Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
RL 521—Introduction to Latin I

Fall Semester 2010
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Course Description: This course is an introduction to the grammar, syntax and vocabulary of classical and medieval Latin. The student’s primary text will be Wheelock’s Latin (paperback: 6th edition revised), and approximately the first half of the book will be studied during this semester. Readings from classical and ecclesiastical sources, appropriate to the grammar, will be introduced.

Goals and Objectives: This course, with the second semester RL 522, will enable students of church history and liturgy to learn the basic grammar, vocabulary, and syntax of the Latin language and to read (slowly) many classical and medieval texts with the aid of notes and a dictionary or lexicon. These goals may be achieved through class attendance and participation and diligence in studying what is presented in the class and textbook, and careful completion of all assignments on time. Students’ progress will be monitored with quizzes and tests.

Course Requirements: All students are expected to attend classes, complete all assignments, participate in class discussions, and take each quiz and test on time.


Course Structure: The course will meet twice a week this semester, and normally one chapter of Wheelock’s Latin will be completed and another chapter started during each class. Class sessions, after the first class, will include some or all of the following: reviewing homework, taking a quiz or test, learning new material, and starting assignments for the next class. A quiz every two chapters is projected, but if student progress is not satisfactory, then there will be a quiz every chapter. There will be a test about every six chapters and a final exam.

Grading Procedures: 7 Quizzes = 45% of the grade
3 Tests + 1 Final = 45% of the grade
Homework, participation, and direction your grade is tending = 10%
Your lowest quiz score will not count when your quiz grades are averaged. Cumulative knowledge of the language is crucial; if your semester grade is borderline between 2 letter grades, you will receive the grade that reflects the direction your grade has been tending. There is a subjective component to the 10% part of your grade.

Attendance Policies:
1. You are responsible for all information and assignments given in class whether you are present or absent. Attend all classes and complete assignments, quizzes, and tests at the scheduled time. Latin is not an easy language; hence, students who miss several classes and/or do not complete assignments often have serious difficulty with the class.

2. If you will miss a quiz or test because of a seminary-sanctioned activity, notify the instructor at least 1 class day in advance. If you are seriously ill or called away on an extreme
emergency and will miss a quiz or test, send an email message to the instructor before class starts (not all excuses may be acceptable). You have one quiz score that will be dropped when grades are calculated at the end of the semester: if you miss a quiz for any reason, the score from that quiz will be the one that is dropped if it is the first quiz that you miss. Do not miss any more than one quiz. Rare exceptions may be made after consultation with the instructor if your excuse fits the parameters of the first 2 sentences of this paragraph.

**Grading Scale:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-93</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>88-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>84-87</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>80-83</td>
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<td>78-79</td>
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<td>68-69</td>
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<td>64-67</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-63</td>
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**For further study:**


The best unabridged Latin dictionary for English speakers is *Oxford Latin Dictionary* (1982—very expensive). Numerous relatively inexpensive abridged dictionaries may be found—Cassell and Oxford are two possibilities; for ecclesiastical Latin, an excellent work (and not very expensive) is Leo F. Stelten, *Dictionary of Ecclesiastical Latin*, published by Hendrickson (1995).

The *Loeb Classic Library* Latin series (red bindings) provides texts and translations for most classical and some patristic authors. Older Loeb translations may seem out of date.

For on-line resources, see [www.perseus.org](http://www.perseus.org) for texts and translations of most classical Latin (and Greek) authors. Also, Perseus has a good (albeit older) dictionary in Lewis’ *Elementary Latin Dictionary* as well as Lewis and Short’s unabridged *Latin Dictionary* for on-line use. There are also numerous web sites containing Latin texts of authors of late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Look up specific writers’ names, and you will often find a number of their writings available (e.g. Tertullian.org). Intratext.com has some of the Latin texts of theologians like Ambrose, Augustine, Aquinas, Paul the Deacon, Hraban Maur, Heloise, Abelard, Benedict, Bede, St. Clare, etc.). For a text of the Bible in Latin, look on Vatican.va (it has a punctuated text, unlike many other Latin Bible websites).

Do an internet search on “Wheelock’s Latin” for additional aids for study.

Out of courtesy for other members of the class, please…

- turn off cell phones and other communications devices (except in case of dire emergency).
- be on time for class.
- participate in all class activities—your comments/questions may help others as well as yourself.
- take care of personal needs before class starts.
Tentative Class Schedule and Assignments:
Each day’s assignment will be given at that time, depending on progress through the material. Chapters to be studied and dates of quizzes and tests are listed below.

Sept. 15 Chapter 1
17 Review Ch. 1 (practice quiz), Start Ch. 2
22 Review Ch. 2, **Chs. 1-2 Quiz**, Start Ch. 3
24 Rev. Ch. 3, Start Ch. 4
29 Rev. Ch. 4, **Chs. 3-4 Quiz**, Start Chs. 5 & 6

Oct. 1 Rev. Chs. 5 & 6, Start Ch. 7, **TEST 1-6**
6 Rev. Ch. 7, Start Ch. 8
8 Rev. Ch. 8, **Chs. 7-8 Quiz**, Start Chs. 9 & 10

October 11-15  *Reading Week*

20 Rev. Chs. 9 & 10, Start Ch. 11
22 **Chs. 9-10 Quiz**, Rev. Ch. 11, Start Ch. 12
27 Rev. Ch. 12, Start Ch. 13, **TEST 1-12**
29 Rev. Ch. 13, Start Chs. 14 & 15

Nov. 3 Rev. Ch. 14 **Chs. 13-14 Quiz** (not ch. 15), Rev. Ch. 15, Start Ch. 16
5 Rev. Ch. 16, Start Ch. 17

November 8-12  *Reading Week*

16 **Chs. 15 & 16 Quiz**, Rev. Ch. 17, Start Ch. 18
18 Rev. Ch. 18, Start Ch. 19, **TEST 1-18**

November 24-26  *Thanksgiving Week*

Dec. 1 Rev. Ch. 19, Start Ch. 20
3 Rev. Ch. 20, Start Ch. 21

8 Rev. 21, **Chs. 19-21 Quiz**, Start Ch. 22
12 Rev. 22 and prepare for final exam

December 15-17  *Final Exam Week. Date of the course final exam TBA*