

## Reading Classical Latin: the natural world through Roman eyes

**Start date** 21 April 2023 **End date** 23 April 2023

**Venue** Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge  
CB23 8AQ

**Tutor** Dr Christine Spillane **Course code** 2223NRX030

**For further information contact** [inteng@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:inteng@ice.cam.ac.uk)

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### Tutor biography

Christine graduated from the University of Reading where she undertook research into imagery in Virgil's *Aeneid*. Her doctoral thesis with the Open University examined Late Antique and Mediaeval illuminated manuscripts of the *Aeneid*. She is an experienced teacher of both secondary school students and adults.

Christine seeks to inspire her students with a similar enthusiasm for the Classical world as she holds herself, not least by encouraging her students to look at artefacts in museums and by organising visits to the Classical world. When reading texts, she encourages a co-operative spirit in her students to investigate style and sound, in addition to moulding a good translation.

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## Course programme

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### Friday

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

19:00                      Dinner

**20:30 – 22:00            Above and below**

22:00                      Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

### Saturday

07:30                      Breakfast (for residents only)

**09:00 – 10:30            Reality and Idealism**

10:30                      Coffee

**11:00 – 12:30            Wet, wet, wet**

13:00                      Lunch

14:00 – 16:00            Free time

16:00                      Tea

**16:30 – 18:00            Hard, high and dry**

18:00 – 18:30            Free time

18:30                      Dinner

**20:00 – 21:30            Flora and Fauna**

21:30                      Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

### Sunday

07:30                      Breakfast (for residents only)

**09:00 – 10:30            Flora and Fauna continued**

10:30                      Coffee

**11:00 – 12:30            All creatures great and small**

12:45                      Lunch

**The course will disperse after lunch**

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## Course syllabus

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### Aims:

The course will allow you to:

1. Appreciate and enjoy the reading of texts in Latin.
2. Extend knowledge of Latin grammar, syntax and vocabulary.
3. Develop the ability to translate orally from Latin into English.
4. Develop an appreciation of literary style.

### Content:

We will range across a variety of Roman authors to build a picture of how the Romans viewed the world around them.

### Presentation of the course:

Students will require a good command of Latin (O level /GCSE level).

The class will read extracts of prose and verse of varying lengths and create an agreed translation through contributions from students. There will be discussion of style in addition to content. Where appropriate, we shall analyse the language used.

The extracts will be from:

Prose: Cicero, Columella, Livy, Pliny the Elder, Pliny the Younger, Tacitus, Varro

Verse: Ausonius, Catullus, Horace, Juvenal, Lucan, Lucretius, Martial, Ovid, Statius, Virgil

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

1. Demonstrate an increased appreciation and enjoyment of the reading of texts in Latin.
2. Show an improved knowledge of Latin grammar, syntax and vocabulary.
3. Translate orally from Latin into English more effectively.
4. Demonstrate an enhanced appreciation of literary style.

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## Reading and resources list

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All the extracts to be read over the weekend will be emailed in advance.  
Please download these or bring a hard copy to class.

### Online resources:

Most full texts and translations (usually old) are free to download from:

[www.thelatinlibrary.com](http://www.thelatinlibrary.com)

Pliny the Elder *Natural History* is available at:

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

Translations of verse texts are available at:

<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/>