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

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

LAT231 Vergil: AENEID 7-12
Books 7–12 of the AENEID describe the arrival in Italy of Aeneas and the Trojans and the war they must fight against the rugged peoples already occupying the land that they have been told is fated to be theirs. We will do close reading of most of these books in Latin (with the goal of improving each student’s ability to read Latin quickly and with accuracy) and of the whole poem in English. By looking critically at the poem in its historical and literary context, we will try to determine what suggestions Vergil is making about war, heroism, the recent civil wars, and accession to power of Augustus, and the strengths and weaknesses of the Roman state and people.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Prereq: None

LAT241 Horace
In this course we will sample representative examples from a range of Horace’s poems, including his SATIRES, ODES, EPISTLES, and ART OF POETRY. Horace is a brilliant exponent of the Latin language, capable of a range of tones, from beautiful and subtle lyric to high comedy, with a flair for the human scale, a taste for deflating the self-important, and an elusive strain of undogmatic moral seriousness. In addition to reading some of the poems, students will also read select examples of modern criticism. As a final group project, students will each prepare a paper on a poem or poems of Horace that will form the basis of a presentation: “An Evening with Quintus Horatius Flaccus: Horace in (Mainly) His Own Words.”
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Prereq: None

LAT253 The Roman Historians
The course will be devoted to studying the principles and methods of Latin historiography. Students will read selections in Latin from Livy and both ancient and modern discussions of the writing of history. Special attention will be paid to the role of narrative and description in history.
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 feeble 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: HA-CLAS
Prereq: None

LAT281 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 (including dining, country vs. urban life, the body, sex, and gender roles) and differentiate the approaches. We will spend the rest of the semester exploring Juvenal's seminal works: his first and second book of Satires, wherein he situates himself as a figure marginalized by a new order of foreign interlopers, powerful gender deviants, and tyrannical patrons and emperors, as well as Satire 10, his caustically philosophical take on the "Vanity of Human Wishes.
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 (Satyrca? Satyricon?), to the genre, to sexuality, to class and status.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
LAT492 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity
to assist in teaching a faculty member’s course for academic credit.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT