

Latin Word Elements/Classics 224
Spring Semester, 2013
Wallace Hall 114
MWF, 2-2:50 pm

Instructor: Chris Maisto
Classics Department
Wallace Room 19, x2341
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Office hours: MWF 1-2 & by appointment

Texts: Ayers, Donald. *English Words from Latin & Greek Elements*, 2nd ed.
American Heritage Dictionary

Course objectives: The main purpose of this course is to help you build your vocabulary and to understand English words better by learning about the Latin words or roots from which they derived. You will also gain an understanding of the way elements, such as prefixes, bases, and suffixes, are used to form words. Other topics will include definitions, dictionary work and etymologies, specialization and generalization of meaning and different ways words are formed, etc. We will be working at a clip of about 3 lessons per week in order to cover most of the first half of your Ayers book.

Course expectations:

- 1) **Attendance:** Please come to class. The end result (what you learn and your grade) is much more likely to be positive if your attendance is good. Remember “80% of success in life is just showing up.”
- 2) **Homework:** For each class meeting there will be reading assignments and possibly written exercises or handouts to complete and submit to me.
- 3) **Quizzes:** There will be **weekly quizzes on Fridays**. Usually the quizzes will cover topic(s) from earlier in the week; an announcement will be made by the preceding class meeting (Wednesday). Remember that make-up quizzes will only be given at the instructor’s discretion.
- 4) **Exams:** There will be a mid-term exam; date to be announced, and a final exam the last day of class before spring break, on Friday, March 8th.
- 5) **Paper:** You will be required to write one short paper of **approximately two pages**, due date to be announced, but probably around the end of February. Papers can be on a topic of your own choosing as long as it has to do in some way with word elements and understanding words, particularly those derived from Latin. For instance, you can do a paper on the history of a particular word, or a more general topic, such as a certain type of word, a Latin expression used in English, or on a made up or adopted word, etc.

Grading:

Homework, attendance, and participation: 10%
Weekly quizzes: 20%
Two page paper, 15%
Midterm: 25%
Final Exam: 30%