

Updated 05/17/26

ADVANCED LATIN I



University of Western Ontario
Latin 2001A, Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR

Hello! I'll be your instructor for this course. I moved to UWO in 2014 after completing my Ph.D. in Latin literature at Otago University in New Zealand. Before that, I studied at Queen's (that other great university in Ontario), where I was planning to be a dentist until I took one particularly good Introductory Latin course. In my research I focus on Roman epic poetry such as Virgil's *Aeneid*, Claudian's *De Raptu Proserpinae*, and especially Statius' *Thebaid* (a fantastically dark poem about the sons of Oedipus, who kill each other in a war for their father's throne). I also work on some medieval poetry that adapts the Greco-Roman mythology of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* to a medieval Christian audience. I'm particularly interested in how we (that means you and I) respond to the ancient world and its literature; I hope we'll be able to learn some things about that this year. 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 Latin or the ancient world in general.

CONTACT DETAILS

Office: Lawson Hall 3226

Email: kgervai2@uwo.ca

Office Hours: by appointment, or just drop in

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Latin 2001 is an advanced-level course for students who have completed Latin 1000 (or the equivalent). In the course we'll work through Chapters 25–36 (approximately) of *Wheelock's Latin*; students continuing on to Latin 2002 will read extended, unaltered passages from ancient Latin texts. Because consistent study and reinforcement are the best way to learn a new language, we'll have regular quizzes and tests. Although my main goal is to further you on the path to learning Latin, I expect you'll also learn a lot about English, which takes much of its grammar and vocabulary from Latin. And I hope you'll find that the Latin writers whose words we will read often thought and felt very much like we do, but maybe expressed themselves a bit better: not "YOLO", but *carpe diem* ("harvest the day"), and not "It's complicated", but *odi et amo* ("I hate and I love")!

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course I expect you will have gained or improved: an ability to understand and translate Classical Latin; an ability to compose Latin sentences; a knowledge of English grammar and vocabulary; an appreciation of Latin authors and literary themes; a basic knowledge of Roman culture; confidence in public speaking; organized study habits; a linguistic foundation for progression to reading unaltered Latin at upper-year levels

REQUIRED TEXT

Wheelock's Latin (7th edition) is a required text for this course, and we'll use it every day in the fall semester:

F. M. Wheelock and R. A. LaFleur. *Wheelock's Latin*. 7th edition. New York: Collin's Reference. 2011. ISBN: 0061997226. \$31.

Since it's likely that you already own a copy of *Wheelock's*, I haven't ordered it for the UWO bookstore. If you don't own a copy, it can be purchased in various ways, including either paper or Kindle formats via Amazon. I strongly recommend you get the text in the correct edition (7th); although the changes from one edition to the next are often small, you may find yourself confused if you try to use an earlier edition.

DROPBOX

Rather than using OWL, I prefer to communicate by [email](#) and share files via [this dropbox folder](#).

ASSESSMENT

The acquisition of foreign languages is largely dependent on reinforcement and repetition. For this reason class attendance and participation are expected; furthermore, we'll have regular mini-quizzes, vocab training exercises, and quizzes, three tests, and a final exam:

- 15% Preparation and Participation
- 10% Mini-quizzes
- 10% Homework
- 15% Quizzes (5 in total)
- 25% Midterm exam
- 25% Final exam (December exam period)

CAN I HELP?

It's important to me that you meet your goals in this course, and I'm eager to help either in or out of class with any academic matters. Moreover, I'm especially aware that there are many challenges (physical, cognitive, emotional, or personal) that can prevent students from performing to their full potential. In some cases, I may be able to make accommodations; in some cases, formal accommodations through your Academic Counsellor or Accessible Education will be the right decision. No matter how big or small the problem, the sooner you speak to me (or the appropriate person), the more likely it is that we'll be able to find a good solution.