

***Student Comments from the Erasmus Academy
Latin Course Online of Summer 2018
Taught by Dr. Ben DeSmidt***

The Latin course provides a strong introduction to the language and the material is presented in a straightforward way.

I prefer this online course in real time to regular online courses because you can ask questions of the instructor and clear up confusion. Additionally, having other students in the class opens up other perspectives on the material that one may miss in a course with no direct interaction.

I feel that I have developed a baseline understanding of Latin. This has helped me better understand the Romance languages, and English as well. In addition, it has helped me grow more interested in the lives, activities, and writings of people who have come before us.

I would tell others that it is a great option but that they have to be prepared to put a lot of time into it. Dr. DeSmidt was very friendly and was willing to spend a lot of time going over homework. Also, I felt he presented the class material in a great, accessible way. I don't really see any way he could improve, I felt that he taught all of the classes very well.

The uploaded lectures on Dropbox were extremely helpful; they were one of the best parts of the course. It allowed me to review what was gone over in classes and also, allowed me to keep up if I missed a class. Additionally, I found the chapters in the textbook very helpful as well. I did not consult the appendix of the textbook as often though. I felt that the Latin dictionary mentioned in the first class was a better source for looking words up.

While the class is about as good as possible for an online class, it lacks the benefit of conversation about the material with your peers that a classroom setting has.

Chris M.

July 18, 2018

This course covers the material thoroughly. The instructor gives time for questions and the homework feedback is helpful. This is the best online course I have ever taken. I felt more of a connection to the course materials.

I went into this course with almost no knowledge of Latin but had three years of Ancient Greek. I learned more of the connection between the two languages...This course will be helpful if you have no or limited knowledge of Latin.

I always prefer the one on one time with Teaching Assistants to go over homework and textbook questions but this is the best course I've taken that comes close to replicating this environment.

Tarryn A.

July 22, 2018

The course had a perfect pace and intensity, very interesting contents. Professor DeSmidt always keeps a nice pace of the course. It is intensive, especially for me who works during daytime, but the class is very interesting and valuable, which makes me happily having spent five hours every worknight and most of the weekends studying, working on the homework and extended reading, and reviewing what's been taught the last week. During the Q & A at the beginning of each class, I get to interact with Prof. DeSmidt for a lot of questions and review the key points.

In this real-time course I can ask questions anytime during the class, which won't impede the speed or progress of studying. It's very helpful when there's more than one round of asking and answering. The questions from other classmates, which I am able to see because of the "real time", supplement my knowledge as well.

In this course I read several pieces of great poems. I learned how to analyze a complete new sentence, how to translate from, or to Latin. Prof. DeSmidt made many comments on etymology, stories of the poet, etc., which is very intriguing. I didn't know Latin at all before the class. Now, with the help of a dictionary, I can translate a Catullus' poem with some accuracy and laugh about it.

Prof. DeSmidt's way of teaching is very interesting and inspiring. A very knowledgeable and passionate professor. As I mentioned above, the students can learn a lot from him, not only grammars, words, study methods, but also history, stories, nicely selected reading materials, etc. Prof. DeSmidt answers every

question with details and good examples, and he gives very valuable advice on future Latin studying.

Maoting G.

July 23, 2018

The scheduling (summer course, intensive) was helpful for a full-time PhD student such as myself. I also thought the professor was extremely accessible due to the less work load on him during the summer. He was helpful and flexible. Above all, the professor made this course great (although difficult).

I enjoyed the interaction of the class online in real time, although I have never taken a course without this sort of interaction as a base of reference. I benefited from pre-reading for the course and would have been behind had I not done so. Warning the students to read the chapter in advance would be helpful. This course has made Latin more accessible to me. I have learned what is possible to accomplish much in 8 weeks!

For this course I would recommend to study hard; study early; don't give up when it gets hard.

The instructor is intelligent, friendly, and accessible. The course materials were helpful. The textbook was really good, and the professor probably knows its weaknesses better than me.

Stephen R.

July 18, 2018