

Medieval Latin for beginners

Start date 16 September 2016 **End date** 18 September 2016

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Dr Debby Banham **Course code** 1617NRX012

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact Public Programme Co-ordinator, Clare Kerr
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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Debby Banham is a medieval historian based in Cambridge, where she is attached to Newnham College, and teaches Anglo-Saxon history, Latin and palaeography for the Departments of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic and History and Philosophy of Science, as well as the Institute. She also teaches for the Institute of Historical Research in London. Her publications include *Monasteriales indicia: the Old English monastic sign language* (Anglo-Saxon Books, 1990), *Food and Drink in Anglo-Saxon England* (Tempus, 2004) and, with Rosamond Faith, *Anglo-Saxon Farms and Farming* (OUP, 2014). Her current research projects are on bread and its meanings in Anglo-Saxon England and an edition of a tenth-century medical text, *Bald's Leechbook*.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Introduction to medieval Latin: the one-word sentence; some nouns (first declension) and adjectives, and the verb to be
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	More verbs (first conjugation) and how the case system works
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	More nouns (second and third declensions); prepositions
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	More verbs (second to fourth conjugations)
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Adjectives and adverbs
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Verbs again; future and imperfect tenses
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Real medieval texts: sign language, recipes
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

The aim of the course is to provide an introduction to Medieval Latin from scratch for students with no previous experience of Latin, to explain the basics of Latin grammar, and to indicate the main ways the language developed from classical times to the middle ages.

Content:

The course will be quite intensive, covering the three main declensions of nouns and adjectives, and all four conjugations of verbs in the present, future and imperfect tenses. The basic structural principles of the language will be explored, so that students will be able to identify parts of speech, cases and numbers of nouns and adjectives, and persons, numbers and tenses of verbs in their own reading, and understand how these form the meaning of sentences. We will get lots of practice in reading and translation, and all examples will be taken from real medieval texts where possible (or made up to resemble them if not). Differences and developments between classical and medieval Latin will be pointed out as we go along. We will finish by reading some more extended texts.

Presentation of the course:

Each session will begin with an explanation from the tutor, setting out the material to be studied. Class exercises will form the core of learning, putting into practice the principles and rules explained by the tutor. The style will be collaborative: each participant will need to answer questions and translate sentences, and identify cases and tenses, but they can always 'ask the audience' (and the tutor) for help. By working together we can learn far more than we could individually.

Outcomes:

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

1. use the inflections of both nouns and verbs (as listed above) in Latin;
2. deploy a range of medieval Latin vocabulary;
3. read, understand and translate simple sentences in medieval Latin.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

G. D. A. Sharpley	<i>Get Started in Latin (formerly <i>Beginner's Latin: An Easy Introduction</i>)</i>	Teach Yourself Books, 1997 etc.
Goldman and Szymanski	<i>English Grammar for Students of Latin</i>	Olivia and Hill Press, 1993
Eileen Gooder	<i>Latin for Local History</i>	Longman, 2 ed. 1978
C. Trice Martin	<i>The Record Interpreter</i>	reprint Phillimore 1982
R. E. Latham	<i>Revised Medieval Latin Word List</i>	Oxford, 1965, 1980
Denis Stuart	<i>Manorial Records</i>	Phillimore, 1992
<i>idem</i>	<i>Latin for Local & Family Historians</i>	Phillimore, 1995, etc.
John Thorley	<i>Documents in Medieval Latin</i>	Duckworth, 1998
Keith Sidwell	<i>Reading Medieval Latin</i>	Cambridge, 1995
Prior and Wohlberg	<i>501 Latin Verbs</i>	Barrons, 1995
J. Mountford	<i>Revised Latin Primer (Kennedy)</i>	Longman 1962
J. Morris	<i>Latin Glossary for Family and Local Historians</i>	Federation of Family History Societies, 1998 etc.
Lewis and Short	<i>Latin Dictionary</i>	Oxford 1880, etc

Website addresses

Perseus is the go-to portal for all things classical, and many medieval too:

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/>

TNA Latin tutorial: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/beginners/

Logeion has online versions of several Latin dictionaries: <http://logeion.uchicago.edu/>

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 22 July 2016