

CLAS 210: Intro Latin  
McAuley

**INTRODUCTORY LATIN**  
**CLAS 210**  
Alex McAuley  
McGill University  
Summer 2012

Time of Lectures: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 11h05-13h25

Location: Education Building Room 216

Course Dates: 4 June – 2 August, 2012

Office and Office Hours: Leacock 817  
13h30-14h30, Tuesdays and Thursdays  
or by appointment

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**Course Description:** The aim of this course is to provide students with an intensive introduction to Latin, the language of erudition, of scribes and scholars, poets and philosophers, statesmen and clerics from the Roman Republic until the Enlightenment and enjoying continued prominence today. Beyond its own beauty and complexity as a language and a literary tradition, Latin provides students with an invaluable knowledge of the progenitor of the Romance languages and their vocabulary, not to mention a far deeper understanding of English grammar, vocabulary, and rhetoric. The study of Latin, both as an exercise in logical thought and linguistic translation, aims to instil a highly transferable skill set that is indispensable in the world of philology and beyond.

To do so, the course is roughly divided into two parts: first, students will be introduced to the morphology (form and endings) of Latin nouns, verbs, adjectives, and other particles, providing the bare-bones structural elements of the language. The second half of the course will delve into syntax and grammar – how Latin combines these elements in different manners to convey different meaning. Throughout, Latin will be approached through the myths recounted by Ovid in his *Metamorphoses*, allowing us to work with abridged Latin texts as early as the first week and delve into the cultural and religious context of the language. Wherever possible, the historical development of Latin in Rome and beyond will be discussed. Though rigorous, the summer course provides the ideal milieu of concentration and focus in which to approach the language in all of its complexity.

By the end of the course, students will have acquired the morphological and grammatical knowledge necessary to approach original, unabridged Latin texts.

**Required Texts:**

(Titles available from Paragraphe Bookstore, 2200 McGill College Avenue)

Goldman, N. and J.E. Nyenhuis, *Latin via Ovid: A First Course, Second Edition*, Detroit, 1982.

Allen, J. H and J. B. Greenough, *Allen and Greenough's New Latin Grammar*, New York, 2006.

Goldman, Norma, and Szymanski, Ladislas. *English Grammar for Students of Latin*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Olivia and Hill Press, 2004.

-also any basic Latin dictionary of your choice.

**Approach, Method, and Routine:**

As with the instruction of most languages, lecture time will alternate between presentation of the material and active practice through exercises and translation, with discussion of historical, mythological, and literary context interspersed. Given the short timeframe of the course and the speed at which we will be going through the material, attendance is not only mandatory but absolutely necessary for staying up to speed. Marks will be deducted for undocumented or repeated absence.

In **lectures**, we will generally cover one chapter of the textbook per day, including discussions of vocabulary, grammar, and translation of the particular myth which each contains. If at any point you are uncertain about the material being discussed, always feel free to ask any questions or request any clarification you feel you might need. It is always best to go through the material thoroughly and completely, especially considering the cumulative nature of the course (and language, for that matter) and the relatively short timeframe. Lectures are meant to provide the base of knowledge and comprehension which you will refine and solidify during your individual study.

The rest of the afternoon or evening (a few hours' worth of work) should be dedicated to **individual study** of the grammar, vocabulary, and material covered by the lecture and the textbook chapter. Reading through the chapter, revising previous concepts that remain tricky, and then practicing with exercises and translation will ensure that you fully absorb the material and get into the routine of learning Latin. Taking a quick glance at the next day's chapter the night before lecture (or even the morning of) is always a fantastic way to gain some idea of what is to come.

I am always available via e-mail or office hours for extra help and explanation of anything you might find difficult. If you need help, you need only ask.

**Evaluation:**

- Attendance, Participation, Assignments = 15%
- Quizzes (Weekly Recap): 4 x 5% = 20%
- Tests (cumulative): 2 x 10% = 20%
- Midterm Examination (3 July): 20%
- Final Examination (6 August): 25%

**Evaluation Description:**

- **Attendance, Participation, Assignments:** As mentioned above, attendance for such an intensive and short-term class is fundamental to ensuring your success in the course, as is active participation in class through answering exercises and contributing to our translation of each chapter's text. In addition, assignments will be given out on an *ad hoc* basis – generally on the weekend – to provide more specific work where necessary.
- **Quizzes:** at the end of every week there shall be a quiz reviewing the material discussed over the preceding days. These are short and not meant to take more than twenty minutes at the beginning of class, but will provide both valuable practice and a useful diagnostic for identifying areas which may be sources of difficulty. The lowest quiz mark of the course will be dropped before the final mark is calculated.
- **Tests:** Interspersed during the first and second halves the course, the tests are meant to provide a more cumulative and expansive review of preceding material. They will be somewhat longer and broader in scope than the quizzes, and will take roughly thirty or forty minutes of the period in which they are written.
- **Midterm and Final Examinations:** Both the midterm and the final will provide a cumulative assessment of all material covered thus far, and will be divided into several sections meant to test knowledge of verbal forms, noun and adjective declensions, as well as translation skills.

**N.B:** There are no make-up quizzes or tests without a doctor's note. If you miss an assessment, it will be counted as a zero.

**Regulations:** In accordance with the University's Charter of Students' Rights, students have the right to submit any written work in either or English or French.

**Statement on Academic Integrity:**

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism, and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see <http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity> for more information).

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## CLASS ITINERARY – TERM I

### Week I

M 4 Jun: Intro to course, Ch. 1. Pronunciation and Alphabet  
T 5 Jun: Ch. 2 & Ch. 3  
W 6 Jun: Finish Ch. 3 & Ch. 4  
R 7 Jun: Quiz I & Ch. 5

### Week II

M 11 Jun: Ch. 6  
T 12 Jun: Ch. 7  
W 13 Jun: Ch. 8  
R 14 Jun: Quiz II and Ch. 9

**Week III** Read *"Bellum Gallicum"* in *A Companion to Julius Caesar*, available on WebCT

M 18 Jun: Ch. 10  
T 19 Jun: Ch. 11  
W 20 Jun: Ch. 12  
R 21 Jun: Test I & Ch. 13

**Week IV** Read *BG* books V and VI

M 25 Jun: **NO CLASS - Fête de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste**  
T 26 Jun: Ch. 14 & Ch. 15  
W 27 Jun: Ch. 16  
R 28 Jun: Quiz 3, Review of Ch. 1-16 and vocab.

### Week V

M 2 Jul: **NO CLASS – Canada Day Holiday**  
T 3 Jul: Midterm Examination (20%)

**CLASS ITINERARY – TERM II**  
(subject to revision after midterm)

**Week V** (continued)

W 4 Jul: Ch. 17

R 5 Jul: Ch. 18

**Week VI**

M 9 Jul: Ch. 19

T 10 Jul: Ch. 20

W 11 Jul: Ch. 21

R 12 Jul: Quiz 4 & Ch. 22

**Week VII**

M 16 Jul: Ch. 23

T 17 Jul: Ch. 24

W 18 Jul: Ch. 25

R 19 Jul: Quiz 5 & Ch. 26

**Week VIII**

M 23 Jul: Ch. 27

T 24 Jul: Ch. 28

W 25 Jul: Ch. 29

R 26 Jul: Test II & Ch. 30

**Week IX:**

M 30 Jul: Ch. 31

T 31 Jul: Ch. 32

W 1 Aug: Ch. 33

R 2 Aug: Review Ch. 17-35

**Final Exam:** 6 August