

CAMS 1121: Elementary Latin 1

Fall 2018

Instructor: Sean Northrup

Office: TBA

Office Hour: by appointment

Email: sean.northrup@uconn.edu

Place: Oak 111

Time: MWF 12:20-1:10

(+ online component)

Course Description: CAMS 1121 is an introduction to the elements of Classical Latin and will prepare you for CAMS 1122. Above all, practice in reading Latin will be our aim, but there will be some role for spoken elements of the language. Another important aim of the course is to build a basis for fluency in talking about how the language works: we call that grammar. To paraphrase one of the great Latinists (Erasmus): knowledge of grammar can only improve thought, while ignorance of it can prove to be its detriment.

If the point of grammar is to help in understanding and reading language, then the point of reading also has its own aim: a more direct access to the cultures that produced Latin texts. There will thus be a cultural component to this course, as well. The history of Latin writing and reading is vast—going on two and a half millennia now—but the cultural moment that will command our attention for this course (and most others you will likely take at the undergraduate level) is that of the late Roman Republic and early Roman empire, although in our discussions we will be going outside of those boundaries occasionally. This was a vibrant and dynamic cultural environment whose written monuments still influence modern cultures, even if that influence is mostly and unfortunately undetected. The more Latin you know, the more you will begin to detect it yourself. Alongside our linguistic work, then, we'll be talking about who some of these Latin writers and readers were, what they did and thought, how they lived, and how Latin is the best access we have into the lives and minds of these long-dead men and women.

Objectives: Through this course, you will

- 1) develop skills and strategies to be able to read basic Latin prose
- 2) lay a solid foundation for mastery of the elements of Latin grammar
- 3) build a stock of Latin vocabulary consisting of several hundred words, from which many, many more can be derived
- 4) begin to detect patterns in the derivation of English words from Latin and Latin-based languages
- 5) gain exposure to some real Latin texts and learn about basic Latin literary history
- 6) learn about aspects of Roman social history, especially patterns of daily life, as well as some political and cultural history

Above all, this course will teach you to start thinking about language more generally.

Required Course Materials:

Stephanie Pope et al. 2001. *Cambridge Latin Course: Unit 1*. North American 4th edition. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Frederick Wheelock and Richard LaFleur. 2011. *Wheelock's Latin*. 7th edition. New York: HarperCollins.

I also recommend that students acquire a basic Latin dictionary (Cassell's, HarperCollins, etc.). There will also be materials posted throughout the semester on HuskyCT.

Evaluation:

Attendance and Participation. Because reading Latin in class holds a central place in this course, regular attendance and active participation are required. If you know that you will be absent ahead of time, send me an email as soon as possible, and be sure to email me within 24 hours of any unforeseen absence.

Homework. You can expect a homework assignment nearly every class period. Assignments contain material already covered but also introduce new material to prepare you for the next class period. Late homework is accepted only in case of demonstrable emergencies or if you make arrangements with me in advance of any expected absence.

Online Component. The fourth hour of this class will be done online. I will post an assignment on HuskyCT at the beginning of each week that will be more intense than regular homework assignments and which will require more sustained analysis: you will have to think about things and read more, and it should usually take you at least an hour to complete. **These assignments are due by 12 pm Friday each week.**

Quizzes. There will be a quiz every Friday with two components, grammar and vocabulary. The grammatical component for each quiz will consist of whatever has been covered since the previous quiz. The vocabulary component will be based on the *Vocābula* at the end of each of *Caput* (unit) in *Wheelock*. Since we will cover about a unit a week, a typical quiz will cover one unit's worth of grammar and vocabulary, but occasionally there may be more. These quizzes CANNOT be made up, but I will drop the lowest quiz score at the end of the semester.

Exams. There will be three regular exams and one final exam. Each exam will consist of form recognition and reproduction, sentence analysis, Latin-to-English translation, and some translation from English to Latin. Learning a language is by nature a cumulative process, and the exams will reflect this. **Do not miss these exams.** If you foresee an absence for any reason whatsoever, let me know as soon as possible.

Grading:

Attendance and Participation	10 %
Homework	10 %
Online Component	10 %
Quizzes	10 %
Three Exams	30 % (= 10 % each)
Final Exam	30 %

Final Exam Policy: In accordance with UConn policy, students are required to be available for their final exam and/or complete any assessment during the time stated. If you have a conflict with this time you must obtain official permission to schedule a make-up exam with the Office of Student Support and Advocacy (OSSA). If permission is granted, OSSA will notify the instructor. Please note that vacations, previously purchased tickets or reservations, graduations, social events, misreading the schedule, and oversleeping are not viable reasons for rescheduling a final.

Technology: Any cellphone use of any kind is prohibited in class and vigorously discouraged outside of class. You do NOT have my permission to record me via video or audio. I kindly request also that you not use laptops in class. They are useful for recording and storing notes that you have taken in class, but in class they are largely a distraction for you—and for me as the instructor. They organize information for you, but they can make it harder for you to process it in class by interrupting your focus.

Students with Disabilities: I am keen to make reasonable accommodations for any students with a documented need; please contact me as soon as possible to discuss arrangements. The Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at UConn provides accommodations and services for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability for which you wish to request academic accommodations and have not contacted the CSD, please do so as soon as possible. The CSD is located in Wilbur Cross, Room 204 and can be reached at (860) 486-2020 or at csd@uconn.edu. Detailed information regarding the accommodations process is also available on their website at www.csd.uconn.edu.

Academic Integrity: This course expects all students to act in accordance with the Guidelines for Academic Integrity at the University of Connecticut. If you have questions about academic integrity or intellectual property, you should consult with your instructor. Additionally, consult UConn's guidelines for academic integrity (<http://community.uconn.edu/the-student-code-appendix-a>).