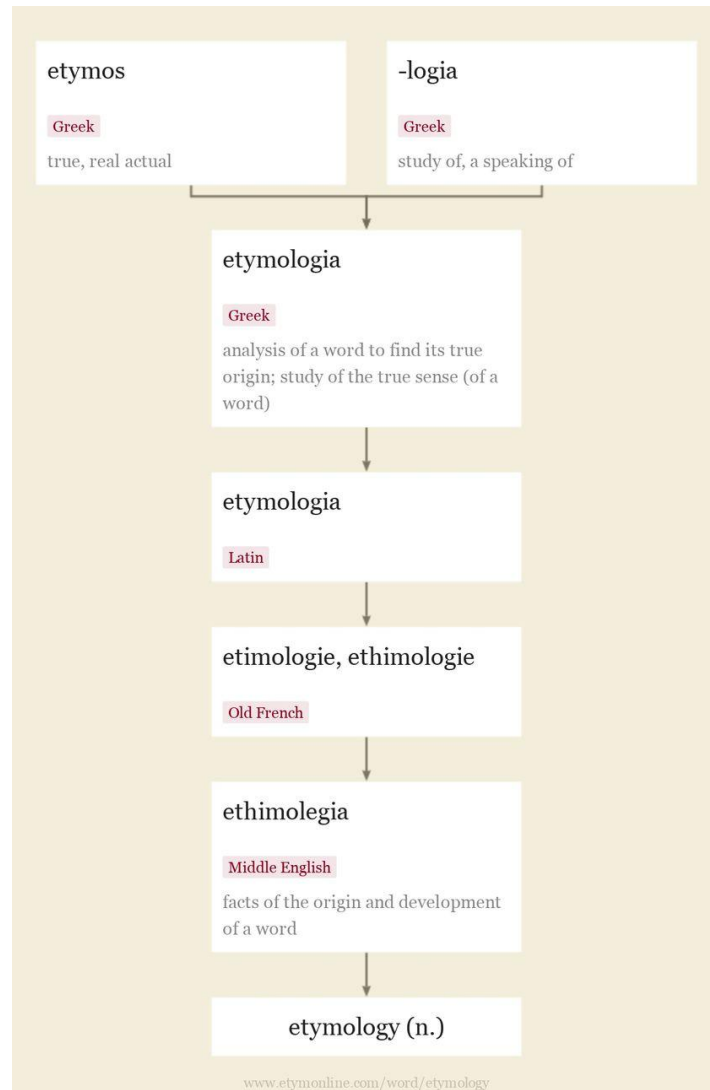


Greek and Latin elements in English



The University of Western Ontario
Classical Studies 2800A, Fall 2026

Preliminary Course Outline – subject to change

1. Course information

Course Description

Much of the technical terminology in the STEM and other fields is made up of Greek and Latin words, and overall about 70% of English vocabulary derives from Greek and Latin. A person who knows these ancient linguistic roots will know the meaning of a word like "otology", "lithotripsy" or "lucifugous" just by looking at it. The purpose of this course is to give students a greatly increased control of the English language. Along the way, we'll learn a little bit about the primary languages of ancient Greece and Rome, whose cultures continue to influence the modern world. We'll also learn a bit about the history of the English language, and about how languages work in general. (Note that no prior knowledge of Greek or Latin is expected or necessary.)

2. Instructor information

Instructor introduction

My name is Alissa Field, and I'll be your instructor for this course. I moved to UWO in 2022 to start my Ph.D. in Latin literature after completing my M.A. in Greek literature at Queen's University in Kingston. Before that, I studied at the University of Guelph (that other great university in Ontario). In my research I focus on poetry written in Latin during the time of ancient Rome. But what first got me interested in Classics was an introductory Greek course where, among other things, I discovered just how much of the English language comes from ancient Greek and Latin. Teaching is both my job and my pleasure, so please contact me in or out of class if you have any questions or thoughts about the course material.

Contact

Office:

Email:

Office Hours: By appointment.

CLASS TIMES

3. Course syllabus, schedule, delivery mode

Learning outcomes:

At the end of this course, I expect you will:

- have increased your English vocabulary with hundreds of new words
- be able to recognize the meaning of many technical and professional words of the arts and sciences (for example, iconoclasm, enervating, and nephrolithotomy)
- become more familiar with the history of the English language and the rich historical and mythological origins of many of its expressions

4. Course materials

Required texts:

I have ordered the required text for the UWO bookstore. You may obtain this textbook however you wish, but it is your responsibility to get it. If you look for the textbook somewhere other than at the Western bookstore, make sure you buy the revised second edition (from 2008) and not the original edition (from 1993).

Studies in Etymology, 2nd Edition. Charles W. Dunmore, Rita M. Fleischer. Focus Publishing.

Technical Requirements

There are no technical requirements except internet access to see the syllabus. If you would like me to print you a syllabus let me know.

It will also be useful at times to consult <https://www.etymonline.com/> a reliable online etymology dictionary.

Electronic devices

No electronic devices are allowed for in person assessments unless the student is otherwise accommodated through the official channels.

Statement on the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI)

The etymology of words is relatively well studied at this point. It would be hard to see a use for generative AI in this course when you can just check *Etymonline*. But, if you would

like to use it, I don't see why not. Just make sure you verify your answers from a source like our textbook or *Etymonline*.

5. Methods of evaluation

Grading scheme and assessment dates:

All tests are cumulative with a similar format—1/2 short answer, 1/2 word analysis. Almost all questions will be drawn from the assigned textbook homework and/or the PowerPoint lecture material.

The Quiz and Midterm will be held during class (see the schedule below); the Final Exam will be scheduled by the registrar. The Lesson Assignments can be found on OWL; each one will be due at 11:59 PM the day after the in-class lesson. There are 14 Lesson Assignments worth 2% each; students may complete up to 12 assignments (so the total possible grade for this component is 12% out of 10%).

Lesson Assignments (14 total, lowest 2 dropped):	20%
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Tests:

Quiz:	10%
Midterm:	30%
Final Exam:	40%

Date	Lesson	Homework
Sept 10 – First Class	Introduction	
Sept 15 – Week 1		
Sept 17		
Sept 22 – Week 2		
Sept 24		
Sept 29 – Week 3		
Oct 1		
Oct 6 – Week 4	Quiz	
Oct 8		
Oct 13	Fall Reading Week	
Oct 15		
Oct 20 – Week 5		
Oct 22		
Oct 27 – Week 6		
Oct 29		
Nov 3 – Week 7		
Nov 5		
Nov 10 – Week 8	Midterm pt. 1	
Nov 12	Midterm pt. 2	
Nov 17 – Week 9		
Nov 19		
Nov 24 – Week 10		
Nov 26		
Dec 1 – Week 11		
Dec 3		
Dec 8 – Final Class		