



## Department of Classical Studies

### Preliminary Course Outline

### Latin 3100B/4903B: Latin Prose Selections Winter 2024

#### ***Course Details***

We will read in Latin selections from Cornelius Nepos' *Life of Hannibal*, followed by readings from Caesar's *Gallic Wars*. Students will gain expertise and confidence in reading authentic Latin prose from the era of the Roman Republic. We will likewise review and strengthen principles of Latin grammar. There will be in addition some discussion of Latin literary style.

*Note: texts and readings will be finalized in the Fall semester; please contact me (see below) before ordering any books*

**Prerequisite: Latin 2000 or permission of the Department**

#### ***Course Texts***

Physical textbooks are not required. We will make use of the editions published at the Dickinson College Commentaries website. Students who prefer to use hard copies of the texts should contact the instructor for guidance. We will also discuss the various reference resources available for independent study of Latin (lexica, grammar books, etc.).

### Course Policies

#### ***Attendance***

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

#### ***Class Procedure***

At the beginning of each class meeting we will review lingering problems or questions from the previous session. We will proceed through the assignment sentence by sentence, taking turns at random. Students will read the sentence aloud in Latin, to gain proficiency in pronunciation; next, the Latin will be rendered into English, with special attention to verb tenses and moods. Third, we will analyze the grammatical elements of the sentence and review the syntax and morphology of its word components. Finally, we will consider the sentence or paragraph chunk in the larger context of the speech as a whole. Please do not read from a written translation in class; rather, make

a vocabulary/notes list that you can refer to if stuck, but focus instead on reading and understanding the Latin.

### ***Course Objectives***

The overall goal of this course is to increase students' comfort with and ability to read unadapted Latin prose. Students will gain familiarity with common sentence types and word patterns and will be able to apply their knowledge of Latin syntax, morphology and vocabulary to the reading of Ciceronian prose and that of other Classical Latin authors. A secondary objective of the course is to familiarize students with the political, military and social issues current at the height of Cicero's career.

### ***Learning Outcomes***

At the end of this course students will have improved their command of Latin syntax and morphology. Successful students will be able to read Classical Latin prose with considerable speed and reading comprehension. Students will have become familiar with the ancillary tools for Latin study, including the use of dictionaries, grammars and commentaries both student-oriented and scholarly. In addition, students will have been introduced to the features common to Roman deliberative oratory, and to the political, legal and cultural issues in the late Republic. More broadly, students will have sharpened their skills in analytical and critical thinking.

### ***Grade Assessment***

Classroom engagement	10%
Friday quizzes (lowest dropped)	20%
Midterm I (Date TBA)	20%
Midterm II (Date TBA)	20%
Final Exam (TBA)	30%

### ***Quiz and Exam Information***

The quizzes and exams will assess your ability in two important aspects of learning Latin: your ability to translate into idiomatic English and your understanding of the grammatical components of the passages. Quizzes will take place during the first 15 minutes of class on select Fridays (see schedule) and will be drawn from material we have covered in class. Make-up quizzes will be permitted at the discretion of the instructor (please inform me in advance if you will miss a class with a quiz). The midterm exams will test your ability to translate, identify grammatical forms and constructions and also your ability to read Latin that you haven't seen before. The second midterm will test material covered since the first midterm; the final exam will be cumulative, but will focus on material covered since the second midterm.