Classics 101L — Elementary Latin I
MW 11:00-11:50 & TTh 11:00-12:15 — AH 4144

Dr. Brad Cook, office AH 4110
off. hrs. M 3:30-4:30, TW 1-1:55
and by appointment

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COURSE CONTENT & GOALS: We will learn half the grammar that is required for the reading of ancient Latin (We’re saving the 2nd half for next semester!), while establishing a sizable vocabulary. We will acquire and exercise this grammar and vocabulary through reading a set of prose texts of narratives and letters about the life and times of the extraordinary orator and statesman Marcus Tullius Cicero (see right —>). In these Latin texts we will study ancient Roman life and society but especially the attempted political coup in the year 63 B.C. and how Cicero used words to defend and save the Republic. We will develop the skills to approach any Latin text with competence and confidence as well as learn to analyze English (and other languages) through comparison of Latin with English and the Romance languages.


DAILY WORK: It is expected that you will spend at least two hours preparing for each class.
We will spend four days on each Lesson; usually Day 1 will be on a Monday.
PREP. for Day 1: memorize the previous lesson’s vocab. and noun & verb paradigms (Not for the first Day 1, of course).
IN CLASS: quiz on previous lesson’s vocab. and paradigms; begin reading new lesson’s Narratio.

PREP. for Day 2: i. reread Narratio from class and write out a translation, marking any questions.
ii. add new vocabulary to your vocab. lists with English meaning (given in back of book).
iii. make flash cards of new noun and/or verb paradigms to memorize.

IN CLASS: address questions from previous’ days Narratio, continue and finish the Narratio.

PREP. for Day 3: same as for Tuesday.
IN CLASS: address questions from the Narratio; go through the Exercitia and review new paradigms & grammar.

PREP. for Day 4: review Exercitia from class and write out trans. of Eng. to Latin; n.b. (nota bene) you must read through the Eng. to Lat., then reread the Narratio and imitate the relevant sentences, i.e., use the Narratio to help you understand the Eng. to Latin = Discere ex exemplo (Learn by example).
IN CLASS: Put Eng. to Lat. on the board and study the new morphology (word endings) and grammar.

After Day 4’s class and before Monday Prep., hide your translation of the Narratio; read the Narratio aloud (always read aloud—but not so loudly or in an inappropriate venue such that everyone thinks ...) and mark down any words or phrases that don’t seem clear; only after you are done with the entire Narratio, check your translation, if you need to.

QUIZZES & EXAMS: We will have frequent quizzes on vocabulary and noun & verb paradigms, along with some phrases and short sentences to translate (both ways, e.g., Lat. -> Eng. & Eng. -> Lat.); expect them on Mondays, especially. There will also be a longer quiz on Monday, Oct 17, and a final. The longer quiz (aka, midterm) and final must be taken as scheduled, unless a documentable medical or family emergency arises. The final will be on Monday, December 19, 10:30 am–12:30 pm.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Civil, conscious attendance is required.* If you miss class, come see me during an office hour or schedule an appointment (after class or by phone, i.e., NOT by e-mail—I want to talk to you, not the computer) immediately to discuss the missed material: it is your responsibility to speak with me about missed material. Absences can be excused for documented medical and/or family events/emergencies. If unexcused absences exceed a week’s worth of class (four days) your grade for the course will be lowered 3.33% per absence.

GRADE: contribution and performance in class including any written work (30), quizzes (30), exams (15, 25)

N.B. all work is to be your own; cheating and/or plagiarism will result in an F for the assignment, test, or course.