

LATIN PROSE COMPOSITION

COURSE SYLLABUS

[GENERAL]

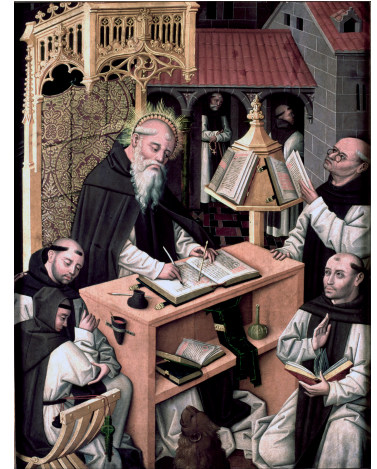


COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Lyceum Institute's Latin Prose Composition course trains participants with intermediate or advanced Latin experience in the art of composition using the standards and style of Classical Latin.

Participants first compose simple and compound sentences, with emphasis placed on the basic uses of each part of speech; at this stage, particular attention is given to the use of grammatical case functions. Participants next compose complex sentences, with attention given to commonly used subordinate clauses and the use of verbals.

This course is designed not merely to help participants compose Latin, but also: to further consolidate their knowledge of Latin vocabulary and grammar; to improve their reading comprehension; and to familiarize them with common Latin idioms and expressions. In turn, participants must have sufficient familiarity with both essential vocabulary and the fundamentals of grammar. (See "Prerequisites and Comprehension Exam" below.)



COURSE MATERIALS

One text is **required** for this course: Bennett's [*New Latin Composition*](#). Two texts are **recommended**: first, a print copy of both a dictionary (I suggest either the [*Chambers Murray Latin-English Dictionary*](#) or [*Cassell's Latin Dictionary*](#)); and, second, a grammar index (I suggest either Anne Mahoney's [*Essential Latin Grammar*](#) or Allen and Greenough's [*New Latin Grammar*](#)).

Supplemental digital materials—such as written notes and lectures with accompanying PowerPoint presentations—are also provided via Teams.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This course is ten weeks long, with a break after the fifth week. There are three main components to the course: a weekly translation exercise; a weekly discussion session; and an exam.

Participants must complete a weekly **translation exercise**, comprising ten to twenty sentences selected from the lessons of our reader. **These exercises must be submitted before class each week.**

The weekly **discussion session**, held at times TBD, is structured around a discussion of several lessons from our textbook and other corresponding materials. The session focuses on difficult grammatical concepts and modes of expression, as well as an evaluation of translation exercises. Class sessions are recorded for review purposes.

The **final exam** assesses participants' ability to translate an approximately 300-word passage and explain various grammatical functions and structures within this passage.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

To succeed in this course, participants must commit to **daily study, active class participation, and honest completion of exercises.**

First, participants must work to maintain a strong proficiency in grammar and vocabulary—this requires at least thirty minutes of daily study *in addition to* the completion of weekly exercises. They are also expected to have read the assigned notes and listened to the lecture prior to class sessions. Second, participants are expected to be fully engaged in class sessions, partaking in the translation process and asking questions. Moreover: though class sessions are recorded for review purposes, it is expected that participants attend each class session. Third, a good-natured reminder: though participants may use the textbook, grammars, dictionaries, and class notes to facilitate the translation process, they must complete these assignments independently and without assistance from anyone (including whatever might turn up from the use of answer keys, search engines, bots, or other human intelligence—simulating artifice).

If participants find themselves falling behind or facing difficulties, they are free to reach out to me either by text chat or by scheduling a conference call.

PREREQUISITES AND COMPREHENSION EXAM

As this course focuses on composition, it is presupposed and required that participants possess an adequate mastery of essential Latin vocabulary and grammar. (In short: this course is designed not to *teach* you Latin vocabulary and grammar, but how to *use* the vocabulary and grammar you have *already learned*.) In terms of grammar, participants must be truly familiar with the fundamentals of both morphology (all *forms* of inflected words) and syntax (the main *uses* of all parts of speech, as well as the structure and use of phrases, clauses, and sentences).

Thus, as a **prerequisite**, participation in this course requires **one of the following**: the completion of (at least) our Latin II course; the completion of our Grammar I course: or satisfactory performance on a comprehension exam. If Lyceum members wish to take the comprehension exam, they ought contact me either by direct message on Teams or by email (r.sharpe@lyceum.institute).

SESSION SCHEDULE

Week I	Introductory Session (Grammar Review) Required Materials: Introductory Notes; Grammar Review Sheet
Week II	Nominative Case; Vocative Case; Apposition; Noun/Adjective Agreement; Relative Pronouns; Possessive Pronouns Required Materials: <i>New Latin Composition (NLC)</i> Lessons I–III; class notes and lecture Exercises: Selected Sentences from Lessons I–III
Week III	Accusative Case; Dative Case Required Materials: <i>NLC</i> Lessons IV–VII; class notes and lecture Exercises: Selected Sentences from Lessons IV–VII
Week IV	Genitive Case; Ablative Case Required Materials: <i>NLC</i> Lessons VIII–XI; class notes and lecture Exercises: Selected Sentences from Lessons VIII–XI
Week V	Ablative Case (Cont.) Required Materials: <i>NLC</i> Lessons XII–XIV; class notes and lecture Exercises: Selected Sentences from Lessons XII–XIV
	Scheduled Break
Week VI	Adjectives; Pronouns (Cont.) Required Materials: <i>NLC</i> Lessons XV–XVII; class notes and lecture Exercises: Selected Sentences from Lessons XV–XVII
Week VII	Indicative Tenses; Sequence of Tenses; Purpose Clauses; Result Clauses; Relative Clauses of Characteristic Required Materials: <i>NLC</i> Lessons XVIII–XX; class notes and lecture Exercises: Selected Sentences from Lessons XVIII–XX
Week VIII	Causal Clauses; Temporal Clauses; Substantive Clauses Required Materials: <i>NLC</i> Lessons XXI–XXIV; class notes and lecture Exercises: Selected Sentences from Lessons XXI–XXIV
Week IX	Indirect Questions; Conditional Sentences; Indirect Discourse Required Materials: <i>NLC</i> Lessons XXV–XXVII; class notes and lecture Exercises: Selected Sentences from Lessons XXV–XXVII
Week X	Verbals; Continued Discourse Required Materials: <i>NLC</i> Lessons XXVIII–XXX; class notes and lecture Exercises: Selected Sentences from Lessons XXVIII–XXX
	Exam due by TBD