



# LINGUA LATINA INDUCTIO INTENTA

COLLEGIO CIVITATIS SEMPERVIRENTIS  
AESTAS MMXXIV

*Per me quis discit. vox, littera, syllaba quid sit*

Through me, anyone can learn the meaning of speech, letters, and syllables.

- Grammatica, one of the seven liberal arts in the Medieval tradition (in a 12<sup>th</sup> century illustrated manuscript)

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*Docti non solum vivi atque praesentes studiosos discendi |  
erudiunt atque docent, sed hoc idem etiam post mortem  
monumentis litterarum assequuntur. – Cicero*

The wise elevate and instruct those who are eager for learning, not only while they live and stand in our presence, for they also attain this same end after their death, through the testimony of their writings.

This course provides an introduction to the Classical Latin language, that is, the language of the later Roman Republic and the earlier Roman Empire – the language of authors such as Lucretius, Julius Caesar, Livy, Virgil, Horace, Ovid, and Tacitus. It also prepares one to read Medieval, Renaissance, or Ecclesiastical Latin texts. The principle objective of the course is the development of your ability to read ancient Latin texts as well as you can, as soon as you can. One fringe benefit is a greater understanding of the vocabulary and syntax of related languages, including the prominent spoken languages in the United States, English and Spanish. Another is a better grasp of the specialized languages of the sciences, medicine, law, and philosophy. A third is the acquisition of that unmistakable sophistication, *gravitas*, and beguiling wit that distinguish the student of the Classics.

The two sessions of this intensive summer course, when taken in sequence, constitute roughly two thirds of a traditional three-quarter or two-semester first-year Latin course. At its completion, students should have a solid grounding in basic Latin vocabulary, forms, and syntax, and with some additional study, they will soon be able to read texts of moderate difficulty with

the help of a dictionary and grammar. Students who complete only the first session will gain a basic understanding of the fundamentals of the language's structure and usage and are encouraged to continue their study when the occasion presents itself.

### ***Librum***

*Introduction to Latin*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, by Susan C. Shelmerdine (Hackett/Focus, ISBN 9781585103904)

In addition to this book, we will take advantage of a fine and free series of videos from Ben Johnson, latintutorial (<https://latintutorial.com/>)

### ***Officia et existimatio***

**Thorough preparation and participation.** Learning a foreign language demands a great deal of attention and consistent effort, and a measure of endurance, both in and out of our class sessions. We will learn this one best if all of us contribute to our meetings. Be prepared to offer translations, identify forms, and ask questions. On occasion, we will converse, recite, and declaim in Latin.

**Written exercises**, typically, though not always, Latin-English translations and English-to-Latin compositions.

**Weekly probationes minores** (lesser exams). These will include vocabulary quizzes, questions on forms and syntax, translations into English of passages in Latin, and composition in Latin from English sentences. They will be given on the Thursdays of weeks 2-4 and 6-9.

**Two probationes maiores** (greater exams) one at the end of the first summer session (Thursday of week 5) and the other at the end of the full session (Thursday of week 10). Just like the *minores* but a good bit longer.

**Self-evaluation and evaluation of Andrew.**

### ***Quae vobis facienda sunt ut mereamini praemia plena***

In order to earn full credit for the course you must

1. attend all classes except when prevented by illness, emergency, or special circumstances discussed in advance with Andrew.
2. participate fully in class activities.
3. complete exercises, examinations, and evaluations when due. Translations, compositions, and examinations must be completed at or above a basic level of facility, which for this course means an average percentage score of 60% or above on the assignments. The average score for the

course is a composite of the average scores for quizzes, exercises, and examinations, weighted as follows: written exercises 60%, *probationes minores* 20%, *probationes maiores* 20%

4. submit a self-evaluation and faculty evaluation at quarter's end.

Partial credit may be awarded if the first or second requirements are not fully met. Failure to meet the third or fourth requirements will result in no credit for the course.

*NB:* Although percentage scores distinguish credit-worthy from unsatisfactory performances on individual assignments, and they can be useful for gauging one's own accomplishments on an objective scale, they do not constitute grades, and student evaluations will not record them. The evaluations will speak to the individual student's degree of mastery of Latin morphology, vocabulary, and syntax and the quality of participation in our classes.