

ELEMENTARY LATIN

RICHARD SHARPE, MA
COURSE SYLLABUS

[SUMMER 2022]



DESCRIPTION

The Lyceum Institute’s Elementary Latin course is the first of a three-course sequence introducing the fundamentals of Classical Latin. Though this sequence trains participants in all four language arts— reading, writing, speaking, and listening— it is designed primarily to develop participants’ *reading* and *translation* skills. As such, particular emphasis is placed on essential *vocabulary* and the principles of Latin *grammar*.

In terms of grammar, this course introduces participants to basic *morphological* forms, including *all declensions of nouns and adjectives*, as well as *many present tense forms of verbs (including the indicative and imperative moods, active and passive voices, and infinitives)*.

In addition, participants are also introduced to the fundamental rules of *syntax*, including: *basic word agreement; common noun functions; the various uses of adjectives and pronouns (personal, demonstrative, and the like); and basic verb usage (such as simple indicative statements, subordinate clauses, direct questions, and the uses of infinitives)*.



METHOD

This course consists of thirteen class sessions. **The weekly class session, held on Tuesdays at 6:00-7:00pm ET, consists in a translation of and discussion about a chapter from our Latin reader. Class sessions are conducted in English. The instructor presumes neither a familiarity with Latin nor any previous language study from course participants.**

The general class structure is as follows: one participant reads aloud and translates a passage, usually around fifteen to twenty lines; the instructor offers brief remarks, answers questions, and clarifies difficulties; another participant takes up the next passage, and so on. Class ends either when the passage is fully translated or when the hour has passed.

This course features **two quizzes and a final exam**, of which satisfactory completion is required to participate in the Intermediate Latin course. (See “Active Participation and Course Completion” below.)

This syllabus is subject to change. Any change(s) will be made in writing and in a timely fashion.

TEXTS (REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED)

In terms of **required texts**, our main text is Hans Ørberg’s [Familia Romana](#), which includes readings for class sessions and exercises to test reading comprehension. Moreover, though digital resources exist, **participants should purchase a physical copy of a dictionary** (either [Cassell’s New Latin Dictionary](#) or the [Collins Gem Latin Dictionary](#)) **as well as a grammar index** (either Mahoney’s [Essential Latin Grammar](#) or Allen and Greenough’s [New Latin Grammar](#)). Required supplemental materials— including additional vocabulary lists and a dictionary of *Familia Romana* vocabulary, notes on grammar and relevant cultural content, and audio recordings of chapter readings— are also provided by the instructor via Teams.

In terms of **recommended (optional) texts**, consider the following works: first, Goldman and Morton's [*English Grammar for Students of Latin*](#), which is recommended for participants who are unfamiliar with grammatical concepts and terminology or for those who are new to language study; second, Ørberg's [*Exercita Latina*](#) and [*Colloquia Personarum*](#), which provide, respectively, additional grammatical exercises and readings corresponding to each chapter of *Familia Romana*.

PREREQUISITES AND PLACEMENT TEST

As this is an introductory course, **there is no prerequisite for taking the course**. However, if Lyceum members wish to take a **placement test** in order to assess their level of proficiency and determine their best placement in our course sequence, they ought contact either the instructor or program director.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND COURSE COMPLETION

Successful language acquisition is an *active* process; one must study consistently and review frequently. As such, while any Lyceum member may attend Elementary class sessions, the instructor distinguishes participants who are *actively participating* in the course and those who are merely *auditing* it.

Participants hold **active status** if they do the following:

- Attend class sessions regularly (i.e., **they have attended class since at least the third class session, and have not missed three class sessions thereafter, either consecutively or in total**);
- Demonstrate satisfactory preparation for class sessions (i.e., show familiarity with the weekly reading and class notes, including comprehension of new grammar and vocabulary);
- Participate readily in class procedure (e.g., translate and ask questions without hesitation); and
- Complete both quizzes and the final exam (all of which are "take home" in format).

Conversely, participants hold **auditing status** if they attend class inconsistently, are frequently unprepared for class, refuse to participate in the translation process, or fail to complete the course quizzes/exam. Note that active status can be lost at any time (even in the final week), and no one can regain active status without a discussion of circumstances with the course instructor.

This distinction in participation has practical relevance for participants for two reasons. First, **only participants with active status are permitted to speak or raise questions in class**. Second, **only participants with active status are able to "complete" the Elementary course and, in turn, attend the Intermediate Latin course**. The blunt reasoning for this: if you are consistently unprepared for class sessions but attempt to participate, you will likely prevent efficient use of class time for those who are seriously committed to Latin study. This distinction in participation is not designed to discourage or shame, but rather to encourage and facilitate good habits of study.

SELF-DIRECTED STUDY AND THE DIGITAL COMMUNITY

In addition to preparation for and active participation in class sessions, it is also important to recognize that language study is primarily a self-directed study: you alone can hold yourself accountable for your progress. A harsh reality: if you do not **commit yourself to thirty to sixty minutes of daily study and review**, you are likely to fall behind or simply abandon Latin studies. However, fear not! The Lyceum's digital community provides several opportunities and resources to help you maintain daily study. Though Latin is a challenging undertaking, there is no need to "go it alone."

The course instructor is frequently available throughout the week to meet and discuss difficulties, either through *written chat* or *audio/video calls*. So too, the Lyceum offers the following study aids:

- Recordings of each class session, which are available for all members to watch and download;
- A sizable and growing *digital library*, which includes textbooks and vocabulary lists, audio/video resources, and historical/cultural materials; and
- A *community of fellow Latin students* who, possessing varying degrees of proficiency, are also available to help answer your questions and keep you accountable in study.

SESSION SCHEDULE

July 5	<p>Capitulum I (Chapter 1)</p> <p>Main Concepts: Introductory Concepts (Inflection, Case and Function, Word Order)</p> <p>Required Reading: <i>Familia Romana (FR)</i> c. 1, including <i>Pensa</i></p> <p>Recommended Reading: <i>Exercita Latina (EL)</i> c. 1, <i>Colloquia Personarum (CP)</i> c. 1</p>
Jul. 12	<p>Capitulum II</p> <p>Main Concepts: Introduction to Nouns (First and Second Declensions); Interrogative Pronouns; Possessive Adjectives</p> <p>Required Reading: <i>FR</i> c. 2</p> <p>Recommended Reading: <i>EL</i> c. 2, <i>CP</i> c. 2</p>
Jul. 19	<p>Capitulum III</p> <p>Main Concepts: Introduction to Regular Verbs and Clauses; Direct Object; Personal and Relative Pronouns</p> <p>Required Reading: <i>FR</i> c. 3</p> <p>Recommended Reading: <i>EL</i> c. 3, <i>CP</i> c. 3</p>
Jul. 26	<p>Capitulum IV</p> <p>Main Concepts: Imperative Mood; Direct Address; Reflexive Pronouns</p> <p>Required Reading: <i>FR</i> c. 4</p> <p>Recommended Reading: <i>EL</i> c. 4, <i>CP</i> c. 4</p>
August 2	<p>Capitulum V</p> <p>(Quiz #1 Due Before Class Session)</p> <p>Main Concepts: Personal Pronoun (Third Person); Ablative with Prepositions</p> <p>Required Reading: <i>FR</i> c. 5</p> <p>Recommended Reading: <i>EL</i> c. 5, <i>CP</i> c. 5</p>
Aug. 9	<p>Capitulum VI</p> <p>Main Concepts: Passive Voice; Abl. of Means/Agent; Place Constructions; Accusative with Prepositions</p> <p>Required Reading: <i>FR</i> c. 6</p> <p>Recommended Reading: <i>EL</i> c. 6, <i>CP</i> c. 6</p>
Aug. 16	<p>Capitulum VII</p> <p>Main Concepts: Dative Case (Indirect Object)</p> <p>Required Reading: <i>FR</i> c. 7</p> <p>Recommended Reading: <i>EL</i> c. 7, <i>CP</i> c. 7</p>
Aug. 23	<p>Capitulum VIII</p> <p>Main Concepts: Pronouns and Adjectives: Personal, Demonstrative, Relative, and Interrogative</p> <p>Required Reading: <i>FR</i> c. 8</p> <p>Recommended Reading: <i>EL</i> c. 8, <i>CP</i> c. 8</p>
Aug. 30	<p>Capitulum IX</p> <p>(Quiz #2 Due Before Class Session)</p> <p>Main Concepts: Third Declension Nouns; Intensive Pronouns</p> <p>Required Reading: <i>FR</i> c. 9</p> <p>Recommended Reading: <i>EL</i> c. 9, <i>CP</i> c. 9</p>

September 6	Capitulum X Main Concepts: Third Declension Nouns (Cont.); Principal Parts; Present Infinitive Required Reading: <i>FR</i> c. 10 Recommended Reading: <i>EL</i> c. 10, <i>CP</i> c. 10
Sept. 13	Capitulum XI Main Concepts: Third declension nouns (Cont.); Uses of Infinitives (Cont.) Required Reading: <i>FR</i> c. 11 Recommended Reading: <i>EL</i> c. 11, <i>CP</i> c. 11
Sept. 20	Capitulum XII Main Concepts: Fourth Declension Nouns; Third Declension Adjectives; Comparative Degree of Adjectives Required Reading: <i>FR</i> c. 12 Recommended Reading: <i>EL</i> c. 12, <i>CP</i> c. 12
Sept. 27	Capitulum XIII Main Concepts: Fifth Declension Nouns; Superlative Degree of Adjectives; Numerals; Time Constructions; Roman Calendar Required Reading: <i>FR</i> c. 13 Recommended Reading: <i>EL</i> c. 13, <i>CP</i> c. 13
October 4	Due by Oct. 4 by 10 PM ET: "Take Home" Final Exam