

British Library Course

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The logo for the British Library, consisting of the words "BRITISH LIBRARY" in white, uppercase letters, stacked vertically on a red rectangular background.

Introduction to Latin

Dates	Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 April 2023
Times	10.30–17.00
Location	Harry M Weinrebe Learning Centre
Level	Beginners
Class size	Maximum 16 participants

Course description

This two day course at the Library will offer an introduction to the Classical Latin language. We will explore the cultural context of Latin alongside practical language learning, and by the end of the weekend you will be translating Latin texts into English.

By exploring the Latin alphabet, the principles of sentence construction alongside vocabulary and grammar and syntax, you will develop an understanding of Latin that will also deepen your understanding of the English language. Through close reading, transliteration and translation, and group work, you will gain a foundational understanding of this ancient language.

Please email adultlearning@bl.uk to discuss your access requirements as soon as you have booked your ticket.

Pre-course task

Introductory reading: Participants are invited to familiarise themselves with the Latin alphabet, and rules of pronunciation, punctuation, and transliteration. Handouts that will help with the participants' preparation will also be circulated.

Module text: A. Keller & S. Russell, *Learn to Read Latin*, second edition, Yale UP 2015

Programme

Saturday

We will begin our weekend by looking at the Latin alphabet and rules of pronunciation, accentuation and transliteration, and discuss verb forms, nouns and adjectives. We will also discuss the present tense and some rules of syntax, and later in the day we will move on to imperfect and future tense. We will read, analyse and translate sentences in Latin followed by exercises on grammar and syntax.

Sunday

On day two we will first focus on verb forms, the complementary infinitive and syntax. In the afternoon, we will explore the uses of cases, the first and second declension of adjectives and the noun-adjective agreement. In the last session, we will be discussing vocabulary and passages.

Tutor

This course is led by **Dr Antony Makrinos** who has been a Visiting Lecturer in the School of English and Drama at Queen Mary College and a Research and Teaching Fellow at KCL and UCL. He is currently an Associate Professor in Classics at UCL and a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. His research interests include Greek epic (esp. Homer), scholarship in Byzantium, Greek education and Reception studies. He works on an edition of Eustathius' *Commentary on Homer's Odyssey* (book 1). He has published articles and chapters on Homer and Eustathius and contributed to many undergraduate and graduate courses in Classics. He is also the Director of the Summer School in Homer at UCL.

Previous knowledge or experience

None required. A willingness to participate in group discussion, and to undertake the required reading for each session will help you get the most from this course.

Facilities and Refreshments

On Saturday, please gather outside the Harry M Weinrebe Learning Centre, located on the lower ground floor of the Library, from 10.15. The course will begin promptly at 10.30.

On Sunday participants should **gather at Gate 5 on Midland Road from 10.15**. You will be escorted into the building by a staff member at 10.25. Further instructions will be emailed to you ahead of the course.

Tea and coffee will be provided in the morning on both days. Participants should make their own arrangements for lunch.

Accessibility

Please email adultlearning@bl.uk to discuss your access requirements.
