

Reformed Theological Seminary

Latin III

HT6103-O1 - Remote Live

ST7013-O1 - Remote Live

Syllabus

Semester:	Summer 2026
Credit hours:	2.0/3.0
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Course Description

This course is continued reading in the Latin language. Students will concentrate on expanding vocabulary and analysis of grammar, as well as continue reading Christian texts from the early Church and Reformation.

As an intermediary Latin language course designed to prepare students for further studies in Latin, this course will teach the following. First, the goal is mastery and not limping along with a dictionary. This is not attainable in two semesters or even two years. But if, Deo gratias, I can put you all on a very sound footing, you will be prepared to go much further in your independent learning. Second, I strongly believe in the use of active vocabulary and direct interaction in the language. For this reason I speak a lot of Latin in the classroom and require the students to do the same. By active vocabulary I mean that one moves from the native language, in this case English or some other language, into the target language (Latin) the majority of the time rather than the other way around. Third, I believe there is no substitute for interaction with actual Latin rather than lots of doctored texts. So we will start right out with bits of Cicero, Catullus, Calvin, Beza, etc. Fourth, I place a strong emphasis on memorization. In my experience few students are aware of how much they are capable of committing to long-term memory. I think this is mostly because they have seldom been asked to memorize. Therefore, all students will memorize the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, and the 23rd Psalm in Latin, inter alios. Fifth, students need to take copious notes and share their notes with one another, and ask questions to make sure their note taking is accurate.

This course will be especially helpful to students interested in reading historical theology from the 4th to 17th centuries.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

– The student will refine their pronunciation of Latin, focusing on accuracy and rapidity

- The student will make significant progress in understanding all of the grammatical, lexical, syntactic, and semantic aspects of the Latin language.
- The student will expand their rudimentary reading knowledge of the Latin language.
- The student will be able to compose both orally and in writing simple, compound, and complex Latin sentences.
- The student will gain some appreciation for the beauty and usefulness of the Latin language in the history of Christian theology and philosophical discussion, specifically as it pertains to the Reformation and Reformed Scholasticism (approximately 1517-1683).

Course Requirements

Course grading scale per RTS catalog (page 51).

- LPD Google quizzes: 50% (100 at .5% each)
- Midterm Examination: 25%
- Final Examination: 25%

Required Reading

- Gildersleeve’s Latin Grammar, 17th Edition; ISBN-13: 978-0865163539
- The Bantam New College Latin & English Dictionary by John Traupman (Editor); ISBN-13: 978-0553590128
- Multiple resources that will be shared in class.

Course Schedule and Assignments

Date	Topic
June 2	Review and reading
June 9	Subjunctives, special clauses, reading
June 16	Reading: Augustine
June 23	Reading: Augustine
June 30	Reading: Bernard of Clairvaux
July 7	Reading: Bernard of Clairvaux; midterm exam
July 14	Reading: Peter Martyr Vermigli

<i>course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		➤ None	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Minimal	Some articulation in recitation
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Minimal	Study of Latin grammar grammar basic and advanced, with goal of laying foundation for later mastery
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	Not likely to be a major issue in Latin
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	None	Not applicable in this beginning language class.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Minimal	Knowledge of Latin allows one the opportunity to read older Christian works written in Latin
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Minimal	Not likely to be a major issue in Latin.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	None	Focus on learning grammar and vocabulary as an aid to exposition of various texts.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	None	Not applicable in this beginning language class.
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	None	Not applicable in this beginning language class.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	None	Not applicable in this beginning language class.