

# ELEMENTARY LATIN SYLLABUS

LATIN 101 - 102 Section 2 2009 - 2010

M·TU·W· F 9:00 am - 9:50 am Capron Room, Wallace Hall 115

## Virginia K. Hellenga, Instructor

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## Elementary Latin

A background in Latin is a great benefit to the study of English, the sciences, medicine, law, and many other professional fields, and certainly expands your English vocabulary and improves your comprehension and use of English grammar. Your work in Latin will help you in writing papers, studying, understanding the hidden meanings behind words, and expressing yourself beautifully.

The aim of Latin 101-102 is to learn basic reading and writing skills in Latin as quickly and as thoroughly as possible. At the end of two terms of Elementary Latin, you should know the fundamentals of Latin grammar, have a basic Latin vocabulary, and be able to read a Latin text with the help of a dictionary. Speaking and listening skills in Latin will be encouraged in order to assist the development of reading and writing Latin.

These courses are primarily directed towards students desiring to meet the requirements for graduation under the foreign language component of the Monmouth College General Education requirements. Elementary Latin can also fulfill partial requirements for a major in Latin or Classics.

The Monmouth College catalogue gives the following description of courses that meet the Language requirement:

The creation and use of language is the most significant achievement of human beings, for our ability to organize our understanding in verbal symbols and to communicate sets us apart from all other life forms. The symbols of our language make possible many different levels of meaning and allow us to translate our private experience into universal terms. A sure understanding of language is the foundation of all knowledge, and the ability to use verbal symbols effectively is the most important of all skills.

This component of academics at Monmouth College provides that every student have experience with a second language. The study of a foreign language allows students to see that their native language often reflects cultural needs and interests at the same time that it shares many basic patterns with other languages.

**Texts for Latin 101-102:**

**Kitchell and Sienkewicz. *DISCE!* Preliminary Edition, 2009, with complete vocabulary and exercises. To be published by Prentice Hall, 2011.**

**Robin M. Griffin, Ed Phinney. *A Student's Latin Grammar* Cambridge University Press, May 1992 ISBN-978-0521385879**

**Highly recommended:** a Latin dictionary, useful in finding the Latin for English words. You can order this excellent Latin dictionary from Amazon.com for 19 cents: **TRAUPMAN NEW COLLEGE LATIN & ENGLISH DICTIONARY, Revised** John Traupman, (Bantam, 1995)

**Instructor:**

Virginia Hellenga, Lecturer in Classics  
Office: Room 16, lower level Wallace Hall,

**Office Hours:**

Monday, 10:00 am - 10:30 am, in my office  
Tuesday, 11:00 - 11:50 am, in WH 115  
Wednesday, 10:00 am - 10:50 am, in WH 115,  
and when I am in my office, **or by appointment**

**Tutoring:**

Latin tutors will be available several hours a week to help students individually with class assignments. Working with the tutors also does *them* a favor, because it gives them the opportunity to explain concepts clearly, as well as review basics of Latin.

**Class Goals and Format:**

Class meets on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 9:50 a.m. in Wallace Hall 115, the Capron Room.

There will be **daily assignments from the textbooks** and **frequent quizzes**. In addition, there will be supplementary readings in Latin, as well as music in Latin, videos, Latin popular songs, Latin games, and simple conversational Latin.

For most students, Elementary Latin is a two-semester experience. You will not really have a full sense of the Latin language until the end of second semester.

**Summary of Grading:**

Class Participation and performance	10%
Quizzes	20%
Homework (assignments to turn in)	20%
Tests (including finals presentation)	50%

## Requirements:

### I. Participation and performance (10%); attendance policy

Learning another language is a lot easier in a group, but only if everyone in the group is working together. This kind of course requires daily attention. You cannot study only before tests and quizzes. You must attend class faithfully and be prepared every day. Attendance at all meetings of the class is required.

Each student is permitted three unexcused absences during the semester. Sometimes you just need a "me day," even though you are not sick! A student with **more than THREE** unexcused absences will drop one grade point on the final semester grade for each unexcused absence over three.

("Sleeping in," "the alarm not going off," or "not feeling well" are not excuses.)

If you have zero absences during the semester, you will receive special recognition and a special prize.

Active participation by all students in the class is very important. You are expected to ask questions, volunteer answers, and actively participate in class.

### II. Quizzes (20%)

**Many classes begin with a quiz** based on current assignments. There are **no make-ups on quizzes** unless you present a written excuse from your doctor.

If you know that you will have an excused absence, you may take a quiz ahead of time.

### III. Homework {assignments to be turned in} (20%)

Homework assignments will be given daily to challenge you to practice and master new grammatical forms and vocabulary, and to review and remember what you have already learned. You will be asked to demonstrate reading comprehension of sentences and passages in Latin, stories in Latin, and the texts of Latin music.

### IV. Tests and final exam period creative presentation (50%)

There will be **four** major tests during each semester, as well as a **creative presentation** (individual or with a group during the final exam period). The dates for tests will be announced in class at least one week in advance. These tests will demonstrate your understanding of the grammar and assignments. There are **no make-ups on tests** unless you present a written excuse from your doctor.

The **creative presentation during the final exam period** will be a chance to share aspects of Roman culture which you find intriguing, and want to learn more about. We will have a list of possible topics to spark your interest and enthusiasm. These class presentations are in lieu of a final exam.

### V. Extra Credit

There will be several opportunities to gain extra credit in this class, including writing response papers after attending Classics Department and Archeological Lectures during the semester. Many extra credit opportunities are offered in class. You may suggest anything you would like to do for extra credit.

## VI. Making corrections on your work:

At the beginning of class the next day, you will be able to make corrections on tests and quizzes from memory and by thinking, without the use of books, notes, papers, or any other material in making these corrections. By contrast, you may make corrections on homework, using DISCE! and your class notes. Corrections on homework are due the day after homework is returned to you.

→ Successful corrections will **add 50%** to your score on a test, quiz, or homework assignment.

## VII. Summary of Grading

The goal is for all students to perform at their optimal level. The grading system is designed to give each student maximum control of the final grade earned. The focus of all assignments, quizzes and tests is not grading but learning.

**A student with a passing average for homework and quizzes is guaranteed a passing grade in the course (no matter the test grade average).**

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### Honesty and Plagiarism:

→ **Do your own thinking!**

It is sometimes comforting, inspiring, and fun to work in the presence of other students in the class, but do challenge yourself to come up with your own thoughtful answers to questions, and your own translations of Latin, rather than lazily letting someone else do the work for you.

**Presenting someone else's work as if you did the work yourself is plagiarism.**

You do not learn anything this way, and you may be copying someone else's errors!

If two papers with identical or nearly identical work are submitted by different students, **both papers will receive a failing grade.**

**FINAL EXAMS** → Note 1<sup>st</sup> semester exam time change from 8:00 am to 9:00am.

**Latin 101 Final Exam Period is Monday, December 14, 2009, at 9:00am not 8:00 am**

**Latin 102 Final Exam Period is Monday, May 10, 2010, at 1:00 pm**

**Caveat:** This syllabus is subject to revision by the instructor, provided that written or verbal notice is given in class. `