



Latin as a New Minor Subject

Details for Academic Year 25/26

Why take this New Minor Subject?

You will take Latin as New Minor Subject if you are interested in learning one of the most influential languages in European history, and in exploring the thought and culture of one of the civilisations that shaped the Western world. To study Roman culture is to study an important aspect of the origins of our political and cultural institutions, to understand how the classical past has profoundly affected contemporary ideas and values, and to appreciate that Latin was not only a language of imperialism and colonisation, but the language spoken by a multitude of people of diverse geographical and social background across a millennium. You will enjoy this subject if you are passionate about the language, the poetic imagination, the depth and diversity of thought of the ancient Roman world. Whether you are continuing your language studies or taking Latin as a beginner, you will engage with ancient texts both as literature and as a gateway into the culture and thought of ancient Rome, and into its lasting influence across space and time.

What will I learn?

On this pathway, you will take 60 ECTS in Latin across Years 2 to 4. Students lay firm foundations in Year 2 when they first join Latin as a Minor pathway. You are introduced to the subject with two 10 ECTS modules that either introduce you to, or consolidate your knowledge of, Latin language and literature. If you are a beginner, you will acquire the skills need to read Latin texts with confidence within the first year of your studies; if you have studied Latin before, you will expand your vocabulary, gain a deeper understanding of grammar and style, and refine your translation skills as well as your ability to write about ancient literature. In each of the Sophister years you will take two 10-ECTS thematic modules, learn how to read Latin texts critically through a close examination and contextualisation of poetry and prose works representative of key aspects of the history of Latin language and literature.

What will I do?

After a solid introduction to Latin language and literature, you will have an opportunity to focus on specific themes and genres of Latin textual culture. Text-based modules will focus on authors (e.g. Catullus, Cicero, Seneca), genres (e.g. epic, comedy, satire) or themes (e.g. myth and genre, informal Latin). For all your language-based courses the groups will be small, stimulating lively discussion, analytic skills, and the development of independent thinking. All modules are 10-ECTS.

Senior Fresh

Beginners:

CLU11413 Elementary Latin I (10 ECTS) (Semester 1)

CLU11414 Elementary Latin II (10 ECTS) (Semester 2)

Intermediate (Leaving Cert Latin or equivalent):

CLU11411 Latin in Context I (10 ECTS) (Semester 1)

CLU11412 Latin in Context II (10 ECTS) (Semester 2)

Further NMS JS and SS 10 ECTS module options to be confirmed but indicative content can be found in the SF (=NMS JS) and JS (=NMS SS) year content displayed here: <https://www.tcd.ie/classics/undergraduate/tsm/latin.php>

How will this be assessed?

A combination of end-of-semester examination and continuous assessment, e.g. essays, unseen translations and other language tests, textual commentaries, seminar presentations, team and individual projects.

Contact Hours and Indicative Workload

Senior Fresh

Beginners:

CLU11413 Elementary Latin I (10 ECTS) (Semester 1): 3 hrs language classes pw

CLU11414 Elementary Latin II (10 ECTS) (Semester 2): 3 hrs language classes pw

Intermediate (Leaving Cert Latin or equivalent):

CLU11411 Latin in Context I (10 ECTS) (Semester 1): 3 hrs language classes pw

CLU11412 Latin in Context II (10 ECTS) (Semester 2): 3 hrs language classes pw

Thereafter, contact hours will vary depending upon which module combinations students elect to take.

Contacts

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