# Latin Literature 1 (Degree in Arts and Philosophy, Modern Literatures Course)

## Prof. Luigi Galasso

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

The course aims to provide students with the elementary knowledge of a representative corpus of texts belonging to the classical tradition of Latin literature, in the original language. Through the methods and tools of textual exegesis and of literary research, the course will examine the texts from the works of a wide range of authors carrying out a linguistic and literary commentary, in order to analyze crucial authors within the development of the literary culture in Rome.

By the end of the course, students will have acquired an overview of the historical development of Latin literature. They will be able to address issues relating to sourcing and studying literary Latin sources, and they will have developed individual critical thinking skills. They will also be able to contextualise these texts to expand their understanding of the role of literary phenomena in humanistic culture.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Monographic course

The single-subject course revolves around the reading of passages passages chosen from Cicero’s treatises. It is divided into two parts (one for each semester) which are separate but interdependent, so that each semester may also be attended by Cultural Heritage Conservation Studies students, wishing to attend a second semester in Latin literature. The professor’s lectures will be progressively integrated with the involvement of Italian and foreign experts.

Module 1

The treatises of Cicero: the philosophical works.

Module 2

The treatises of Cicero: the rhetorical works.

2. History of Latin literature

Students are required to know satisfactorily the main authors and literary genres belonging to the history of Latin literature. Those students attending Latin courses for just one year, will only have to study the most important authors within the literary panorama. Those students attending the course as the first year out of two years will only study the authors of the first half of the literary history, up to the Augustan Age.

3. Slight references to metrics and elementary knowledge of rhetorical proceedings

The required knowledge of metrics and general problems raised by the study of Roman literary history will be provided through two 10-hour practical courses, taught by Dr Marina Agrillo (as concerns metrics) and by Dr Antonella Casartelli (study of literary history). Students will be assessed on this part during the exam.

***READING LIST***

The texts which will be analysed during the course and the corresponding bibliographical materials will be made available throughout the lectures.

The texts to be analysed will be extrapolated from the main critical editions (Oxford Classical Texts, Bibliotheca Teubneriana, Belles Lettres, etc.).

*Concerning the history of Latin literature:*

G.B. Conte-E. Pianezzola, *Lezioni di letteratura latina,* Le Monnier Scuola, Firenze, 2010, 3 volumes (or other adequate *compendium* adopted during secondary schools).

*For a deeper study is suggested:*

M. Von Albrecht, *Storia della Letteratura latina,* Italian translation by Aldo Setaioli, Einaudi, Turin, 1995.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures in class with additional Latin language courses (see *NOTES AND PREREQUISITES*); interventions and seminars with visiting experts, which will form an integral part of the exam syllabus.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam. The oral exam will be of appropriate length and focus on translating and commenting on the texts studied in class. During the exam, students will be assessed on their knowledge and skills, in particular: accuracy of information they provide; their ability to summarise information using clear language; their use of subject-specific terminology; relevance of their answers; and their ability to critically reformulate content learned on the course.

– Students lacking grammar knowledge will compulsorily take the Latin language A exam at the end of the course with Dr Stucchi and with Dr Zuliani; for these students the exam is propaedeutic to the Latin language B exam;

– all students will take the Latin language B exam at the end of the course with Dr Riboldi, and the exam must be taken before the literature exam. The exam will focus on the critical reading of two texts, one for each semester; it will also deal with the explanation of grammatical subjects concerning, in particular, the syntax of nouns, of verbs and of cases. Students will be required to be able to read correctly, translate and carry out a deep grammatical analysis of both texts during the exam. The two texts will also be supported by home-study readings, which students will autonomously have to work on, according to the same methodologies employed to work on the texts during the lectures. The Latin language B exam will be evaluated with a mark out of thirty:

– Only after successfully passing the Latin language B exam will student be able to take the Latin literature exam – the institutional part, concerning the history of literature, to which are also related the seminars of history of literature and metrics, which thus represent an integral part of the exam. This part will also be assessed with a mark out of thirty;

– finally, students will have to deal with some questions concerning the monographic course of literature: making use of the lecture notes and of the didactic materials and texts posted by the lecturer on Blackboard, students will have to prove their ability in translating Latin texts examined during the course, and in commenting upon them, ri-elaborating the professor’s explanations. This part will also be assessed with a mark out of thirty.

The final mark will be out of thirty, and it will be the resulting average of the three partial marks.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites*

As it is a course on the history of Latin literature involving direct access to the texts, students will require at least basic knowledge of the subject. Any gaps in students’ knowledge (in the case of those whose prior university courses did not include the study of Latin, or did not include a Latin course for each of the five years), will be verified during lectures and remedied by means of specific interventions including the Latin Language course, which students will attend as per the details under “Avvertenze” (“Notes”).

*Notes*

The annual course (12 ECTS) addresses several typologies of students, within the Modern Literatures course. In fact, depending on the selected degree course, some Modern Literatures students will attend the Latin Literature 1 course, which will be the first annual course out of the two intended ones; some other students will attend it as a unique annual course. Cultural Heritage Conservation Studies students may choose to attend one semester of this course (either the first or the second), in case they have already attended a semester in Latin studies, and they wish to obtain further 6 ECTS in this discipline. In order to attend the course students are expected to possess an *a priori* knowledge of and competence in the field of Latin language, and for this reason it is necessary, too, to attend one of the three arranged practical language courses. Students never having studied Latin during secondary schools, or having studied it for less than three years, but also those students having studied Latin for 5 years, without, however, deeply dealing with linguistic aspects, are required to attend regularly the Latin Language Course A, an elementary course, dealing with the morphology of nouns and verbs and with some notions concerning sentence syntax. Course A consists of 60 hours, spread over two semesters (respectively taught by Dr. Silvia Stucchi and Dr. Maurizio Zuliani). While attending the course, these students, if they wish, may also attend the Professor’s monographic lectures; however, they will only be able to take the exam and record their mark after attending the Latin Language Course B (taught by Dr. Chiara Riboldi), and successfully passing the corresponding exam. The Latin Language course B, which consists of 60 hours, spread over two semesters, addresses students having studied Latin for more than three years during secondary schools, and those students having successfully passed the Latin Language exam A. These students, after successfully passing the Latin Language B exam, may also conclude the exam on the same day, starting from the summer session relating to their enrolment year. On the contrary, students attending course A, may in principle conclude the exam only starting from the summer session of their second year, after successfully passing the course B exam. The language courses require regular attendance and active participation (including homework for course A). Depending on the students’ commitment, students from course A who after the first semester already feel able to move to course B, without attending the second semester of the elementary course, will be assessed to evaluate their acquisition of the language competence. Course B will be supplemented with 30 hours of practical classes (held by Lucia Delle Grazie) spread throughout the entire year. It will focus on topics related to the syntax of cases and verbs, and it will take place as *translation workshop* at the same time as the Language B course. Attendance to lectures will allow students a reduction of syllabus contents to cover for the Language B course. History students may attend either course A or course B, depending on their level of knowledge of the Latin language, acquired during secondary schools.

Students do not need to register online for the oral assessments in Latin Language A and B, and part two of the exam (Literary History); they can simply present themselves at the exam venue during the Latin Literature exams.

Students who must complete the exam (single-subject part) are reminded that, in order to do so, they must be registered for the exam date online, as the lecturer will not be able to upload the marks of any students not fully registered for the exam.

The Latin authors whom students must present in the second part of the exam (History of Italian Literature) are listed on Prof. Galasso's personal webpage.

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.