

Latin Linguistics: The language of Non-literary Sources (A006680)

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 1) English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Galdi, Giovanbattista	LW06	lecturer-in-charge
Van Acker, Marieke	LW06	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Linguistics and Literature)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Latin)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Scandinavian Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish)	5	A
Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Exchange Programme Classics	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Non-literary texts, Late and Early Medieval Latin, bith of the Romance languages

Position of the course

This course provides insights into the features of imperial, late and early medieval Latin based on non-literary texts

Contents

In this course, we will read, translate, and comment on non-literary Latin sources. The didactic material consists of different types of texts from the (late) imperial and early medieval period including, among other things, technical, administrative and juridical texts, functional christian texts. Each text type will be introduced and discussed. Special attention will be devoted to the "deviating" linguistic features that play an important role in the evolution towards the Romance languages.

Initial competences

Thorough knowledge of Classical Latin. A general insight into late and/or substandard Latin is recommended.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to read, translate and comment on (late) imperial and early-medieval non-literary Latin texts
- 2 To be able to discuss the specific linguistic features of inscriptions, curse tablets and papyri
- 3 To understand the main linguistic features of technical and functional texts (e.g.

- juridical texts and veterinary treatises)
- 4 To recognize certain Late Latin features that "deviate" from Classical Latin
 - 5 To recognize and discuss certain characteristic features of Christian Latin
 - 6 To assess the importance of non-literary texts for the history of Latin language
 - 7 To recognize early Romance features in Latin texts.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures with in-class translations, exercises, and discussion. This course assumes the responsible use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI). During the lessons, what this means will be explained
No lecture recordings are provided for this course (interactive teaching format).

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: An anthology of informal Latin 200 BC - AD 900.
Indicative price: € 38
Optional: yes
Language : English
Author : Adams, James N.
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: Slides
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Specific references on each topic to be found in the powerpoints and on Ufora.

Recommended literature:

- Adams, James N. 2016. An anthology of informal Latin 200 BC - AD 900. Fifty texts with translations and linguistic commentary. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Herman, József. 2000. Vulgar Latin. (Trans.) Roger Wright. Pennsylvania: Penn State University Press
- Väänänen, Veikko. 1963. Introduction au latin vulgaire. 3rd edn. Paris: Klincksieck. (Italian version: Väänänen, Veikko. 1985. Introduzione al latino volgare. (Trans.) Alberto Limentani. Bologna: Pàtron.

Course content-related study coaching

Weekly contact hours. Possibility to contact the instructors via Ufora and email.
Students can be assisted individually.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Periodic examination: Oral exam

Permanent evaluation: short essay, oral presentation, active participation in the lessons

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodic: 55 % (oral examination)

Permanent evaluation: 25 % (essay); 15 % (active participation in the lessons); 10% (oral presentation).

In order to succeed for this course, one must obtain a score of at least 10 out of 20 for both the period-based evaluation and the non-period-based evaluation. If one has less than 10 out of 20 for either of the two evaluation components, then one can no longer succeed for the entire course. If the final score would still be at least 10 out of 20, it will be reduced to the highest unsucceeded score (i.e. 9/20).

Transfer of succeeded partial scores from the first to the second examination period is possible

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.

2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year

3. Alternative time for feedback is possible

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