

LATIN S110E, BEGINNING LATIN: THE ELEMENTS OF GRAMMAR

26 MAY–27 JUNE, 2025 (Session A), M–F 9–12, online

LATIN S120E, BEGINNING LATIN: REVIEW OF GRAMMAR AND SELECTED READINGS

30 JUNE–1 AUGUST, 2025 (Session B), M–F 9–12, online

instructor: Timothy Robinson

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SYLLABUS

*Latin's a dead language
Dead as it can be
First it killed the Romans
Now it's killing me.*



Latin lyric and archaeological find ("Always look on the bright side of Latin.") courtesy of Professor Christina Kraus

Latin S110/120E provides a comprehensive introduction to classical Latin, with readings from a variety of authors, mainly from the period of the late Republic and early Empire (c. 100 BCE–100 CE). The first five weeks (Session A) will introduce the entire grammar of the language, along with readings of Latin poetry and prose in the original. Latin S120E (Session B) will comprise readings from two of the most stimulating authors of antiquity: selected letters from Pliny the Younger—which offer a fascinating perspective into the events and culture of the early Empire, including such topics as Imperial politics, slavery, women's lives, early Christianity, the eruption of Vesuvius, and correspondence back and forth between Pliny and the Emperor Trajan—as well as selections from the epic and elegiac poetry of Ovid, which are unsurpassed in their imaginative, rhetorical, and formal range. We shall also sample some Imperial inscriptions. Upon completion of these courses (L1/2) students may continue in the L3/4 sequence at Yale. These courses may also fulfill the Latin requirement for certain Yale graduate students (check with your DGS).

Required texts: Latin S110E Moreland and Fleischer, *Latin: An Intensive Course* (ISBN 9780520031838); Latin S120E *Pliny the Younger: Selected Letters*, ed. Shelton (ISBN 9780865168408), *Selections from Ovid*, ed. Dunmore (ISBN 9781585100880).

Recommended: Students may want to purchase a simple soft-bound Latin dictionary, such as the Bantam or Collins Gem, with both Latin-to-English and English-to-Latin sections. For those with iPhones, iPads, etc. the University of Chicago has recently made available, *gratis et pro bono*, the extremely useful app Logeion, which contains several standard Greek and Latin dictionaries.

All books are available under this course listing at the Yale Bookstore, 77 Broadway.

Each class will meet from 9–12 with a break around 10:20. There will be short quizzes during the week at the beginning of class on forms and in-class exercises, along with asynchronous online assignments (featuring translation into Latin) and textbook readings from original Latin texts.

We shall be covering a whole semester's worth of work in each five-week session, and attendance at all classes is mandatory. Each student will require a reliable wi-fi connection enabling video and audio, and all cameras must be connected and operating throughout each three-hour class.

Asynchronous assignments will consist of PDFs sent back and forth to the instructor. In case of illness or other personal emergency, please contact the instructor immediately.

Assessment: Attendance and participation, 25%; Written assignments + quizzes, 45%; Exams (4 x 7.5%), 30%. Missed quizzes and exams may not be made up unless prior arrangements have been made.

Tentative Schedule:

(Latin S110E)

Week 1, 26 May–	course introduction, MF Units 1–3
Week 2, 2 June–	MF Units 4–7, readings from Catullus, Martial, Cicero
Week 3, 9 June–	MF Units 8–11, readings from Catullus, Martial, Seneca, Virgil
Week 4, 16 June–	MF Units 12–15, readings from Martial, Horace, Cicero, Petronius
Week 5, 23 June–	MF Units 16–18, review, readings from Seneca, Cicero, Caesar

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Week 6, 30 June–	Pliny 1.1, 1.6, 1.11, 1.15, 1.21, 3.11; Ovid selections
Week 7, 7 July–	Pliny 3.14, 4.11, 6.16, 6.20; Ovid selections
Week 8, 14 July–	Pliny 7.5, 7.19, 8.10, Ovid selections
Week 9, 21 July–	Pliny 9.6, 9.12, 9.36, Ovid selections
Week 10, 28 July–	Pliny 10.17, 10.33, 10.34 (from Trajan), 10.96, 10.97 (from Trajan); Ovid selections