

## INTERCOLLEGIATE CENTER FOR CLASSICAL STUDIES

Catania, Sicily

Fall, 2009

### INTERMEDIATE LATIN – *FINIS REI PUBLICAE*

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#### COURSE SCHEDULE

Mon 1630-1750; Thur 0900-1020

Supplementary sight-reading session Tue 1200-1250

#### INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course seeks to inspire students with the excitement of reading primary sources in Latin, and with the satisfaction of translating the language confidently. Toward these ends, the course encompasses various goals. First, building upon the foundation laid in the basic language course, intermediate students will expand their understanding and use of Latin grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. Second, constant practice in reading intermediate-level prose will develop students' facility in translation from Latin to English and will prepare them in turn to address more challenging genres in succeeding semesters. The course will also examine carefully an historical period that is important to the Roman state in general, and of specific interest to Sicily. Finally, students will be challenged to interpret the perspectives of various ancient writers as applied to a single broad topic, the end of the Republic.

In this course, we will read the entire textbook *Finis Rei Publicae*. Essentially, *FRP* is a sourcebook, that is, a collection of primary resources that focuses on one or more specific topics. In *FRP*, selections from Caesar, Cicero and other authors deal with Roman history of the mid-first century BCE, when the republican government came to an end. The text also includes lessons of grammar and syntax, glosses for the readings, notes and footnotes about narrative history, biographical notes about prominent Romans, and cultural information such as explanations of the republican constitution and the Roman calendar.

#### REQUIRED TEXT:

Robert Knapp and Pamela Vaughn, *Finis Rei Publicae: Eyewitnesses to the End of the Roman Republic* (Focus Publishing, 2003. ISBN: 1-58510-079-X)

#### RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

A decent Latin-English/English-Latin dictionary.

A Latin grammar, such as:

J.H. Allen, J.B. Greenough, *et al.* (eds.), *Allen and Greenough's New Latin Grammar*. Dover, 2006. (ISBN-13: 9780486448060)

OR

Charles E. Bennett, *Latin Grammar*. Global Language Press, 2006. (ISBN-13: 9781897367032)

OR

James Morwood, *Latin Grammar*. Oxford Univ Press, 2000. (ISBN-13: 9780198602774)

#### NOTES ON THE REQUIRED TEXT AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS

The textbook (*FRP*) includes generous vocabulary help for the readings and a Latin-to-English glossary in the back, keyed to the readings. Nevertheless, these will likely not include all the words that a student will wish to look up during the semester. Also, there will be occasional written exercises in prose composition. Thus it is recommended that each student have a Latin-English/English-Latin dictionary.

In addition to readings, *FRP* includes grammar and syntax lessons on various subjects (e.g., gerundive and gerund, conditional sentences, uses of the subjunctive, etc.) These lessons are succinct. If you prefer more expanded discussions, then you may wish to bring a supplementary Latin grammar. The syntax lessons in *FRP* are keyed to corresponding lessons in the texts by Allen & Greenough and by CE Green. If you have already used a grammar/syntax different from the ones listed – such as Wheelock – and are comfortable with it, then bring that one. If you feel that your primary foundation in Latin is thorough and comprehensive, you may do very well in the course without an additional grammar text. The grammar is not a required text; whether or not you bring one is up to you.

If you do not already have your books, all those mentioned above, the textbook and the others, are easily and quickly available online through Barnes & Noble ([barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com)). Try to bring paperback editions, to save cost and weight.

#### COURSE EXPECTATIONS and FORMAT

The class emphasizes translations of the assigned Latin passages along with discussion. Discussion derives from direct engagement with the text (whether in Latin or English) as well as articles assigned during the course of the semester. Since the class is predicated on your preparation and participation, attendance is mandatory.

#### EVALUATION

There will be frequent, quick, 5-point quizzes at the beginning of class. These will relate to material covered previously, such as grammar/syntax, content of the reading, or points of class discussion. There will also be a mid-term and a final exam. The midterm and the final will show the same 3-part structure. The first part will be translation of a Latin passage seen before in class. The second part will consist of questions about grammar/syntax, and/or about content of discussions. The third part will be a glossed sight passage to translate. Note that the final exam is scheduled for Monday, 14 December, and cannot be changed. The scale of evaluation is as follows:

Participation	30%
Quizzes	30%
Midterm	30%
Final	10%

#### COURSE POLICIES

Do your own work. The goal is to learn Latin and develop confidence in translating it; if you rely on others regularly for help, your own skill will not develop as well as it can. You will also likely struggle more in class and on sight translation passages. Having someone else work for you is also cheating. If your home institution has a statement or policy on academic honesty, refer to it, and assume that it is in force at ICCS. If you had to sign an academic integrity contract of some sort upon entering university or college, please remember that moment. And, if you need further information about this topic, please ask me.

During class, neither the use of laptop computers (nor any other type of electronic data device) nor the consumption of food is permitted. Beverages are allowed.

Emergencies do arise in the course of a semester. Should one occur, whether medical or family related, please consult with me as quickly as possible, so that we can make arrangements. Please be prepared to provide documentation about what sort of emergency has occurred.

A detailed day-by-day syllabus for the course will be provided when classes begin.