History of the Latin Language

## Prof. Emanuele Berti

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

This course is for students of the following disciplines, whether on three-year or Master’s degree courses: classic literature; modern literature; and cultural heritage studies. The course aims to provide students with an overview of the development of the Latin language from its origins to late Antiquity, as well as the different varieties of Latin, from two perspectives: one approach will be to provide basic contextual frameworks for the main historical and critical issues and the most important periods of linguistic transformation; the other approach will be to study example texts translated and closely annotated by the lecturer, with a particular focus on linguistic features.

At the end of the course, students will have knowledge of the historical development of the Latin language and the phenomena and mechanisms behind its gradual transformation, ultimately, into Italian and the other Romance languages. They will also be able to read a Latin text and understand the main phenomena in terms of historical linguistics.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is divided into two separate modules, one general and one single-subject parts, in the first and second semesters respectively.

Module 1 (*semester 1*):

An overview of the development of the Latin language, from its origins to late Antiquity.

Module A (*semester 2*):

The debate on the corruption of the eloquence in the 1st cent. ce.

***READING LIST***

The Latin texts will be read, translated and annotated during lectures; they will also be made available in the download area of the lecturer’s personal webpage, where students will be able to download it.

Students will be required to read and study one of the following text books (of their choice) as part of the exam syllabus:

I. Mazzini, *Storia della lingua latina e del suo contesto,* Vol. I: *Linguistica e lingua letteraria*, Salerno Editrice, Roma, 2007 [cap. 2: Età degli Scipioni e di Plauto; cap. 3: Età di Cesare e di Cicerone; cap. 4: Età di Augusto e di Virgilio; cap. 5: Età di Nerone e di Domiziano, di Seneca e Marziale; cap. 6: Età di Traiano e Marco Aurelio, di Tacito e Frontone].

L. R. Palmer, *La lingua latina,* Einaudi, Turin, 2002 [First part, chap. 4: Il latino parlato: Plauto e Terenzio; chap. 5: Gli sviluppi della lingua letteraria; chap. 6: Il latino volgare].

In Module 1, students will read and translate the following text as part of the exam syllabus:

Petronio, *Satyricon,* from chap. 26, 7 to chap. 63 (*Cena Trimalchionis*; recommended edition: *Petronii Arbitri Cena Trimalchionis*, testo critico e commento a cura di E.V. Marmorale, La Nuova Italia, Florence, 1961, or G. F. Gianotti, *La cena di Trimalcione. Dal Satyricon di Petronio*, Bonanno editore, Acireale-Rome, 2013).

For the module A, students will read and translate the following text as part of the exam syllabus:

Tacito, *Dialogus de oratoribus* (suggested edition: Tacito, *Dialogo sull’oratoria*, a cura di E. Berti, Oscar Mondadori, Milano, 2009; or Tacito, *Dialogo sull’oratoria*, a cura di L. Lenaz, BUR, Milano, 1993).

Students who intend to take the course over two years must agree on a suitable selection of texts with the lecturer.

Students unable to attend part of the course may make up for any missed lectures, subject to approval from the lecturer, by reading other texts or chapters of the textbook as per the lecturer’s instructions. There is no syllabus for non-attending students.

Details of further reading material will be provided during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures given by lecturer.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by oral exam on the following points:

– based on the topics covered in lectures and the content of the textbook, students must demonstrate knowledge of the Latin language’s developmental progression during the most important periods of its history, as well as the ability to grapple successfully with key critical issues in this area; in particular, students will be assessed on their knowledge of the historical context, their understanding of concepts and their capacity for clearly and effectively presenting ideas and arguments;

– based on the material provided by the lecturer and on lecture notes, students must demonstrate their ability to read and translate the texts covered in lectures, and to interpret and provide commentary for them, identifying their most relevant aspects and phenomena from the point of view of the history of the language; this will serve as the basis upon which students’ understanding of the course topics, as well as their ability to critically analyse a Latin text, particularly linguistically, will be assessed.

– as regards the individually prepared texts, students must be capable of reading and translating them accurately and recognising the main linguistic phenomena therein; this will serve as the primary basis upon which students’ linguistic skills and understanding of Latin grammatical structures will be assessed.

The test is marked out of 30 and the final score will take account of all these elements.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

To attend this course, students need good or, at least, essential knowledge of Latin and its grammatical, morphological and syntactical structures. Students are advised to follow at least one Latin language and or Literature course before taking this course and exam.

The course is divided into two semesters, so that it can be taken as a year-long course (12 ECTS credits), or as a semester-long course (6 ECTS credits) which may be repeated. Students on the three-year or specialist degree whose syllabi include *History of the Latin Language* as a semester-long course may, if they wish, follow two semester-long courses (6 plus 6 ECTS credits), required for anyone wishing to teach Latin in secondary schools.

For students requiring fewer than 6 ECTS credits, a suitably reduced syllabus will be arranged.

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.