LATIN

In the Department of Classics

The Classics Department offers courses listed in this catalogue under “Ancient History,” “Classics,” “Greek,” and “Latin.”

Course Offerings

LT111f  Introductory Latin  Latin was the language of Virgil, Ovid, Cicero, and Tacitus, giants in the Western literary tradition, and, for centuries Latin remained the lingua franca of the educated. It also gave rise to the Romance languages and to a vast proportion of English vocabulary. Combines lucid explanations of grammar with cultural information and readings in simplified Latin of major classical texts.  Four credit hours.  GILLUM

LT112s  Intermediate Latin  The history, literature, and culture of the Western tradition can be traced through Rome, and many of the great ideas and texts of the ancient and premodern world were formulated in Latin. Builds on the foundations laid in Latin 111. Learning goals include continuing the assimilation of Latin grammar and syntax, equipping students with the tools to read Rome's greatest authors in their original tongue, and fostering greater familiarity with broader Roman culture. Prerequisite: Latin 111.  Four credit hours.  GILLUM

LT131f  Introduction to Latin Literature  Having mastered Latin grammar and syntax, students now take on the challenges and rewards of reading an unsimplified Latin text. They will learn to translate most Latin texts with the aid of a dictionary; to accomplish a literary, historical, and cultural analysis of any complex text; and to satisfy the rigorous requirements of a demanding work schedule. Prerequisite: Latin 112, or appropriate score on the College Board Latin SAT Subject Test, AP Latin exam, or placement test administered during new student orientation.  Four credit hours.  L. O'NEILL

[LT232]  Catullus and Tibullus: Love and Revolution  Explores the role of Latin love poetry in the cultural revolution that accompanied the bloody death of the Republic and the rise of the Imperial princeps. Catullus, the originator of Latin love poetry grew up in the shadow of Spartacus' slave revolt and rebellions across the Roman world. Tibullus and Propertius established the genre of love elegy against the backdrop of a wave of failed uprisings and violent power struggles. The revolution that brought the emperor Augustus to power soon metamorphosed into an autocratic empire incompatible with the ideals of love elegy, which Ovid abandoned when he was sent into exile. Students will develop digital humanities skills by creating web-based commentaries of assigned poems. Prerequisite: Latin 131, or appropriate score on the College Board Latin SAT Subject Test, AP Latin exam, or a higher level Latin course.  Four credit hours.  L.

[LT251]  Ovid: Metamorphoses  Ovid's masterpiece tells nearly all of the stories from Greek and Roman myth through the lens of transformation, or metamorphosis. Nothing is stable, it turns out, not even what you thought myth was for. This brilliantly funny and provocative poem is always engaging—one of the reasons it came to be among the most influential works of antiquity. Prerequisite: Latin 131 or higher-level course.  Four credit hours.  L.

[LT271]  Nature in Horace's Epodes  Horace is one of Rome's greatest and most influential poets, but often textbooks focus on his blandest poems for fear of offending anyone. A selection from The Epodes, a book of often scurrilous abuse in poetic form focusing in particular on Roman presentations of nature (real and idealized), love, and witchcraft. Prerequisite: Latin 131, or appropriate score on the College Board Latin SAT Subject Test, AP Latin exam, or a 200-level or 300-level Latin course.  Four credit hours.  L.

LT297f  Seneca's Medea  This Roman version of Medea's terrible revenge on the guilty and innocent alike warns us that injustice begets injustice and asks how divine power can permit evil to triumph. The play draws on contemporary dilemmas of imperial Rome but explores them in the safe context of a Greek tragedy. Learning goals include enhanced analytical skills, improved translation abilities, and improved written, oral, and visual communication skills. Prerequisite: Latin 131 or equivalent or higher-level course.  Four credit hours.  O'NEILL

[LT355]  Roman Satire: Juvenal  The only literary genre claimed by the Romans as their own invention, satire targets everyone in its scathing and humorous attacks, as it paints a vivid picture of the urban landscape of ancient Rome. Selected readings from the works of Juvenal, with emphasis on his own attention to what satire is. Readings to include secondary, critical literature. As we consider what Roman satire is, we will also ask what the works of Juvenal can teach us about the history of Latin literature and the making of identities at Rome. Prerequisite: Latin 131.  Four credit hours.  L.

[LT359]  Nature of Things: Lucretius's De Rerum Natura  A contemporary of Cicero, Caesar, and Catullus, Lucretius explains the workings of the cosmos, the nature of love and death, and the rewards of thinking freely. A masterpiece of Latin poetry, De Rerum Natura is a scathing critique of ancient religion, a scientific tour de force, and a monument in the intellectual history of Europe. Prerequisite: Latin 131 or higher.  Four credit hours.  L.
Lovers, Exiles, and Shepherds: Virgil’s Eclogues  The Eclogues have exerted a tremendous influence on later poets across Europe and the Americas. Virgil’s bucolic poetry draws on ancient learning, contemporary politics, and his own artistic sensibility.  
Prerequisite: Latin 131 or higher-level course.  Four credit hours.  

Livy: Early Rome  A wide-ranging history of Rome, Livy’s monumental Ab Urbe Condita begins with myth: the fall of Troy, Aeneas’ arrival in Italy, Romulus and Remus, Hercules, and the Sabine Women. As we read Livy’s account, we will study early Roman history and historiography, considering literary, historical, and archaeological evidence.  Prerequisite: Latin 131 or equivalent.  Four credit hours.  

BARRETT