

Latin 506 (33010)
Fall 2009

M-F 10-11, WAG 308
Instructor: Jonathan MacLellan
Office Hours: TTh 12-1:30 in WAG 14C
jmaclellan@mail.utexas.edu

FIRST-YEAR LATIN I

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will introduce you to the basics of Latin grammar, syntax, and vocabulary, as presented by Wheelock chapters 1-25. These basics will then be applied to the translation of original and adapted Latin sentences and passages, with continued practice of sight-reading. By the end of this course, you should not only have a good basic foundation in Latin but also a general introduction to Latin literature, Roman history and culture, and the importance of Latin to English vocabulary formation.

Latin 506 is the first half of a full-year course completed by Latin 507 and may be used as part of the foreign language requirement, as part of the Area D requirement, or as an elective. Students who successfully complete both parts of the course (Latin 506 and 507) will have acquired a sufficient capability in the language in order to take intermediate-level Latin courses and begin to read original Latin authors more or less independently.

TEXTS (available at the University Coop or online):

F. M. Wheelock, *Wheelock's Latin, 6th ed. revised*. Harper Collins, 2005.
A. H. Groton & J. M. May, *38 Latin Stories*. Bolchazy-Carducci, 2003.
(optional) N. W. Goldman, *English Grammar for Students of Latin, 3rd ed.* Olivia and Hill Press, 2004.

ASSESSMENT/GRADING POLICY:

Grades will be based upon participation (10%), quizzes (20%), exams (70%), and attendance.

A. Participation

Learning a language is an active process, thus 10% of your grade will be determined by your participation in this class. This includes your performance on in-class exercises and the degree to which you have prepared homework assignments. Making mistakes is an inevitable (and often useful) part of the learning process, and your participation grade is meant to reflect how hard you try rather than how frequently you get answers correct.

B. Quizzes

There will be regular quizzes throughout the course of the semester (about one a week). These are designed to test your command of small units of material, vocabulary, and sight translation. I will typically announce a quiz and the material it will cover ahead of time, though I reserve the right to give the occasional pop-quiz. No make-ups for quizzes will be offered for unexcused absences, but the lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

C. Exams

There will be three in-class exams over the course of the semester (about every four weeks) worth 15% each and a final exam worth 25%. If you miss an exam, a make-up will be offered only in the case of a demonstrated medical reason (physician's statement required) or other emergency (as certified by the Dean of Students in the student's college). If you must miss the final exam, you must inform me in writing, accompanied by proper documentation, ahead of time.

D. Attendance

New material will be covered in this course on a daily basis, and there is a significant positive correlation between success in Latin 506 and attendance. Thus, I will check attendance every day. You are allowed three unexcused absences with no penalty, but your final grade will drop one point for each additional unexcused absence. Excused absences are those that are approved prior to the absence by the instructor, absences related to University-related activities (with proper written verification), and written medical notes from a doctor (not including prescription notes). *Nota bene: Whether an absence is excused or not, you will be held accountable for material you missed, and you will be expected to have completed all assignments for the following day.*

Grades will be assigned on the following scales:

A+ 97-100	Pass: 75 and above
A 93-96.9	Fail: 0-74.9
A- 90-92.9	
B+ 87-89.9	Credit: 65 and above
B 83-86.9	No Credit: 0-64.9
B- 80-82.9	
C+ 77-79.9	
C 73-76.9	
C- 70-72.9	
D+ 67-69.9	
D 63-66.9	
D- 60-62.9	
F 0-59.9	

In order to advance to LAT 507, you must receive a minimum grade of a C or PASS in this course. Earning CREDIT will NOT allow you to advance.

On exams, if you are within one point of a grade threshold, I will round up in your favor. In exchange for this courtesy, however, your final grade is non-negotiable.

IMPORTANT DATES (EXAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

26 Aug.	Semester begins
7 Sept.	No class—Labor Day
25 Sept.	Exam I (Chapters 1-8)
23 Oct.	Exam II (Chapters 1-16)
13 Nov.	Exam III (Chapters 1-23)
26-9 Nov.	No class—Thanksgiving
4 Dec.	Last day of class
15 Dec.	Final Exam 9am-12pm, Location TBD (Chapters 1-25)

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

Scholastic dishonesty of any form (such as plagiarism, cheating, and fabrication) will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade (F) for the course and will be subject to University procedures under Appendix C, Section 11 of the General Information Bulletin (<http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi07-08/app/appc03.html#Chapter-11-Student-Discipline-and-Conduct>). For more information about scholastic dishonesty, contact the Student Judicial Services at 471.2841 or go to <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php>.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HONOR CODE:

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

DISABILITIES:

The University of Texas at Austin provides, upon request, appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Students with disabilities should make known to me any accommodations needed during the first week of the course if possible. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 or 471-4641, or go to <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:

Work missed due to a religious holiday may be made up if students supply documentation of the holiday at least 14 days ahead of time. (http://www.utexas.edu/provost/policies/religious_holidays)

A FINAL WORD:

Latin is an extremely rewarding subject that has enriched the minds and lives of everyone from battle-hardened academics to armchair enthusiasts of the ancient world. That said, it differs from many of the subjects that you will study in a simple but fundamental way: *there are absolutely no shortcuts*. Learning Latin well requires consistency, persistence, and a great deal of memorization. Since nearly everything you learn in Latin builds upon what comes before it, falling behind even a little bit can quickly turn into an educational disaster. You should strive to 1) keep up with daily assignments; 2) keep a list of vocabulary words, reviewing them often; 3) Raise questions and problems when they arise rather than waiting for the end of the week or right before an exam; 4) Study together with a partner or two; 5) talk with me if you are unclear about anything.