

Latin Prose Selections: *Livy, Ab Urbe Condita 1*



The University of Western Ontario
Department of Classical Studies
Latin 3100A/4903A, Fall 2026
Jacob Vanderkloet

Course Details

In this course, we will be reading selections from the first book of Livy's *Ab Urbe Condita*. Our main objective will be to improve your Latin reading comprehension and speed, but we will also spend some time discussing the critical and interpretative issues relevant to the text we're reading.

Required Texts

No textbooks are required for this course. We will use Geoffrey Steadman's commentary of Livy Book 1, which is freely available online and will be posted on the OWL site. Students who prefer to use hard copies of the text should contact the instructor for guidance. We will also discuss the various reference resources available for independent study of Latin (dictionaries, lexica, grammar books, etc.).

Instructor Information

My name is Jacob Vanderkloet, and I will be your instructor for this course. Please call me Jacob. I am a PhD student in the Classics Department at Western University who has been here since 2024. I received my Master's Degree in Greek and Roman Studies at the University of Calgary and my Bachelor's Degree with Joint Honours in History and Classical Studies from Memorial University of Newfoundland. In my research, I mainly focus on Greco-Roman History and Historiography, though I am also interested in literature and comparative mythology. Some of my favorite ancient authors include Herodotus, Thucydides, and Sallust.

Contact Information:

Email: jvand372@uwo.ca

Office Hours: TBD

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course students will have improved their command of Latin grammar and morphology. Successful students will be able to read Classical Latin prose with considerable speed and reading comprehension. Students will have gained some familiarity with the stylistic features of Roman historiography in general and of Livy in particular. Students will have also been introduced to some of the critical and interpretative issues surrounding Livy's *Ab Urbe Condita*.

Course Evaluation:

Class Participation:	15%
Midterm #1 (Monday October 19 th):	25%
Midterm #2 (Monday November 16 th):	25%
Final Exam (As scheduled by the registrar):	35%

Attendance

You are expected to attend all class meetings, and to come prepared to engage with the assigned material. That means you should have the assigned readings prepared in advance, and be able to translate the text and discuss its grammar during our course meetings. Regular attendance will make it easier for you to develop your skills in reading Latin. Advance preparation will help you review the material and ask questions about any difficult passages or syntactical constructions.

Midterm and Final Exam Information

The midterms and final exam will assess your ability to translate Latin prose into idiomatic English and your understanding of the grammatical components of the passages. The exams will ask you to translate select passages from the assigned readings and to identify grammatical forms and constructions. No books, notes, or electronic devices will be allowed during the exams. The first midterm will be held in class on Monday October 19th and will test material covered since the beginning of the course. The second midterm will be held in class on Monday November 16th and will test material covered since the first midterm. The final exam will be held during the exam period (as scheduled by the registrar) and will be cumulative, but will focus on material covered since the second midterm. Students enrolled in Latin 4903A will be asked to translate more and answer more grammatical questions on their exams than students enrolled in 3100A.

Class Procedure

Weeks 1 and 2 will be spent introducing students to Livy and reviewing the basics of Latin grammar and morphology. Thereafter, the course will have a regular weekly structure. For each week, you'll have a reading assignment taken from Book 1 of Livy's *Ab Urbe Condita*. We'll start the week by giving everyone a turn to read some Latin aloud, translate it, and answer questions about grammar and morphology. I'll call on students for this in a predictable order. In some weeks, I will take a turn myself to make sure we cover the entire assignment in class. This may become increasingly necessary as the translation assignments get longer later in the semester. In addition to translating the text and talking about Latin grammar and morphology, class time will be spent discussing some of the critical and interpretative issues surrounding Livy's *Ab Urbe Condita*.

Prerequisite: Latin 2000 or Permission of the Department

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Week 1 (Wednesday Sept. 9th to Friday 11th)

No Readings

Week 2 (Monday Sept. 14th to Friday 18th)

Optional Reading: Livy's *Ab Urbe Condita* Book 1 in English translation (posted on OWL)

Week 3 (Monday Sept. 21st to Friday 25th)

Primary Reading: 1.1

Week 4 (Monday Sept. 28th to Friday Oct. 2nd – no class on Wednesday Sept. 30th for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation)

Primary Reading: 1.3.1-8 (i.e. up to *flumini dedit*)

Week 5 (Monday Oct. 5th to Friday 9th)

Primary Reading: 1.3.9-11 (i.e. the rest of 1.3) & 1.4

Reading Week (Monday Oct. 12th to Friday 16th)

Week 6 (Monday Oct. 19th to Friday 23rd)

Midterm #1

Primary Reading: 1.5

Week 7 (Monday Oct. 26th to Friday 30th)

Primary Reading: 1.6.3-1.7.3 (i.e. from *Ita* to *appellata*) & 1.9.1-7 (i.e. up to *vocat*)

Week 8 (Monday Nov. 2nd to Friday 6th)

Primary Reading: 1.9.8-14 (i.e. from *Indici* to *venissent*) & 1.11.5-1.12.1 (i.e. from *Novissimum* up to *subiere*)

Week 9 (Monday Nov. 9th to Friday 13th)

Primary Reading: 1.12.10-1.13.5 (i.e. from *Ex equo* to *appellarunt*) & 1.16.1-4 (i.e. up to *nobilitavit*)

Week 10 (Monday Nov. 16th to Friday 20th)

Midterm #2

Primary Reading: 1.49.1-9 (i.e. up to *iungebat*)

Week 11 (Monday Nov. 23rd to Friday 27th)

Primary Reading: 1.56.4-1.57.4 (from *Haec agenti* up to *premi hostes*)

Week 12 (Monday Nov. 30th to Friday Dec. 4th)

Primary Reading: 1.57.5-1.58.6 (i.e. up to *cubiculo inveniunt*)

Week 13 (Monday Dec. 7th to Wednesday 9th)

Primary Reading: 1.58.7-1.59.2 (i.e. up to *sequuntur ducem*)

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, here:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/scholasticdisciplineundergrad.pdf>.

Plagiarism

Students must complete assignments in their own words. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). For Latin courses, this policy applies to the uncredited use of other people's translations.

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

In this course, the use of AI (automatic translation tools, grammar checkers, ChatGPT, etc.) is permitted for studying purposes and helping students prepare for class. At times, these tools can be useful for translating, analyzing, and explaining Latin texts. However, they aren't perfect or entirely trustworthy, so it is important that you do not rely too much on digital tools. To encourage some independence, I will not allow you to access any digital tools during the exams.

General information about missed coursework:

- Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs* posted on the Academic Calendar: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf
- This policy does not apply to requests for academic consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person. The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult: [Accessible Education](#).
- For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage: https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/
- All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.
- All academic consideration requests must include supporting documentation; however, recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** in this course. However, the final exam (scheduled by the registrar) is excluded from this, and therefore always require formal supporting documentation.
- A make-up exam will be arranged in consultation with the student for any missed midterm.

Policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the [policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Academic Accommodation and Accessible Education

Academic Accommodation is “a means of adjusting the academic activities associated with a course or program of student in order to permit students with disabilities to participate in those activities at the University and to fulfill the essential requirements of a course or program.” <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodationdisabilities.pdf>. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with **Accessible Education** at the earliest opportunity. “Accessible Education plays a central role in Western's efforts to ensure that its academic programs are accessible for all students” https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

Support Services

Academic Advising

Your Home Faculty's Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/facultyacademiccounselling.html>

Mental Health Support

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender-based and sexual violence

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/studentssupport/survivorsupport/get-help.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Learning Development and Success

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre <https://learning.uwo.ca> are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

USC

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services>.