

The University of Warwick
Department of Classics and Ancient History

CX 101/201/301 – Latin Language and Literature 2017/18



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Office Hours

**Tuesdays, 12-1, Wednesdays 12-1
during term time**

INTRODUCTION

This module builds upon *Latin Language CX115* module and gives the opportunity to read significant passages of original authors. Students need to have a sound basis to enrol on the module, as follows:

- Students who have studied Latin Language (Beginners) module usually need to have achieved 70% to be eligible for this module.
- First year undergraduates would normally have studied Latin at A level but not achieved the A grade necessary for Latin Literary Texts.
- Any undergraduate with a good GCSE pass who proposes to take this course should contact me in early September, since experience has shown that the two-year gap in studying Latin means that students are often not adequately prepared for the demands of this course. I will send revision material at the start of September to help them get up to speed and will set a diagnostic paper in the first week of term to see whether they will be able to thrive on the course. Anyone who does not do well in the diagnostic test will be advised to enrol on either the Latin Language or the Greek Language module.

Attendance

There are three hours of teaching each week. Attendance is required at all classes. If you are ill, you should contact your lecturer by email as soon as possible giving an indication of why you could not be expected to attend. In the absence of any such email, attendance will be noted as unauthorised.

Language clinics and office hours

Language Clinics and Office Hours are an important part of the module, offering students the opportunity to sort out areas of uncertainty as the module progresses. Each module tutor has their hours displayed outside their office.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of the course are to finish learning the structures of the language and to read some Latin by classical authors of a reasonable length. By the end of this module, students should expect to have:

- completed an introduction to the syntax of the language;
- developed a good working Latin vocabulary;
- read unadapted Latin by four major authors; and
- started to develop an awareness of different literary styles.

To continue to the next level, Latin Literary Texts, the Department recommends a minimum of 70% in this module.

ORGANISATION

Tuition

There are three hours of tuition per week. Students are encouraged to use Office Hours to clear up points as they occur. There are no classes in reading week.

Students will need to purchase copies of the *Oxford Grammar of Latin* – James Morwood (OUP), a dictionary. In the second term they will need to buy editions of the set texts, as specified in the module handbook.

Overview: term 1

As a continuation to the Latin Language module, this module aims to improve the student's knowledge of accidence and syntax, and widen vocabulary. This will be the focus of the classes for the first few weeks of the Autumn term and will be achieved by reading carefully-graded versions of myths from Ovid. The first text is from the *Martyrdom of Perpetua*. This is examined in an exam in Week 1 of Term 2.

Term 2

The second set text - usually Cicero - is read and the third - usually a book of Virgil's Aeneid - is substantially finished. Work begins on reading Ovid hexameters in preparation for unseen translation in the summer exam for which a list of vocabulary for verse is provided and some translation into Latin is undertaken each week.

Term 3

The set book is finished in the first week; the rest of the time is devoted to revision and exam technique. The examination can be on any portion of the text studied in class and will include questions on grammar and content. Texts are chosen for their intrinsic interest as well as their capacity to deepen students' understanding of the language. Students are required to prepare translations, which are then discussed in class along with content. Students will need to go over the text again immediately after each class to consolidate their work

Course materials

In 2017/18 we will study:

- selection from the Martyrdom of Perpetua
- selections from Cicero's *in Verrem II.5*
- selections from *Aeneid Book 3*, Perkell, C. (2010) Vergil Aeneid 3 Focus Publishing

In addition, you will need to have two reference books to help develop your language:

- *Oxford Grammar of Latin* – James Morwood (OUP)
- A dictionary. Most will be suitable at this level but recommended are *The Bantam New College Latin and English Dictionary* by John Traupman; or *Pocket Oxford Latin Dictionary*.

Note: a very small dictionary will not be sufficient at this level. Use of on-line dictionaries, such as Logeion or Perseus or Glossa or apps such as SPQR is encouraged but they are an adjunct, not a substitute for one of the above in physical form.

ASSESSMENT

This module is assessed through two examinations, as follows:

Term 2, Week 1

1 hour exam (20%) based on the first set text. Questions on translation (10%) and accident and syntax (10%).

Term 3

2 hour exam (80%). Questions on the second and third set texts will comprise translation of passages and comment on accident, syntax and content. There will also be a passage for unseen translation.

Questions may encompass translation, and questions on grammatical and stylistic matters and may be from any part of the text which has been studied.

Passing the module

Non-first years carry the mark that they gain. The two passages for translation in the summer examination will be marked according to the University's 20 point scale.

For first year students, this is a core module and both exams need to be passed (i.e. 40% gained in each). If you fail an element, then you will be required to resit that element in the first week of September. If you do not gain 40%, you will be required to withdraw from the University.

Finally: your course tutor is an important resource. Do not hesitate to contact me.

STUDY SKILLS

Students are expected to do significant work outside classes, and are advised that they should reckon on spending **at least 2 hours in private study between each class**, and will also need to spend some time during vacations to consolidate the new material.

Study will typically be divided between:

- working on vocabulary
- revising and refining accident (endings) and syntax (sentence construction)
- preparing text for the next class
- post-preparing text of previous class

We employ two methods of reading the set texts. At first, we go through the text carefully in class together and the student's task is to go over and ensure that you have a good understanding of the meaning and content and learn the vocabulary in context. When students have had some experience of the style of their author, they prepare by annotating a copy of the text but not write out translations. The class will consist of checking students' understanding of the Latin and discussion of grammatical content and style. Students will need to go over the text again immediately after each class to consolidate their work.

Advice on studying for this module

- At the start of the year, identify gaps in your knowledge and sort them out, quickly. Some loss is to be expected. An important part of learning a language is how you manage your consolidation.
- Make a habit of looking at vocabulary every day – both new vocabulary and revision of vocabulary previously learned. Have a vocabulary book or list and carry it around for odd moments (bus?) that you can usefully fill.
- Get comfortable with the terminology for the various constructions – purpose, clause, result clause etc. Be able to explain how they work at any time.
- Use published translations sparingly.
- Team up on a regular basis with someone else: both for language and set text work. You both learn from each other, and it's double the fun.

Plagiarism

The purpose of set books is to enable the student to get to grips with idiomatic Latin. While translations can be helpful in getting to understand trickier phrases, lifting sentences wholesale is not acceptable, whether in class or in exams.

CLASSES

Students are expected to be familiar with the grammar and syntax set out in the *Oxford Grammar of Latin*. The set texts are as set out above (in *Course materials*): the precise lines set to be studied will be specified on the departmental web-pages. The unseen will be set from a passage of Ovid.

We would normally expect to make progress as follows:

Autumn Term

Weeks 1-5: Extensive reading for consolidation of previous material and introduction of new material.

Weeks 7-10: (excluding 6) Read extracts from *Perpetua*.

Spring Term

Week 1: 1 hour exam on *Perpetua*
Start learning verse vocabulary list.
Work on Ovid (unseen author)
Read Cicero *in Verrem*

Week 7: Start Virgil *Aeneid 3*

Summer Term

Week 1 Finish *Aeneid 3*

Weeks 2-3 Revision

THE LANGUAGE

Major types of constructions:

Indirect Speech	
Indirect Statement	accusative plus <u>infinitive</u>
Indirect Command	ut/ne + <u>subjunctive</u> verb
Indirect Question	question word + <u>subjunctive</u> verb
2 main uts	
i Purpose clause	ut/ne + <u>subjunctive</u>
ii Result clause	signpost word + ut + <u>subjunctive</u>
Conditionals	si/nisi plus either 2 indicatives or 2 <u>subjunctives</u>

Less frequent types:

Verbs of Fearing	NE + <u>subjunctive</u>
Time clauses	cum + <u>subjunctive</u> dum + present indicative
Purpose clause (2)	qui + <u>subjunctive</u>
Ablative absolute	noun + participle in the ablative
Gerunds and gerundives	verbal nouns purpose obligation (needing to be done)
Independent subjunctive	jussive <u>subjunctives</u> wishes

Illustration on front cover:

Woodcut illustration from the "Strasbourg Vergil," edited by Sebastian Brant: *Publii Virgilii Maronis Opera cum quinque vulgatis commentariis expolitissimisque figuris atque imaginibus nuper per Sebastianum Brant superadditis* (Strasbourg: Johannis Grieninger, 1502), fol. 234r, executed by an anonymous engraver under the direction of Brant.