

LAT 311—Intermediate Latin I
Unique # 33430
Fall 2012

Instructor: Chuck Oughton

Time: MWF 10:00-11:00

Place: PAR 103

Office Hours: M 11-12, W 2-3, Th 11:30-12:30, or by appointment

Office: WAG 11

Email: c.w.oughton@utexas.edu

Course Website: available on Blackboard

Required Course Textbooks:

- Kennedy, *Caesar: De Bello Civili III*, 1st ed. (Bristol, 2002). ISBN: 185399636X
- Bennett, *New Latin Grammar*, 1st ed., (Bolchazy-Carducci, 2000). ISBN 9780865162627
- *A Good Latin-English Dictionary*:
Simpson, ed., *Cassell's Latin Dictionary* (Macmillan, 1977). ISBN: 0025225804
Traupman, *New College Latin and English Dictionary*, 3rd ed. (Bantam, 2007) ISBN 055359012X

Note: you are required as a part of your participation grade to bring these books to class every day.

Course Prerequisite: Passing LAT 507 or 601C with a grade of at least a C.

Course Description: This course is designed to enhance your Latin reading skills and comprehension through the careful translation of passages of prose texts. As such, we will devote most of our time, both in class and at home, to reading selections from Caesar's *Commentarii de Bello Civili* (BC). To sharpen your translation tools further, you will utilize guided group- or self-study to review the morphology and syntax that you learned in your first year course, as well to increase your Latin vocabulary. We will also discuss and analyze Caesar's text for syntactical, stylistic, and historiographic features and develop a greater awareness of its literary and historical context. To succeed in this class, you will need to complete the daily assignments diligently and participate enthusiastically in classroom discussion and translation. The reward, however, will be well worth the effort, as students who apply themselves to the course with dynamism will find their reading speed and relative fluency increasing over the course of the semester.

Daily Assignments and Homework: The bulk of the homework for this course will consist of the daily translation assignments from Caesar's BC, though there may be some special selections from other prose texts that I will prepare for you. While the attached schedule provides a basic layout of our reading plans, the exact assignments will be given at the end of class each day, so be sure to take note of the sections we will be translating for the next day! ***The completion of the translation assignment each day will be crucial to your success in this class.*** I expect every student to have expended every possible effort to be prepared for class every day.

When translating for these assignments, ***I urge you NOT to rely on written translations. You will NOT be allowed to read from a written translation in class.*** You will, "LOOK AT THE LATIN!" To encourage you to break away from writing out full translations of your homework, ***you will not be required to turn in written copies of your assignments.*** This policy is subject to

change, however, depending on how the class performs during translation activities. I will, of course, notify you in advance of any changes to the homework procedure for the course.

Over the course of the semester, we will be translating excerpts from the third book of Caesar's *BC* and read about the culmination of his conflict with Pompey in the battles of Dyrrachium and Pharsalus. Throughout our readings, we will strive to gain an appreciation for the historiographic concerns of Caesar's narrative and a better awareness of the historical events that it describes. We will begin by translating 10-15 lines of Latin per class session and gradually expand this to 25-30 lines (or more) by the final day of class. There will occasionally be short secondary reading assignments as well; these will be posted on Blackboard for your convenience.

Failure to show up for class or failure to prepare adequately on a consistent basis will be detrimental to your grade. ***You cannot expect to learn a language by skipping class or ignoring your homework.*** When you miss class or do not do the assignments, you also put a greater burden on your classmates to prepare the material. "I did not get to my homework" or "I didn't have time" or "I didn't know about it" or "*canis meus exercitationem meam comēdit*" are **NOT** legitimate excuses. ***Expect to spend multiple hours outside of class each day studying and translating.*** Make a thorough attempt at every assignment. If you struggle with the material, it is okay; in fact, it is expected! Do the best you can beforehand and then come to class where we can work through the problems together. Do not be afraid to ask questions; odds are good that other students struggled with the same problems. The only way to learn is to identify and then correct your mistakes.

Quizzes: There will be two types of quizzes in this course: announced vocabulary quizzes and unannounced review quizzes. ***Quizzes will always be held at the beginning of class.*** Do not be late to class as you may miss a quiz! Whether you miss a quiz because you were late or absent, be aware that make-up quizzes **will NOT be offered**; instead, I will drop the lowest TWO quiz scores from the calculation of your final grade.

(1) **Vocabulary quizzes** will be held at the beginning of the class on most Fridays, as marked on the syllabus (designated "VQ"). The material for the first several of these vocabulary quizzes will be drawn from a list that I will distribute to you. The remaining vocabulary quizzes will contain words from the passage that we will translate on that particular day.

(2) **Unannounced review quizzes** will be scattered throughout the semester. These quizzes will consist of either a short translation section (with appropriate grammatical questions) of a text (either seen or unseen), paradigms from that week's review topics (as marked on the schedule), or some combination of the two. You will notice on the attached schedule that the right-hand column contains a list of topics (from 506/507) for you to review each week. ***By Monday of the following week,*** I expect you to have studied that material, which then becomes fair game for an unannounced review quiz. I recommend that you spread this review out over the course of each week and not put it off until Sunday or Tuesday night before class.

Written Assignments: Later in the semester, you will compose two written (and typed!) commentaries of translation passages of your choice. The first commentary (**due OCT 15th**) will be descriptive of syntactical features of a passage, while the second (**due NOV 26th**) will primarily be an analytical and interpretive literary analysis of a passage. More details will be

distributed as the deadlines approach. Make a note of these dates on your calendar, however, as late work is subject to steep penalties (see below).

Course Policies

Grading and Exams: Grades will be calculated as follows: the accumulation of quiz scores (15% total); in-class participation, attendance, and homework (10%); two written commentaries describing a passage of your choice (5% total); two midterm exams (20% each, 40% total); and a cumulative final exam (30%). The **midterm exams will be held on OCT 5th and NOV 9th**, in class; the **Final Exam will be held DEC 15th at 9:00 AM**. These exams will assess your ability to translate and correctly identify syntactical features of prose passages of reasonable length. Each exam will have a short section of review material, a section testing your knowledge of syntax and translation in *seen* passages, and an *unseen* translation passage. **Late work of any kind is subject to a 25% penalty per day that it is late. Extra credit will not be offered.**

Grading Scale: * **A:** 100-94; **A-:** 93.9-90; **B+:** 89.9-87; **B:** 86.9-84; **B-:** 83.9-80; **C+:** 79.9-77; **C:** 76.9-74; **C-:** 73.9-70; **D+:** 69.9-67; **D:** 66.9-64; **F:** below 64

*You receive the grade that you earn, i.e., grades will not be curved and final grades will not be rounded to the nearest percent.

Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit Option: A student may choose to take the course as Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit. To receive a pass, the student must achieve a final grade of no less than 75%. To receive credit for the course, a final grade of no less than 70% is required. **NB: a grade of C or better is required to continue to LAT 312.**

Make-up Tests and Quizzes: Make-up quizzes **will not be offered**; instead, I will drop the lowest TWO quiz scores from the calculation of your final grade. Students will only be allowed to make up exams in the case of a demonstrated medical reason (physician's statement required) or other unavoidable emergency (as certified by the Dean of Students in the student's college). Examples of unacceptable excuses: family trips, oversleeping, laziness, tardiness, joining the circus, hangovers, being held for ransom by Cilician pirates, etc. **The final exam must be taken at the appointed time:** no make-ups or early takers will be allowed.

Attendance and Preparation: Attendance and preparation of your homework is crucial to your success in this class, i.e., ***if you want to pass, do not miss class!*** Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. The record of your attendance will form a portion of your participation grade (10% of your total grade). However, due to the fact that certain unavoidable circumstances can arise, you will be allowed three unexcused absences, following which your final grade will drop one percentage point per unexcused absence. Absences will be excused only for religious holidays (see below), medical reasons (with a letter from Student Health Services or a private physician), or for family emergencies (only when certified by your Dean of Students). If students wish to have an absence excused, they must provide documentation to the instructor within a week of their return to class.

Failure to prepare adequately for class will severely inhibit your ability to improve your Latin reading skills and will prevent you from an appropriate level of participation in class discussions. As such, days on which you do not prepare your homework in advance of class—particularly

when this becomes a chronic problem—are tantamount to absences and **I will dock your attendance and participation grade when you have failed to prepare for class.**

Tardiness: We will start class promptly at 10:00 every day. It is highly important that you arrive on time each day to avoid disrupting class and to ensure that we all get as much as possible from each session. (*Not to mention that you might miss a quiz!*) Every two “tardies” that you receive will count as one unexcused absence. Leaving class early without prior notification will also result in a “tardy” on your attendance record. If you foresee the need to arrive late or leave early on any given day, please notify the instructor in advance. If some unavoidable circumstance (e.g., car trouble, bus running late, avoiding the proscriptions in the Forum, etc.) necessitates that you arrive late, please enter the classroom and find a seat as quietly as possible and speak to me after class.

Participation: To receive credit for participation on a given day of class, I expect the following:

- You have prepared the assigned homework for the day before coming to class.
- You are present, have all required course materials with you, and use these materials.
- You eagerly volunteer to translate, translate willingly when called upon, respond to questions posed by the instructor, and participate in the general class discussion.
- You respect your classmates’ opinions and allow them opportunities to contribute to the class (see “Academic Respect,” below).
- You do not cause disruptions to the class environment, including those created by electronic devices (see below) or by a monopolization of class discussion.

The following behaviors are a few examples of inappropriate classroom conduct and will result in deduction of participation and attendance points: failure to bring or use class materials, a lack of preparation for class, failure to volunteer to translate or to translate when called upon, failure to respond to questions, treating other students with disrespect, monopolizing classroom discussion, using electronic devices for activities inappropriate to the classroom, leaving class early, failure to contribute to a respectful and productive class environment, or creating any other disruption in the classroom, such as those noted in the sections below.

Academic Respect: I promise to respect your rights and needs as students and all of you, by entering class, promise to respect each other and the instructor. To show this respect, you will each be expected to minimize classroom disruptions as much as possible. This includes being on time, coming to class prepared with your assignments completed, paying attention while in class, participating eagerly when called upon or voluntarily, keeping your ***cell phones silenced and in your bag*** during class time, using other electronic devices only for class-appropriate activities, ***allowing your fellow students the opportunity to ask questions and to express their opinions***, responding respectfully to other students’ comments, and staying through the end of the class session. I reserve the right to dismiss overly disruptive students from the classroom and to deduct points from your participation grade for excessive classroom disruptions.

Electronic Device Policy: When you come to my class, I expect you to be present in both body and mind. Part of demonstrating the proper respect to each other, as noted above, includes minimizing classroom distractions for ourselves and others. **Cell phones need to be silenced and remain idle and in your bag during class.** While laptops and tablets are very valuable tools for your education, they largely serve no purpose during a translation class in which you will be reading from a Latin text 99% of the time. I was an undergrad not too long ago and I

know how most students use their computers during class. Masked behind the guise of “note-taking,” there lies an entire world of distractions that will only inhibit your learning ability. You will not succeed in this class if you apply such a small percentage of your attention span to the class activities. Therefore, **other electronic devices need to be used only for class appropriate activities.** To me, texting, tweeting, browsing, fb'ing, posting, chatting, pinning and performing any other kind of electronic communication in class are as rude as loudly taking a phone call in your seat. I will ask you to put your phone, computer, or tablet away the first time; the second time, I will ask you to leave class.

Email Policy: If we cannot speak about a problem or concern that you have in person, or if any other questions arise, please email me. Communication is vital for each of us to understand what the other expects. When you send me an email, I will do my best to respond as promptly as I can, but please understand that there are times when it is difficult for me to do so. Please allow up to 24 hours for me to respond to an email. But know that I have a similar expectation for you! If I email the class or you personally with a question or concern that requires (or demands) a response, I ask that you answer that email within a reasonable length of time. To make this easier on all of us, please make sure to set your university email to an address that you check regularly.

University Policies

The instructor abides by all policies described in the university's General Information Bulletin, including, but not limited to those listed below. To examine the University's General Information Bulletin, go to: <http://registrar.utexas.edu/docs/catalogs/gi/ut-catalog-gi-11-12.pdf>

University of Texas Honor Code: The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Academic Dishonesty: Collaboration during tests, use of written notes during tests, or submission of work that is not entirely a student's own will not be tolerated. Any student found guilty of cheating or facilitating cheating in any way will receive no credit on the assignment/test and will be subject to the University procedures under Appendix C, Section 11 of the General Information bulletin. I reserve the right to **reexamine** any student whom I strongly suspect of cheating or facilitating cheating at any time. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the university's definition of cheating and to avoid any behavior that might be interpreted as academic dishonesty.

Students with Disabilities: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. To receive your accommodations for this course, please submit to the instructor a letter from the SSD office stating your needs by the second week of classes. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

Religious Holidays: Please inform me at least 14 days in advance if you observe any religious holiday during the semester that will require your absence from class. Your needs will be accommodated.

Add/Drop Policy: Please familiarize yourself with the university's official drop/add policy. Any requests to drop this course after the fourth week will be handled according to these rules. Be forewarned: while you may use a "one time exception" to late-drop the course, the exception is to the deadline, not to the requirement that you must be earning at least a 70% in order to receive a Q-drop.

Final Note:

To "survive" this class, come prepared and ready to learn and to have fun each day. ***I strongly recommend that you study and do your homework together, in groups, outside of class.*** Collaboration will help you learn more effectively and is often much more fun than working on your own (obviously, this does not apply to exams, where collaboration results in failure).

****Specifics noted in this syllabus are subject to change with verbal
or written notification provided to the class****