

LATIN 101*

Elementary Latin I

Dr. Le Blanc

MWF 10:00-10:50

SOEB 204

Office: MHRA 1110

Office Hrs: M 9-9:45, W 1-3, or by appt

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COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is an introduction to Latin, emphasizing the understanding of grammatical principles and preparing the student for reading Latin. It is appropriate for students interested in learning Latin who have little or no background in the language.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs)

At the completion of this course, student will be able to:

1. Read Latin sentences aloud with attention to vowel quantities and word accent, and understand Latin words when spoken.
2. Decline nouns and adjectives in all five declensions and conjugate regular verbs from all four conjugations (and a few irregular verbs) in all six tenses of the Active Indicative.
3. Demonstrate mastery of approximately 300 common Latin words
4. Read and translate elementary passages of Latin such as those supplied in the text.

TEXTBOOK

Introduction to Latin, S. Shelmerdine [Focus Publishing, 2nd edition]. The textbook is available at the bookstore in the EUC. We recommend that you purchase the text rather than rent it because you'll use the same book in Latin 102 and Latin 203 (and renting for 3 semesters will cost more than purchasing it once).

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is absolutely essential to succeeding in this course. Practice and consistency is the key to learning any language! A friend's notes, or simply reading through the textbook on your own cannot replace the experience of learning the material firsthand in class, being able to ask questions and to practice. I will take attendance in class every day. You may be dropped from the class after four absences for any reason. Try to be on class on time every day—since tardiness can be very disruptive for a language course, I consider two tardies to be equivalent to one absence. You cannot expect to receive greater than "C" on your participation and in-class performance score with more than three missed.

QUIZZES

I will regularly give short quizzes intended to check your understanding of grammar and vocabulary. Quiz format will vary, but can range from vocabulary to grammar and/or translation quizzes. You cannot make-up a quiz without a valid excuse. If you arrive to class before a quiz has been handed in, you will not be able to make it up. I will drop your lowest 1-2 quizzes at the end of the semester, depending on the number administered.

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS

15%

HOMEWORK, ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION (SLOs 1-4)

27%

QUIZZES (SLOs 1-4)

33%

TWO MIDTERM EXAMS (SLOs 1-4)

25%

FINAL EXAM (SLOs 1-4)

IMPORTANT DATES

EXAM 1

Chapters 1-5
Friday, September 21

EXAM 2

Chapters 6-9
Wednesday, October 31

FINAL

Chapters 1-2 (focus on 10-12)
Wednesday, December 5, 12:00-2:30pm

HOMWORK

Homework assignments are listed on the “schedule of assignments” pdf posted to Canvas. This schedule will cover the assignments for several weeks at a time. I reserve the right to modify these assignments based on the pace of the class and/or unexpected class cancellations (weather, etc). I will announce any changes in class and also send an email to your UNCG email account. It is your responsibility to make sure that you are working off of the most current assignment schedule. You should bring your homework assignments to class every day. No late homework assignments or make ups will be accepted. You should complete your homework and any reading assignments before the class period for which the material is assigned. All homework should be completed in black or blue pen or pencil on a separate sheet of paper, ***NOT IN YOUR BOOK.*** I will periodically collect homework assignments, but your grade reflects completeness and honest effort, rather than correctness. **If you are confused about a homework assignment or have problems with an exercise or translating a sentence that’s ok—but don’t leave it blank.** You should instead make an attempt to complete the exercise, noting your confusion in a note directly on the sheet. This attempt may be a translation or you can go through the sentence and mark-up the relevant components. It’s ok if you’re confused, but you must at least try to make some sense of the assignment before you come to class. A homework rubric is available on Canvas for more information about how you will be graded.

IN CLASS & PARTICIPATION

You are expected to attend class every day, with your textbook, completed homework and required writing materials (pen, paper). We will usually begin each class with a brief warm-up. Sometimes this will be the review of a concept covered previously; sometimes it will be a warm up reading or translation exercise to get our brains back into ‘Latin mode.’ The rest of the class is spent reviewing previous material; introducing new material and practicing these new concepts; going over homework assignments; taking quizzes or doing in-class practice. You are expected to participate every day that you attend class. Participation is not just answering a question when you are called on; it is contributing meaningfully, thoughtfully and substantively to the class. Ways to participate include: volunteering to read aloud, answering questions, translating, etc. Everyone has an “off” day, and not everyone feels comfortable participating in front of a class. I get it. I try as much as possible to integrate activities that allow you to participate in smaller groups or in pairs. Still, in order to get high marks on participation you’ll have to contribute to class even outside group and paired activities. Rest assured that no one is judging you (including me), and that contributing to class is really low-pressure. No sweat if you’re wrong. We’re all learning! (Sometimes I get things wrong, too. It happens). A rubric is available online for more information about how you will be graded in this category.

SPOKEN LATIN

While we do not have a strict spoken component as in modern language classes, I will expect you to read Latin sentences aloud before we translate, and sometimes to engage in replying to and composing questions and answers (with preparation). Sometimes this will be something the entire class does together, and sometimes we’ll split into pairs or smaller groups. Either way, participating is part of your overall grade, but please know that you will not be graded this semester on your ability to speak, pronounce, or compose oral Latin.

OTHER STUFF

- 1** We will enforce a strict no technology policy. Phones and laptops should be fully put away at the beginning of class. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in your being marked absent for the day, as you cannot fully participate and engage in the class while dividing your attention in that way.
- 2** Please refrain from side conversations—but don’t be afraid to ask me questions!
- 3** Don’t be disruptive or disrespectful. Use common sense.
- 4** If you anticipate being absent, please email me in advance; if you come late, do so rarely, and quietly.

A	100-93%
A-	90-92%
B+	89-87%
B	86-83%
B-	82-80%
C+	79-77%
C	76-73%
C-	72-70%
D+	69-67%
D	66-63%
D-	62-60%
F	below 60%

RELIGIOUS DAYS

State law allows students to have up to two absences for religious reasons per academic year and to be allowed to make up work missed. If this applies to you, you must notify me two weeks in advance and make arrangements to make up missed work at that time. I reserve the right to require you to do this work before your absence. Please note that classes missed for religious reasons count toward the three absences that you are allowed without penalty; they are not in addition to those three days.

HOW TO SUCCEED

1. Plan to study 2-3 hours at home for each hour you spend in class. “Studying” means doing your homework, reviewing older material, memorizing new vocabulary, drilling declensions and conjugations, etc. The only way you’re going to learn and retain the material is by putting in the time and working hard with memorization and repetition.
2. Don’t write translations in your book! You’ll end up relying on the English, rather than learning to figure out the Latin—and remember, you won’t have a dictionary with you on the exam!
3. Don’t be afraid to make mistakes. **Mistakes are ok.** Mistakes happen. You’ll make mistakes. I’ll make mistakes. We’ll all make mistakes! The mistakes you’ll inevitably make in Latin class are really, really, really insanely low on the threshold of “big-deal-mistakes” you’ll make in your life. Just think: if Spielberg and Lucas have careers after the mistake that was Indiana Jones and the Crystal Skull, you can mistake a second-person singular ending for a noun, or whatever, without it being a thing. Just learn from your mistakes!
4. USE YOUR BOOK! Don’t be afraid to look up material, and get used to flipping back and forth. The better worn the book, the more likely you are to know the material (and to know where to go when you’re confused).
5. Ask for help earlier rather than later—ask me, ask a classmate/study buddy, get tutoring.

GRADING SCALE

Grades will be posted on Canvas throughout the semester so that you may keep track of your performance in the class. My “rounding” policy is as follows: I will take into account the first number after the decimal, i.e. 89.6 will round up to a 90% (A-), but an 89.59 will be a B+. If I make an error calculating your grade I’m more than happy to fix it. However, I do not negotiate grades otherwise. I am happy to discuss your grades with you. However, university policy prohibits the discussion of grades via email, and so you will have to schedule an appointment to come to my office to discuss any issues or questions you might have.

TUTORING

Tutoring is available to you through UNCG’s Tutoring and Academic Skills Program. TASP is located in Forney, Rooms 114 and 214. You can request tutoring at the TASP webpage (<https://studentsuccess.uncg.edu/tasp/>). It is a good idea to apply early in the semester if you think you might want tutoring. Nota bene: This tutoring is **FREE**. Even if you are an awesome Latin student (or anticipate being a Latin superstar) it’s worth signing up for tutoring at the beginning of the semester. Worst case scenario you’ll get to practice for an hour every week.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Each student is required to sign the Academic Integrity Policy on all major work submitted for the course. If you are unclear about what this policy entails, please refer to the UNCG *Undergraduate Bulletin*. Please note that the following violates the Academic Integrity policy: using online translation machines or homework keys in lieu of completing homework on your own; copying a friend’s homework; using old homework assignments, either your own from a previous semester/course or another’s; using unauthorized outside aids on quizzes and exams.

ACCOMODATIONS

Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services in 215 Elliott University Center (<http://ods.dept.uncg.edu/>; email: oars@uncg.edu). If you have a documented disability and want to discuss academic accommodations, please talk with me before the end of the second week.