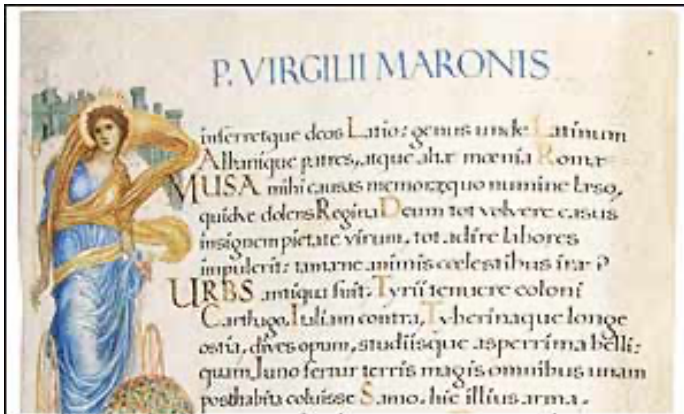


# YLL1201 Beginning Latin



Manuscript from Virgil's epic poem, *Aeneid* (left) and a Roman comedy by Terence (right)

## Course Details

Semester:	2
Module Credits:	5
Tutor:	Dr Steven Green
Contact details:	<a href="mailto:steven.green@yale-nus.edu.sg">steven.green@yale-nus.edu.sg</a> ; EC-03-03G (East Core, Level 3, above library)
Office Hours:	TBC, EC-03-03G (East Core, Level 3, above library)
Teaching method:	4 hours of instruction per week (two classes of 1.5 hours, one class of 1 hour) over 13 weeks:

**Class days/ times to be determined after Round 1 of Online Module Enrolment**

Assessment:	Class attendance	10%
	Class participation and homework	20%
	3 x 1-hour Consolidation Tests within class time	40%
	Written Examination at the end of the semester	30%

## Description and Aims

This course, which assumes no prior knowledge of the language, offers three days a week of language instruction in Latin for beginners. It focuses on grammar and vocabulary acquisition with exercises in reading, translating, and generating example text. By the end of the semester, students will have an introductory familiarity with the literature and culture of the Roman world, a basic introduction to Latin grammar and the simple constructions of the ancient language, and a limited but active vocabulary. They will be able to read short, adapted texts and will have acquired the competence to continue study of the language into Intermediate Latin (Semester 1, AY 2022-23).

## Textbooks

The two textbooks for this course (and for Intermediate Latin as well) are:

- (1) **P.V. Jones and K.D. Sidwell (2016; 2<sup>nd</sup> edition), *Reading Latin: Grammar, Vocabulary, and Exercises*** (Cambridge University Press)
- (2) **P.V. Jones and K.D. Sidwell (2016; 2<sup>nd</sup> edition), *Reading Latin: Text*** (Cambridge University Press)

*Please ensure that you acquire the 2016 (second edition) version of both textbooks!*

## Pace, Coverage, and Variety of Texts

We will aim to cover all sections up to and including 4A. These sections expose students to a variety of real but adapted texts from the ancient Roman world, including: the comedies of Plautus (3<sup>rd</sup> century BC), the foundation stories of Rome, and Cicero's prosecution speech against Verres, the corrupt Roman governor of Sicily (70 BC).

In addition, students will get the opportunity to translate excerpts from the Latin poem on which I am currently writing a translation and commentary for Oxford University Press: namely, the *Ilias Latina*, an abbreviated Latin version of Homer's epic poem, *Iliad*, dated to the mid 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.

## Grading and Pass Mark

The three in-class tests and the end-of-semester exam will be marked out of 100%, with the following 'conversion' into Yale-NUS grade points in operation:

Percentage	Grade
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95-100	A+
90-94	A
85-89	A-
75-84	B+
60-74	B
55-59	B-
50-54	C+
45-50	C
40-44	C-
30-40	D

In order to pass the course, you need an overall average of 45 (C). You can fail individual tests so long as you pass the end-of-semester exam and achieve an overall average of 45 or above.

## Monitoring Progress

Learning a new language, particularly an inflected language like Latin, is an individual experience. Some people can excel at it, others find it manageable but challenging, while others can find it very difficult. It is not easy to predict what an individual's experience will be, which is why it is important for us all to have confidence in our individual progress through the course. Full participation in all classes, as well as asking questions when you don't understand something, will put you in the best possible position to do yourself justice. Homework and online quizzes provide formative feedback and assessment of progress, while the in-class tests provide a more formal mechanism. At any rate, you will have several hours of class time, and feedback from several pieces of homework, in order to assess progress ahead of the formal cut-off date for de-enrolling from a course without its being recorded as 'withdrawn'.

## Optional Additional Texts (more relevant, perhaps, for Intermediate Latin)

The set textbooks set out the grammar clearly in the order in which we meet it, and there is a useful vocabulary list at the end of the book. If, however, you are looking to continue Latin beyond this course, you might like to acquire a decent Latin-to-English dictionary and a concise reference work of Latin grammar and word formations. James Morwood's Oxford series (*A Latin Grammar*, various sizes of *Latin Dictionary*) are inexpensive and readily available. I also like the *Chambers Murray Latin-English Dictionary*. *Kennedy's Revised Latin Primer* is also a very good resource for word formations. Do let me know if you need any further assistance with recommendations!

Provisional Schedule

<b>WEEK</b>	Class days, times, and venues TBC
<b>Week 1</b> January 10 – 14	Introduction and 1A
<b>Week 2</b> January 17 – 21	1B
<b>Week 3</b> January 24 – 28	1B and 1C
<b>Week 4</b> January 31 – February 4	1D <b>** Consolidation In-Class Test 1 **</b>
<b>Week 5</b> February 7 – 11	1D and 1E
<b>Week 6</b> February 14 – 18	1F and 1G
<b>RECESS WEEK</b> February 22 – March 1	
<b>Week 7</b> February 28 – March 4	2A <b>** Consolidation In-Class Test 2 **</b>
<b>Week 8</b> March 7 – 11	2B and 2C
<b>Week 9</b> March 14 – 18	2D
<b>Week 10</b> March 21 – 25	2E <b>** Consolidation In-Class Test 3 **</b>
<b>Week 11</b> March 28 – April 1	3A and 3B
<b>Week 12</b> April 4 – 8	3C and 3D
<b>Week 13</b> April 11 – 15	4A

## Freebie: Animals in Latin

It is often the case in English that, while the *noun* derives from a language other than Latin, the associated *adjective* comes from Latin:

animal, animalis (n)	animal	
canis, -is (m)	dog	cf. <i>canine</i>
felis, -is (f)	cat	cf. <i>feline</i>
avis, -is (f)	bird	cf. <i>aviary, avian flu</i>
equus, -i (m)	horse	cf. <i>equine</i>
ovis, -is (f)	sheep	cf. <i>ovine</i>
bos, bovis (m/f)	ox/ cow	cf. <i>bovine</i>
apis, -is (f)	bee	cf. <i>apiary, apiculture</i>
porcus, -i (m)		
porca, -ae (f)	pig, sow	cf. <i>pork</i>
sus, suis (m/f)		cf. <i>swine</i>
vacca, -ae (f)	cow	cf. <i>vaccine</i> ('cow-like'), <i>vaccinate</i> (= 'to make something like a cow')
piscis, -is (m)	fish	cf. <i>Pisces</i> ; French <i>piscine</i> , Spanish <i>piscina</i> (lit. 'fish pond' rather than 'swimming pool')
anser, anseris (m)	goose	
aquila, -ae (f)	eagle	
bubo, bubonis (m/f)	owl	also the name of the robotic owl in <i>Clash of the Titans</i> (1981)
corvus, -i (m)	raven	
cycnus, -i (m)	swan	
passer, passeris (m)	sparrow	
strix, strigis (f)	screech-owl	
aries, arietis (m)	ram	cf. <i>Aries</i>
caper, capri (m)	goat	cf. <i>Capricorn</i>
hircus, -i (m)	goat	
cervus, -i (m)	stag/ deer	
lepus, leporis (m)	hare	
taurus, -i (m)	bull	cf. <i>Taurus</i>
ursa, -ae (f)	(she-)bear	cf. <i>Ursa Major, Ursa Minor</i>
ursus, -i (m)	(he-)bear	
aranea, -ae (f)	spider or cobweb	
formica, -ae (f)	ant	
mus, muris (m/f)	mouse/ rat	
anguis, -is (m/f)	snake	
cancer, cancri (m)	crab	cf. <i>Cancer</i>
draco, draconis (m)	snake/dragon	cf. <i>Draco Malfoy</i> (c. 'evil-doing/ bad-faith snake')
scorpio, -onis (m)	scorpion	cf. <i>Scorpio</i>
serpens, -entis (m/f)	snake	
asellus, -i (m)	donkey/ ass	
elephantus, -i (m)	elephant	
leo, leonis (m)	lion	cf. <i>Leo</i>
panthera, -ae (f)	panther	
tigris, -is (f)	tiger/ tigress	



Figure 1: "leones tigresque ursique: o me miserum!"