

Latin Linguistics: History of the Language (A005720)

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

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Galdi, Giovanbattista

LW06

lecturer-in-charge

Wylin, Koen

LW06

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Swedish)	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin)	5	A

crdts

offering

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Latin, phonology, morphology, Indo-European, Italic languages, language change

Position of the course

This course gives an overview of the development from Proto-Indo-European over proto-Italic to pre-literary Latin. The phonology and morphology of classical Latin are situated within a historical background, stressing the evolution of sounds and forms. This theoretical background is essential for the study of Latin at the Gent University, where a diachronic overview is presented of the use of Latin from preclassical to medieval times.

Contents

The course consists of four main sections: (1) general introduction on Proto-Indo-European and the main linguistic families descending from it; (2) Proto-Italic; features of the Latino-Faliscan and the Sabellic group, showing a link with archaic Latin; (3) Characteristics of archaic Latin and discussion of selected epigraphic texts; discussion of the important Lex XII tabularum; some selected fragments from the comedies of Plautus; (4) exercises on classical Latin phonology, morphology and syntax.

Initial competences

Good command of classical Latin.

Final competences

- 1 To understand and apply phonological technical signs.
- 2 To understand the connections between Indo-European, Proto-Italic and Latin.
- 3 To explain what we mean by "Indo-European", "Proto-Italic" and "Italic".
- 4 To indicate and explain the main characteristics of the Sabellic languages, in

connection with Latin.

- 5 To indicate and explain the main characteristics of Faliscan, in connection with Latin.
- 6 To interpret and comment selected texts from Sabellic and Faliscan.
- 7 To describe and comment the main phonological features of archaic Latin as compared to classical Latin.
- 8 To read, translate and comment the earliest Latin texts.
- 9 To be able to convert archaic Latin texts and texts from the Oscan and Faliscan area into classical Latin.
- 10 To be able to apply the morphosyntactic rules of classical Latin.

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

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures (25 h): theoretical introduction into Proto-Indo-European and Proto-Italic; summary of phonological technical signs; phonological changes; characteristics of archaic Latin.

Seminar with guided exercises (12 h): to read, analyze and comment (epigraphical) texts from the Italic languages and archaic Latin. Exercises on the classical Latin grammar.

Independent work (8 h): to keep in a portfolio additional exercises.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Historische Laut- und Formenlehre der lateinischen Sprache

Indicative price: € 50

Optional: yes

Language : Other

Author : Meiser, Gerhard

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: Slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

References

Are provided on a weekly basis (within the ppt. files)

Course content-related study coaching

Weekly contact hours

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

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Periodical evaluation: written exam

Non-Periodical evaluation: to keep additional exercises (translations,...) in a portfolio.

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical: 85 % (of which 15 % on explicit knowledge of classical Latin)

Non-periodical: 15 % (Portfolio - paper on a linguistic issue - active participation in the lessons)

Participation in both sections is compulsory.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance (online lessons available).

2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same period of exams.

3. Alternative time for feedback is possible after making an appointment.

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