Latin (LAT)

LAT101 First-Year Latin: Semester I
Conquer Latin in less than two semesters! Acquire a basic vocabulary and build your skills with essential grammar as you develop your ability to read passages in Latin from the principal classical authors—including Cicero, Vergil, and Ovid. This first semester covers two-thirds of the Wheelock textbook. In the second semester (LAT 102), you will complete the text by spring break and then read a Latin novel.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Prereq: None

LAT102 First-Year Latin: Semester II
Continue your conquest of Latin by completing your acquisition of a basic vocabulary and essential grammar. After completing the final third of the Wheelock textbook, you will begin reading a Latin novel featuring shipwrecks, pirates, broken hearts, and true love while refining your skill with Latin and increasing your speed with comprehension.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Prereq: LAT101

LAT104 Intensive Introductory Latin
Learn Latin in a semester with this intensive introduction to grammar and syntax. Readings in original authors help illustrate and reinforce the fundamental principles of the language in preparation for more advanced reading at the intermediate level. Recommended for students wanting accelerated Latin acquisition or those with some background wanting a quick review.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Prereq: None

LAT201 Catullus and Cicero: Love and Life in Republican Rome
A selection of the poems of Catullus and portions of Cicero’s Pro Caelio as a reflection of life in late Republican Rome, with a particular emphasis on the intersection between the lives of Catullus, the young Caelius, and their mutual love-interest Lesbia/Clodia. This course is intended for students with one year of college Latin or the equivalent (normally three to four years of high school Latin) includes a thorough review of Latin grammar and syntax.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Prereq: None

LAT202 Ovid: METAMORPHOSES
Students will read in Latin selected stories from the METAMORPHOSES, Ovid’s great un-epic epic, in which he recounts myths of shape-changers from the creation of the world down to his own time and that of the emperor Augustus. Ovid’s stories inspire humor, pathos, and horror and may be grotesque or sentimental, sometimes both at the same time. They deal with issues such as divinity, power, love, rape, order, and identity, all in classic versions of famous myths influential throughout the centuries, told with the poet’s distinctive wit and sense of incongruity. The class will focus on close reading of the Latin text and on Ovid’s treatment of the myths and the distinctive approach he brings to the ever-shifting world he describes. The course will include an introduction to Latin meter, and class discussion will address modern critical approaches to Ovid.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Prereq: None

LAT254 Apuleius: THE GOLDEN ASS
Fast-paced, magical, sexy, and bizarre, Apuleius’ GOLDEN ASS, or METAMORPHOSES, contains more than enough rowdy episodes to keep us entertained for a semester. The novel tells the story of the feckless Lucius, the man turned-ass whose encounters with the residents of Thessaly range from the vulgar to the weird to the sublime. Our goals, in addition to reading and understanding the Latin, include tracing prominent themes and becoming acquainted with recent relevant scholarship.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Prereq: None

LAT262 Reading Latin, Writing Latin
This is a nontraditional introduction to writing Latin. Through reading and discussing short selections of mainly narrative and descriptive Latin prose from all periods, from the classical to the Renaissance, students will develop greater familiarity with Latin styles and the expressive possibilities of the language. Students will try writing Latin themselves (often collaboratively and with ample opportunity for revision). Subjects will include proverbs, familiar sayings or catchphrases, song lyrics, and so forth (anything is fair game for translation), as well as short narratives, culminating in a final project. As well as developing greater facility with Latin, students will reflect on the experience of learning Latin, the history of Latin, and its place in the modern world.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-LAT
Prereq: None

LAT270 Catullus
The poetry of Catullus often has an immediate appeal to contemporary readers. In Tom Stoppard’s play THE INVENTION OF LOVE, the claim is made that he invented love as we think of it. But in addition to his love poetry, Catullus is also the writer of a mini-mythological epic (an epyllion), an account of the strange story of the self-castration of Attis, wedding hymns, translations from Greek lyric, invective, and elegy. In this course, we will read an extensive selection of Catullus’ poetry and discuss the critical issues they raise in the light of selected readings from modern scholarship.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: H-LAT
Prereq: None

LAT271 Roman Satire: Juvenal
Roman satire, as practiced by Lucilius, Horace, Persius, and Juvenal is a strange hybrid: it combines social criticism, literary parody, philosophical rumination, and obscene burlesque, a self-consciously “humble” genre set in the framework of dactylic hexameter, the meter of high-flown Homeric and Vergilian epic. It is among a small minority of ancient literature which directly addresses itself to the humbler aspects of the everyday lives of Roman citizens. This course on Roman satire will focus on Juvenal, the last practitioner of Roman verse satire. We will begin the course with a selection of short readings from each of the four Roman satirists in order to orient ourselves with standard topics of Roman satire.
The role of fact vs. fiction, propaganda, and bias in the writing of Roman history figures and the Senate and people of Rome, and their narratives describing the political history, their views on the interactions between these controversial demagogues (e.g., the Tarquins, Catiline, Tiberius, Nero) throughout Rome's history. In Tacitus' Annales, we will consider these historians' depictions of tyrants and their manipulations of events.

Reading selections from Livy's ab Urbe Condita, Sallust's Bellum Catilinae, and Tacitus' Annales provides a fascinating contrast in the portrayal of political life in Rome. The fall of Troy, from the looming threat of the Trojan Horse to the violent loss of loved ones while the gods were manipulated by mortals, is depicted in Vergil's Aeneid book 2. This tragic and frenetic depiction of the fall of Troy is almost cinematic.

LAT331 Vergil: AENEID 2
Alternate title: "Imagine there's no heaven..." This course offers close reading in Latin of extensive selections from the DE RERUM NATURA, the remarkable poem in which Lucretius argues that the world is made up of atoms, that the soul dies with the body, that the gods never help or punish human beings, and that mortals should live their lives in search of the peace of mind of Epicurean philosophy. We will try to understand Lucretius' Latin, which we will hope to read with increasing ease and accuracy to relate fully to his rhetorical and poetic techniques and to the literary, philosophical, historical, and cultural background of this unusual and fascinating poem.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Prereq: None

LAT322 Lucrèce
"Imagine there's no heaven..." This course offers close reading in Latin of extensive selections from the DE RERUM NATURA, the remarkable poem in which Lucretius argues that the world is made up of atoms, that the soul dies with the body, that the gods never help or punish human beings, and that mortals should live their lives in search of the peace of mind of Epicurean philosophy. We will try to understand Lucretius' Latin, which we will hope to read with increasing ease and accuracy to relate fully to his rhetorical and poetic techniques and to the literary, philosophical, historical, and cultural background of this unusual and fascinating poem.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Prereq: None

LAT301 Petronius
Follow the down-and-out Roman Encolpius as he embarks on a titillating tour of the Mediterranean, persecuted (with impotence!) by the phallic god Priapus. Join him as he attends the longest dinner party in Latin literature, a class-crossing affair including nouveau riche, citizens, slaves, freedmen, and foreigners. In addition to reading the Latin, we will examine issues of scholarship, from the title (Satyrica? Satyricon?), to the genre, to sexuality, to class and status.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Prereq: None

LAT353 Demagogues and Tyrants in the Roman Historians
Reading selections from Livy's ab Urbe Condita, Sallust's Bellum Catilinae, and Tacitus' Annales we will consider these historians' depictions of tyrants and demagogues (e.g., the Tarquins, Catiline, Tiberius, Nero) throughout Rome's political history, their views on the interactions between these controversial figures and the Senate and people of Rome, and their narratives describing the circumstances behind their rise and fall. At the same time, we will explore the role of fact vs. fiction, propaganda, and bias in the writing of Roman history through comparative analysis with contemporary sources and inscriptions.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Prereq: None