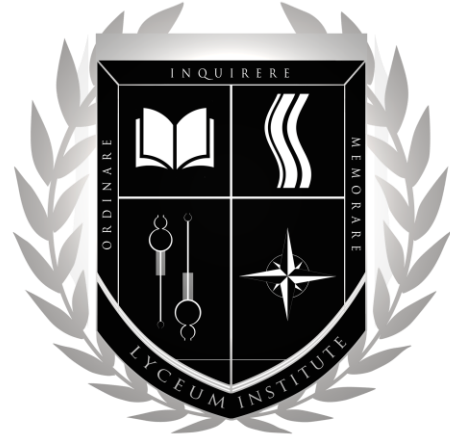


SCHOLASTIC LATIN

COURSE SYLLABUS

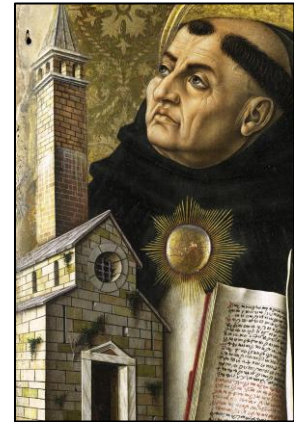
[2023]



DESCRIPTION

Our Scholastic Latin course is designed to take students already in possession of basic proficiency in reading and translating the Latin language into English and enable them to do the same with a range of Scholastic Latin texts. This course will **not** result in total fluency with respect to all Scholastic authors, but will enable the reading and translation of *most* important authors with the aid of a dictionary and *very* occasional reference to a grammar.

At the heart of this endeavor stands the desire for deepening our philosophical understanding. No scholastic author writes but with the intent to elucidate a truth, and very often, this elucidation entails difficulties less of syntax and semantics than of logic, physics, psychology, or theology. Thus, students will be instructed not only in the language with respect to its structure, but also with respect to its *intelligible signification*. By approaching Scholastic texts with a philosophically-attuned eye, we will be able to appreciate not only the truths they beheld but also the subtle sophistication of their language as a vehicle for those philosophical intentions.



METHOD

This course covers twelve weeks of study, with a class session each week (and a break at the midway point). These class sessions will be held **Tuesdays at 10:30–11:30am ET** and will require students to engage with the texts and sight-readings from their preparation throughout the week. Our class sessions will be conducted in English, but students will also have an opportunity to read and pronounce spoken Latin.

Our primary focus is learning to **translate intelligently**: that is, to render the Latin into English not only in a manner which is grammatically correct, but which makes sense of the Scholastic author's point: this will require the aforementioned philosophical considerations. Yet, as John Deely often stated, "If it does not make sense when translated, is it even worth translating?" Thus, the student is expected not only to complete the assigned exercises but to do so with care and attention.

TEXTS

The primary text for this course is Randall J. Meissen, LC's *Scholastic Latin: An Intermediate Course*. This text includes H.P.V. Nunn's *Introduction to Ecclesiastical Latin*, a grammar which succinctly illustrates many of the ways in which Scholastic Latin differs from Classical (and which students may wish to purchase separately for the sake of convenience). Supplemental notes and readings will be provided by the instructor. Students may

also wish to purchase a copy of Dylan Schrader’s very brief *Shortcut to Scholastic Latin*. All additional readings, including those used for Translation Exercises, will be provided by the instructor.

EXPOSITIONS

From week to week the instructor may provide additional resources (audio lectures, PowerPoints, written notes) given in exposition of both the grammatical *and* the relevant philosophical content of the assigned readings. The chief difficulty in Scholastic Latin is in terms neither of syntax nor semantics, but of the philosophical meanings signified by the writings. As such, it is nearly impossible truly to understand what is being said from a strictly linguistic analysis. The instructor will strive to overcome this difficulty.

CLASS

Class sessions will be held every Tuesday from 10:30–11:30am ET. Attendance at these sessions is required, though they will be recorded for the sake of posterity and review. These sessions will focus on difficult passages in the assigned readings, evaluation of translation exercises, and practice in sight-reading.

ASSIGNMENTS

Each week will feature a Translation Exercise in which students are tasked to translate a short passage (roughly 150–500 words) from the work of a Scholastic author. These **must be submitted before class each week**. Additionally, some weeks may feature additional exercises aimed to improve identification of difficult uses, such as with *cum* or *ut* clauses.

FINAL EXAM

The final exam for this course will be the translation of an approximately 750-word passage selected by the instructor and due by 3 **December 2023**. Students are allowed to use any resources at their disposal, including grammars, dictionaries, class notes, etc., but must complete these assignments independently and without assistance from anyone (including whatever might turn up from the use of search engines).

SESSION SCHEDULE

Class on August 29	<p>Introduction to Scholastic Latin: Familiarities and Differences</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meissen, <i>Scholastic Latin</i>, c.1-2. • Supplemental selections. <p>Exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation Exercise 1
Class on September 5	<p>Vocabulary and Conditional Phrases</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meissen, <i>Scholastic Latin</i>, c.3-5. <p>Exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation Exercise 2.
Class on	<p>Connectives</p> <p>Readings:</p>

September 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meissen, <i>Scholastic Latin</i>, c.6. • Supplemental selections. <p>Exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation Exercise 3.
Class on September 19	<p>Verbs taking the Dative and Disambiguation of <i>Cum</i></p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meissen, <i>Scholastic Latin</i>, c.7-8. • Supplemental selections. <p>Exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation Exercise 4. • Identifying Uses of <i>Cum</i>.
Class on September 20	<p>Verbs taking the Genitive & Ablative, Purpose (Ad + Gerundive) and Q-Words</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meissen, <i>Scholastic Latin</i>, c.9-10. <p>Exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation Exercise 5.
Class on October 3	<p>Means of Comparison and Participles</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meissen, <i>Scholastic Latin</i>, c.11-12. • Supplemental selections. <p>Exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation Exercise 6.
Class on October 17	<p>Others and “Ut”s</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meissen, <i>Scholastic Latin</i>, c.13-14. • Supplemental selections. <p>Exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation Exercise 7. • Identifying <i>Ut</i> Uses
Class on October 24	<p>Ablative Absolute; Common Suffixes & Enclitic Endings</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meissen, <i>Scholastic Latin</i>, c.15-17. <p>Exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation Exercise 8.
Class on	<p>Variations of Clauses</p> <p>Readings:</p>

October 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meissen, <i>Scholastic Latin</i>, c.18-20. • Supplemental selections. <p>Exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation Exercise 9.
Class on November 7	<p>Periphrastic Tenses and Independent Subjunctives</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meissen, <i>Scholastic Latin</i>, c.21-22. • Supplemental selections. <p>Exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation Exercise 10.
Class on November 14	<p>Scholastic Latin in Practice I</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selections from St. Thomas Aquinas. <p>Exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation Exercise 11.
Class on November 21 Final Exam Due December 3	<p>Scholastic Latin in Practice II</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selections from Bl. John Duns Scotus. <p>Exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation Exercise 12.