

Reading of Latin Texts (A002347)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Maes, Yanick	LW07	staff member
Formisano, Marco	LW07	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027 **crdts** **offering**

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Latin, textuality, composition, discourse analysis, textual structures.

Position of the course

This course introduces students to the analysis of textual composition when reading Latin texts. In addition it pays attention to the way texts function within specific social and cultural contexts. The course builds on the content of the courses Latin: Language Proficiency I; Latin: Language Proficiency II and Latin Tradition in Europe.

Contents

The primary aim of the course is to make students able to read Latin texts effectively. The attitude we aim to develop differs from punctual analysis. At the end of the course students should be able to approach Latin texts the same way as they would do with other foreign language texts. Reading, however, also is a complex cultural process. We also pay attention to these aspects.

The texts on offer are part of the Latin tradition from between the 11th and the 17th centuries. We use basic insights taken from cultural anthropology, literary theory and cultural sociology. In this way we come to understand how our own cultural tradition not only gives form to 'the other' but also creates our own 'I', and makes it inaccessible at the same time.

After an introductory lecture, the course is built around two modules. One centering on our relation to the other through biography, and one focussing on autobiography. The central themes of the course are explored through our reading of **stories** (a legend, and a philosophical fable), **autobiographical letters**, and **polemical meditations**.

The students are introduced to reading strategies with regard to Latin texts in terms of structure, and internal coherence. In class, we read and analyse texts in three different genres, each characterised by its own compositional and stylistic norms.

The students also independently read a modern literary essay, in which the central themes of the second module are explored. In a short, personal essay, written for a general audience, they explore some aspects of the ancient texts in dialogue with the contemporary one.

Initial competences

- To have followed the courses Latin: Language Proficiency I and Latin: Language Proficiency II or to have become acquainted with their content by other means.

- To have followed the course Latin Tradition in Europe or to have become acquainted with its content by other means.

Final competences

- 1 Being thoroughly acquainted with the life and works of the treated authors.
- 2 Being able to recognize and analyse the diverse aspects of three prose genres of the Latin tradition.
- 3 To be able to use basic knowledge of Latin discourse markers to analyse the information-structure of a Latin text.
- 4 Being able to recognize and explain the structural elements of a textual composition and to apply them in a literary analysis
- 5 Being able to perform comparative stylistic and rhetorical analyses
- 6 Being able to reflect on the difficulties involved in reading the other when encountering Latin texts
- 7 To be able to use insight in the socio-cultural situatedness of texts when reading and understanding Latin texts.
- 8 To be able to communicate a personal approach of a Latin text to a more general, contemporary audience.
- 9 To be able to write a short essay aimed at a broader audience.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lecture course on the life and works of the authors read, and the theory of textual composition; discourse-elements in a text; the properties of genre
- Seminar for the method of reading and analysis, consisting of supervised reading and training and intensively supervised independent study.
- Independent cursory reading and writing of an essay, comprising supervised self-teaching and self-activation.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Lecture-presentations
 Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
 Optional: no
 Language : Dutch
 Number of Slides : 360
 Available on Ufora : Yes
 Available in the Library : No
 Available through Student Association : No

Type: Reader

Name: Reader with primary and secondary literature
 Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
 Optional: no
 Language : Other
 Number of Pages : 250
 Available on Ufora : Yes
 Online Available : No
 Available in the Library : No
 Available through Student Association : No
 Additional information: All material is made available through Ufora.

References

Reading list, prescribed and possibly provided by the lecturer.

Course content-related study coaching

Reading in groups with intensive support and individual preparation. Portfolio and

essay with feedback and support.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

- Written exam with open questions. The exam is in line with the intended final competences.
- Permanent evaluation: Portfolio and essay.

Calculation of the examination mark

- Exam 50%

- Permanent evaluation 50% (30% personal essay + 20% portfolio)

Thorough knowledge of the Latin grammar and syntax as acquired in the Ba1 (Latin Language Proficiency I & II) is taken for granted. Failures can lead to a negative result for the examination as a whole.

If the student has less than 10/20 for one of the four assessment forms, he is not considered to pass the examination as a whole. If the endscore would be 10 or more/20, it will be reduced to the highest of the failing notes.

(If a student does not pass the non-periodical evaluation, a second chance is offered by means of a compensatory activity between the first and second exam period.)

Facilities for Working Students

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy

Feedback can be given during an appointment during office hours

Extra information: