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### LATN 101.B01: Elementary Latin I

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# LATN 101: Elementary Latin I

## Instructor information:

- Instructor: Scott Arcenas
- Office: LA 326
- Email: [scott.arcenas@umontana.edu](mailto:scott.arcenas@umontana.edu)
- Office hours: Wednesday, 2-4 PM; and by appointment

## Course information:

- Time: 9:00 - 9:50 am, MWF
- Place: SS 356

## Course description:

Latin 101 is the first part of a two-semester sequence that introduces the basic mechanics of the Latin language, as well as an introduction to Roman culture. By the end of the sequence, students will have a firm grasp of Latin grammar and syntax, a substantial Latin vocabulary, and a basic understanding of the (absolutely fascinating!) historical context in which Latin literature emerged.

## Course Objectives:

The goal of this class is to prepare students to read, understand, and appreciate Latin literature in the original language. Students will develop the necessary skills through diligent study of the first 12 chapters of *The Oxford Latin Course* (College Edition). The successful student will:

1. Master the essential principles of Latin grammar and syntax introduced in chapters 1-12 of *The Oxford Latin Course* (College Edition).
2. Master the vocabulary introduced in chapters 1-12.
3. Reinforce their understanding of English grammar and syntax.
4. Begin to develop "an analytical approach to language by seeing English in relation to a language of a very different structure and by observing the influence of the ancient language on our own." (*OLC*, vii)

## Textbooks:

### Required:

- Balme and Morwood. *Oxford Latin Course College Edition: Readings and Vocabulary* (Oxford University Press, 2012) ISBN: 978-0-19-986297-9
- Balme and Morwood. *Oxford Latin Course College Edition: Grammar, Exercises, Context* (Oxford University Press, 2012) ISBN: 978-0-19-986296-2

### Recommended:

- Goldman, et al. *English Grammar for Students of Latin: The Study Guide for Those Learning Latin*. (Olivia and Hill Press) 3rd edition. ISBN: 978-0-93-403434-0

Please note that the same books are used for LATN 101 and LATN 102. If you plan on taking both classes, it is not cost effective to rent the textbooks.

## Assessment and Grading

Grades will be calculated by the following breakdown: Participation (25%), Homework (25%), Quizzes (15%), Tests (35%)

### Participation and Engagement (25%):

Active participation is vital to the success of learning a foreign language. Participation is not the same as attendance. Although the English word “attendance” conventionally means “to be present,” the English term is derived from the Latin *attendere* (*ad* + *tendere*), which means literally “to stretch toward” or more generally “to direct or turn toward.” From this root, the Latin term takes on various meanings including not only “to direct attention to, apply the mind to, to attend to,” but also “to strive eagerly for” and “to be intent on.” To this end, “to attend” Latin 101 means not only to be present, but to stretch one’s intellect toward the subject matter at hand, not only to direct attention to *magister* and other *discipuli*, but to strive eagerly to learn Latin. You will earn points based on your presence in class and your willingness to participate:

3 for being present, prepared, and generally attentive; 2 for being present and willing to participate even if not adequately prepared; 1 for being present, but unable or overly hesitant to participate; and 0 for being absent.

PLEASE NOTE: Repeated tardiness or getting up in the middle of class is considered part of your attendance record. Similarly, dealing with a phone, whether silencing an incoming call, answering a call, sending or receiving text messages is part of your attendance record; you are not “attending” class, if you are frequently responding to messages emanating from outside the classroom. Additionally, these are distracting to your instructor and fellow classmates. Please show respect by limiting these types of disruptions.

Under extraordinary circumstances, such as a documented personal, family, or medical emergency, an absence may be excused. NB: This includes infection with or exposure to the coronavirus, and/or caring for a family member or house/roommate who contracts Covid-19. In addition, all absences for university-related events (“away” games, Model UN, etc.) or public service (jury duty, Army Reserves) will be excused with written documentation. Additional work may be required for excused absences, which should be arranged in advance except in emergencies.

### Homework (25%):

#### *“Written” homework:*

Written homework assignments should be submitted as word documents (.docx) or .pdf files on Moodle before class. We may spend a portion of the class period going over homework as a means of practicing pronunciation and getting immediate feedback on exercises. Students are expected to make corrections on any assignments we go over in class.

Written homework will be graded on the following rubric. Please note that accuracy is not the only standard for the grade. Late homework will not be accepted without arrangements made prior to the due date.

Points	Qualitative Description of Homework	Approximate Grade Equivalence
5	homework complete, largely correct (occasional errors are expected) and demonstrates careful effort and diligence	letter grade A = 100%
4	homework nearly complete with more frequent errors but still demonstrates careful and diligent work	letter grade A- = 92%
3	homework mostly complete but largely error-free OR complete but with frequent errors; homework that was gone over in class but has no corrections marked	letter grade B = 84%
2	homework incomplete with significant errors, seemingly carelessly or hastily attempted	letter grade C = 74%
0	homework not submitted.	

### *Online Homework:*

A variety of online activities will be assigned through Moodle. These may include drills, exercises adapted from the textbook, flashcards, etc. Although Moodle will often call these activities “quizzes,” they are not. Rather, they are meant to be exercises that can be repeated as many times as you like. Grades for online activities will also factor into your overall homework grade.

### *Quizzes (15%):*

There will be four quizzes administered in class over the course of the semester. These will cover the vocabulary introduced throughout the chapters, as well as basic grammatical and cultural issues. Please familiarize yourself with any notes regarding the vocabulary. Students will be expected to know not only the meaning of the words, but all additional grammatical information (e.g. nominative and genitive forms, gender of nouns; principle parts of verbs and the cases they govern). Students will be expected to complete both Latin to English and English to Latin.

### *Tests (35%):*

There will be four tests administered in class over the course of the term. Tests will be modeled on the homework and in-class exercises completed over the course of the term. Students will be expected to be able to identify and reproduce forms, identify and explain syntactical constructions, and translate from Latin into English. Language learning is by nature a cumulative process. Although tests will focus on the material covered since the previous test, they will be cumulative both in terms of the vocabulary and grammar.

**Email and Moodle:** Students are required to use their university email accounts and are expected to check their accounts regularly (once a day, minimum). This class will also use a Moodle course supplement. Students will need to know their Net ID and associated password to access Moodle. All announcements concerning assignments, quizzes, events, etc. will be sent to university email accounts and will be posted to Moodle.

**Nota Bene** (that's Latin!) Most of the learning process is up to you. No matter how much I do in the classroom, I cannot implant Latin into your heads. The best strategy is to work on your Latin at least a little bit every day. There are no shortcuts; you need to spend the time outside of class memorizing and drilling. I am willing to answer questions, offer further explanations, and help with your reading and translating. I will also do my best to establish and maintain a supportive and productive learning environment, but I can't do it alone; all of us—i.e., me, you, and all of your classmates—will need to work together.

### Class during COVID:

- Mask use is required during class and as long as you are in the classroom area.
- Your mask must cover both your nose and mouth at all times.
- Neck gaiters and masks with exhalation valves or vents appear to be ineffective at preventing viral transmission from the wearer to others. Accordingly, please avoid these types of facial covering.
- For more information about effective facial coverings, see the following: [CDC guidelines](#), [Duke University study](#), [Washington Post article](#).
- For more information about UM's COVID response, see <https://www.umt.edu/coronavirus> and <https://www.umt.edu/coronavirus/fall2020.php>.
- You have been provided with a cleaning kit. You are expected to clean your personal work space when you arrive for class, and before you leave the classroom.
- To facilitate contact tracing and minimize the possibility of widespread virus transmission, I will be taking attendance and will use a fixed seating arrangement for our class.
- Please do not eat or drink while you are in the classroom area (because both require you to remove your mask!).
- Please stay home and contact the Curry Health Center (406-243-4330) if you feel sick and/or if you are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms. We will work together to ensure you don't fall behind in class.
- Thank you for your vigilance! We are all in this together.

### Student Code of Conduct

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [Student Conduct Code](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php) ([http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php)).

### Disability modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

### Key dates:

Aug 26 (Wed): Quiz 1  
Sept 4 (Fri): Test 1  
Sept 7 (Mon): No class (Labor Day)  
Sept 16 (Wed): Quiz 2  
Sept 25 (Fri): Test 2  
Nov 11 (Wed): No class (Veterans Day)  
Nov 18 (Wed): Test 4  
Other quizzes, tests TBD

**Schedule of Classes:** For readings, assignments, etc., please see our class Moodle page.