

SAMPLE—SUBJECT TO CHANGE

University of St. Thomas

Fall 2001

Introductory Latin (1331)

Dr. Robert J. Yankow

Course description

1. The only text you will need for this course is Frederick M. Wheelock's *Latin An Introductory Course Based on Ancient Authors*. If there is a need for additional reading material, you will be provided with handouts.
2. Owing to the nature of the course, Wheelock's Table of Contents (pages v-vii) is in effect our curriculum. We shall start at the first chapter and proceed in order through to the end of the book. The goal of the course is to be able to translate Latin passages of a moderate complexity and to acquire as much vocabulary as possible.
3. There is no required reading list, nor is there a language lab. In order to satisfy the University's writing requirement, you must keep a journal of your class experience and, one hopes, progress. This journal, which is to be continuously updated by you, is worth a portion of your final grade and may be requested by me at any time (after the first week of class). You must keep this journal in a separate note book, so that you can hand it to me with a minimum amount of fuss when I ask for it.
4. You are expected to arrive in a timely manner for all classes; be prepared for class, i.e., do your homework. Homework in this sentence means spending the time it takes, on your own time, to acquire points of grammar, vocabulary, and sentence translation. There is no chance that you will succeed in this course if you limit your effort solely to casual observation of my effort in class.
5. There will be a quarterly exam as well as a final exam. You are required to take the quarterly exam; it is your "admission ticket" to the final exam in December. There will also be quizzes about which you will typically, but not inevitably, have advance notice. You may make up missed quizzes (assuming you have really excellent reasons for missing them in the first place), but you must do so within 24 hours of the date of the missed quiz. **It is your responsibility to seek me out and make the necessary arrangements within that 24 hour time period.** Missed quizzes will count as "0." As you may know, a "0" does not help one's average, i.e., $100 \div 2 = 50$, a number that is not going to get you a passing grade. If you decide at some point to drop this course, you must drop or withdraw from it in a manner that satisfies the registrar. **It is not my responsibility to read your mind or to act on your behalf.** If you simply stop coming to class, the registrar will **not** be satisfied, you will **not** be officially dropped, and you **will** get a final grade of "F."
6. Grades: (a) final exam is 25%; (b) quarterly is 20%; (c) quizzes are 30%; (d) journal is 10%; (e) class participation is 15%.

7. Office Hours:

	Office Hours	Class (Courses & Times)	
Monday	9:00-10:00am	Latin 1331	10:10-11:00pm
	3:00-4:00pm	Greek 1341	1:10-2:00pm
Tuesday	8:00-10:00am	HNRS 1391	11:00am-12:15pm
		MLMLA 6393	2:10-3:25pm

Wednesday	9:00-10:00am 12:00-1:00pm	Latin 1331 Greek 1341	10:10-11:00pm 1:10-2:00pm
Thursday	NONE (by appointment)	HNRS 1391 MLMLA 6393	11:00am-12:15pm 2:10-3:25pm
Friday	8:45-9:45am	Latin 1331 Greek 1341	10:10-11:00pm 1:10-2:00pm

8. The final exam is scheduled for: Wednesday, December 19, 2001 at 08:30-11:00am in the class room in which we normally meet. This schedule comes from the fall, 2001, semester bulletin (page 63) which we are not at liberty to change.

9. The following table shows letter grades with corresponding numerical values:

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
F	63 or below

10. If there are any questions or problems along the way, please do not hesitate to see me. My office is located in HE (new building located next to the Chapel) 219. My phone extension is #3139 (from outside the university: 713-525-3139). Feel free to stop by at any time. My E-mail address is: yankow@stthom.edu

11. Unless you have money to throw away, be careful where you park your vehicle. Minions of the City of Houston regularly look for and ticket parking violators. Also, it is not only a bad idea but also a foolish one to suppose that you can cruse into class (any class) one minute or less before its start and also park your vehicle within 10 feet or less of the class' location.

1. **Question:** Numbers 6 and 9 above notwithstanding, what ultimately accounts for my (your) final grade?

Answer: A combination of fate and free will. The truth of this apparent (Stoic) paradox can easily be confirmed mathematically, viz., $\{D11+F11+M11\}/3*0.2+\{J11*0.2\}+O11+10+\{Q11*0.4\}$.

2. **Question:** Will I have to think?

Answer: Yes and no.

3. **Question:** Is acquisition of Latin vocabulary important?

Answer: Yes.

4. **Question:** Why does Latin operate the way it does?

Answer: As Mr. Wheelock points out, the Latin language is inflectional, not positional. Hence what English accomplishes by word position within the sentence, Latin accomplishes by word spelling—the result of this approach is that mere word position within a Latin sentence does not carry the burden of the meaning of that sentence.

5. **Question:** As I begin to find out about things like case endings, personal endings and verb forms, should my goal be to know all of them as well as I know my own name, or will a kind of theoretical knowledge that they exist, with perhaps a passing awareness of one or two of them, be good enough?

Answer: What do you think?

This syllabus is also available for your perusal at: <http://www.stthom.edu/MACL/classics.htm>