

LATN 3100 - The Roman Republic Fall 2006

Utah State University

Class: MWF 11:30-12:20 in MAIN 323L

Instructor: Dr. Susan O. Shapiro

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Dept of History

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Description and Goals: LATN 3100 is a first course in reading Latin prose. This semester we will be reading stories from Roman history, focusing primarily on the Roman Republic. For almost 500 years (509-27 BC), the Romans governed themselves through their elected officials, in a Republican form of government that was in many ways a model for our own. Stories about the founding of Rome, its early monarchy, and the rise and fall of the Republic will provide a semester's worth of exciting reading.

The primary goal for the course is to help you make the transition from studying Latin grammar to reading real Latin prose. For many students, this transition can be quite difficult. Most students find that the third semester is the most difficult Latin class they will ever encounter. To help make the transition as smooth as possible, we will begin by reading stories adapted from the Roman historians: *Fabulae Romanae: Stories of Famous Romans*. These stories have been simplified, but they will give you practice with the most important structures of Latin grammar and syntax. About half way through the semester we will shift to a different book, *Finis Rei Publicae: Eyewitnesses to the End of the Republic*, which contains readings in original Latin (mainly Caesar and Cicero). We will read selections concerned with the events leading up to Caesar's crossing of the Rubicon, which resulted in civil war (49-46 BC) and Caesar's dictatorship (46-44 BC).

We will also review some key points of Latin grammar and introduce some new ones as well. But the primary responsibility for reviewing Latin grammar falls upon you, the student. If you are unsure of the forms for the present subjunctive, go back and review. If you don't remember how to form the future active infinitive, go back and review. If you don't remember the difference between the gerund and gerundive, go back and review. We will be using Bennett's *New Latin Grammar* in class, but when you review at home, you may wish to consult Wheelock or any other beginning textbook with which you are familiar. But the main point is that, for most students, repeated grammar review is essential for making good progress in Latin.

The process of moving from grammar lessons to reading real Latin will not be completely painless, I'm afraid, but it is an essential step (perhaps **THE essential step**) in learning Latin. And you will feel terrific when you are able to read Latin prose with accuracy, grace, and enjoyment.

Required Texts:

Charles E. Bennett, *New Latin Grammar* (Bolchazy-Carducci)

Knapp & Vaughn, *Finis Rei Publicae: Eyewitnesses to the End of the Roman Republic*, 2nd edition (Focus, 2003)

Lawall & Perry, *Fabulae Romanae: Stories of Famous Romans* (Longman, 2003)
any Latin Dictionary

Structure: There will be **four exams**, approximately one every four weeks. The exams will cover **translation (both prepared and sight), grammar, and syntax**. The last exam will be held during finals week, but it **will not be a cumulative final**. There will be no quizzes and no written homework.

Grading: grades for the course will be determined as follows:

4 Exams	22.5% each	90%
Class attendance and participation		<u>10%</u>
		100%

The grading scale will be: A (100-93); A- (92-90); B+ (89-88); B (87-83); B- (82-80); and similarly for the C and D range. F represents a grade below 60. There will be no curving of grades.

Makeups: Makeup exams will not normally be given. **Exams can be made up only in case of a serious medical emergency (prior notification and doctor's note required).**

Class Format: On most class days we will translate prepared passages from *Fabulae Romanae* (FR) or *Finis Rei Publicae* (FRP). We will read the Latin out loud, translate it accurately and discuss any grammar questions that may arise. Students may write out a translation if they wish, or make a vocabulary list. **In no instance, however, will students be allowed to read their translations in class.** Prepared class translations will be exactly that: translations prepared at home but translated freshly in class. I do expect your translations to be carefully and meticulously prepared, but **re-translating the passages in class is the best way to solidify your knowledge of the material.**

We will also **review selected topics in Latin grammar**, using Bennett in addition to our textbooks (so be sure to **bring Bennett to class every day**). Sometimes we will break our routine and translate a passage at sight. Sight translation is a great way to strengthen your reading ability and build good reading habits. One sight passage will appear on each exam.

Attendance and Class Participation: Class attendance and participation are **extremely important and count for ten percent of your grade.** I expect you to **come every day with your translation prepared ready to fully participate in class.** You should expect to spend 1 to 2 hours in preparation for each class. If you must be absent, please send me an email and let me know. **Excessive absences (i.e. more than 3 unexcused absences), poor preparation, or lackluster class participation will result in a low attendance/participation grade.**

Academic Honesty: As students, teachers, and scholars, we are engaged in the pursuit of truth, and this endeavor demands **high standards of personal honesty.** Membership in the academic and professional community requires **a trust based upon integrity** of the written and spoken word. Thus, **cheating of any kind will not be tolerated in this class.** If you have any questions about what plagiarism is or what constitutes unauthorized assistance, please do not hesitate to ask me.

This information is available in Braille and large type format upon request.

Final Note: Because every class is to some extent a work in progress, **this syllabus is subject to change.** Students are responsible for incorporating into this syllabus any and all changes that have been announced in class.

LATN 3100: TENTATIVE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE
ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON THE SPECIFIED DAY

Week 1

- M 8/28 - Introduction; FR 1 (in class)
W 8/30 - FR 1 & 2; Nouns and Adjs (all declensions)
F 9/1 - FR 3; Finite verbs: indicative active & passive

Week 2

- M 9/4 - Labor Day - No Class**
W 9/6 - FR 4 & 5; Infinitives (active and passive; all tenses)
F 9/8 - FR 5; Participles (active and passive; all tenses)

Week 3

- M 9/11 - FR 6; Subjunctive Forms
W 9/13 - FR 9 - note skip in sequence; Uses of the subjunctive (indep clauses)
F 9/15 - FR 9; Subjunctive uses (dependent clauses)

Week 4

- M 9/18 - FR 12; Last Day to Drop w/out notation on transcript
W 9/20 - Review
F 9/22 - Exam 1

Week 5

- M 9/25 - FR 16
W 9/27 - FR 18
F 9/29 - FR 20

Week 6

- M 10/2 - FR 20
W 10/4 - FR 25
F 10/6 - FR 25

Week 7

M 10/9 - Dr. Shapiro @ UVSC - no class
W 10/11 - FR 26
F 10/13 - FR 26

Week 8

M 10/16 -Review
W 10/18 - Exam 2
F 10/20 - Fall Break - no class

Week 9

M 10/23 - FR 27
W 10/25 - FR 28
F 10/27 - FR 29

Week 10

M 10/30 - FR 30
W 11/1 - FR 30
F 11/3 - FR 31

Week 11

M 11/6 - FRP 2 & 3
W 11/8 - FRP 4
F 11/10 - FRP 6 (note skip in sequence)

Week 12

M 11/13 - FRP 7
W 11/15 - FRP 8; Absolutely last day to drop a class
F 11/17 - Review

Week 13

M 11/20 - Exam 3
W 11/22 - Thanksgiving Break
F 11/24 - Thanksgiving Break

Week 14

M 11/27 - FRP 11
W 11/29 - FRP 12
F 12/1 - FRP 14

Week 15

M 12/4 - FRP 16
W 12/6 - FRP 17
F 12/8 - FRP 20

Exam Week

F 12/15 - **Exam 4** @ 9:30- 11:20 AM