: Questions (Chapter VIII)
  M Quiz on §76-78; §79
  T §80
  W §81-82
  Th Reading and review

Week of Dec. 14: Reading and review
  M Latin readings
  Tuesday Dec. 15 Latin readings (Last day of classes)

Final exam period: Dec. 16-22