# Latin Grammar

## Prof. Emilio Giazzi

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with the knowledge and methods for studying certain aspects and periods in the historical evolution of the Latin language, from the archaic era to the late-ancient and early medieval periods, with a particular focus on morpho-syntactic structures and lexicon; it will also explore certain elements of grammar through textual analysis:

**Knowledge and understanding**: identify the key elements of the Latin language from a historical perspective

**Ability to apply knowledge and understanding**: translate from Latin to Italian the texts presented in class, maintaining the substance of the message while passing from the source to the target language, and – at the same time – recognising its diachronic evolution.

**Independent judgment**: thanks to specific translation exercises and the study of the evolution of the language, students will be able to develop their logic and critical skills in order to evaluate the key features of Latin during the different stages of its historical evolution.

**Communication skills**: get a better understanding of the fundamental nature of Latin, and therefore develop their knowledge of the linguistic phenomena of the language in use, the semantic richness of its vocabulary, and the importance of a correct sentence structure to convey the meaning of written and oral messages.

**Learning skills**: thanks to the logic and critical approach required by translation and the study of Latin from a historical perspective, students will be able to acquire an effective and flexible learning method.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will be focused on the key elements of the phonetics and the historical and comparative morphology of Latin, explored through reading epigraphs and literary texts from the archaic age to the late-imperial and early medieval ages. The course will focus in particular on the archaic age, the classic regularisation, Latin of the Imperial Period and late antiquity, and the transformation of Latin in the early Middle Ages.

The course will analyse, in order to exemplify the historical development of the language, passages by Plautus, Terence, Lucretius, Cicero, Sallust, Virgil, Ovid, Seneca, Fronto, Tacitus, Augustine, Cesarius of Arles, Gregory of Tours, Saint Gregory the Great,and/or others.

The verb system of Latin and its application in the stylistic technique of narrative prose.

***READING LIST***

Texts and study materials will be provided in different formats. For exam preparations, students shall study the lecture notes and, where necessary, sections of the following texts:

A. Traina – G. Bernardi Perini, *Propedeutica al latino universitario,*editionrevised and updated by E. Marangoni, Bologna, Patron, 1995.

F. Villar, *Gli Indoeuropei e le origini dell’Europa*, Bologna, Il Mulino, 1997

E. Vineis, *Il latino,* Bologna, Il Mulino, 2005.

P. Poccetti – D. Poli – C. Santini, *Una storia della lingua latina,* Rome, Carocci, 2008.

L.R. Palmer, *La lingua latina,*Turin 2002.

I. Mazzini, *Storia della lingua latina e del suo contesto,* vol. I, Rome 2007.

D. Norberg, *Manuale di latino medievale*, Rome 2005.

F. Berardi, *le vie del latino*, Galatina 2020.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures; in case of need, remote teaching will be carried out in asynchronous and/or synchronous mode.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam, consisting in three open-ended questions based on the texts analysed in class, or the issues related to the different stages of the historical evolution of the Latin language. The general learning outcomes under assessment will be students’ abilities in key areas of the discipline (history, bibliographical resources and application of philological criteria); specific learning outcomes will be the ability to read, translate and comment on the texts analysed exclusively during the lectures. The assessment criteria for the exam are the following skills: knowledge and organisation of content, and independence in presenting ideas and critical and reconstructive capacity, the ability to translate in Italian the texts analysed in class, and the use of an appropriate terminology.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students should have a good knowledge of the normative grammar of the Latin language. Only in some particular cases, they will be allowed to define with the lecturer a customised reading list for the final exam (also considering their knowledge of grammar); however, it will have to be equivalent to the one described above, both from a qualitative and quantitative point of view.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.