



Weekend Courses 2023-24

Love and war: readings from Rome in the 50s BC

Start date: 12 July 2024 **End date:** 14 July 2024

Venue: Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ

Tutor: Dr Charles Weiss **Course Code:** 2324NRX045

Tutor biography

Dr Weiss came from Atlanta, Georgia to study Classics at Columbia University (BA and MA) and Yale University (PhD), focusing on the languages and literatures of both Ancient Greek and Latin. He then went to Oxford to teach the subject for five years before becoming (in 2003) a Language Teaching Officer for the Faculty of Classics at Cambridge and Fellow and Director of Studies in Classics for Clare College, Cambridge. Dr Weiss specialises in language pedagogy in both languages and teaches Classical languages and literature for Clare College. In 2012 he published a popular student's introduction to Homer's *Odyssey* for Cambridge University Press and has recently undertaken a series of Greek and Latin vocabulary textbooks in English and (as co-author) Chinese.

Course programme

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	Caesar's <i>Bellum Gallicum</i>
22:00	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	Catullus and politics
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Catullus and Lesbia
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free time
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Cicero's <i>Pro Caelio</i>
18:00 – 18:30	Free time
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Cicero's <i>In Pisonem</i>
21:30	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	Lucretius 1
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Lucretius 2
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

The course will allow you to:

- engage directly with Latin texts (and their antecedents)
- learn more about Latin meter and rhetoric
- learn more about the 50s BC

Summary of content:

The course seeks to touch on some of the most significant political and cultural phenomena of the 50s BC in Rome by looking closely at passages from Caesar, Catullus, Cicero and Lucretius.

Presentation of the course:

Some knowledge of Latin is required. We will seek to translate passages accurately and to discuss the issues they raise. All texts will be distributed physically and be available digitally. All texts will be projected to facilitate our study.

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

- have a better understanding of Latin grammar and vocabulary
- have a better understanding of Latin meter and rhetoric
- have a better understanding of important documents from the 50s BC
- have a better understanding of the Greek antecedent for these documents

Reading and resources list

There are no compulsory readings for this course. However, you may find the below recommended reading list of interest to supplement your course.

There is no required reading for this course, but participants are encouraged to own a copy of Kennedy's *Latin primer*, Lewis' *Elementary Latin dictionary* and Lemprière's *Classical dictionary*.

Kennedy, B. H. *The revised Latin primer*. Currently reprinted in the "Cambridge Library Collection" of classic reprints (ISBN 9781108012362).

Alternatively look for the out-of-print Longman edition (*Kennedy's revised Latin primer*) and beware "new" softbacks that are just photocopied pdfs. You can find the Longman edition second-hand with sewn covers for as little as £5 and you can even find handsome hardcover editions of the original from the 19th or early 20th century. Digital edition at www.charlieslanguagepage.com.

Lewis, C, T, *Elementary Latin dictionary*. Currently out of print

Originally published by Oxford University Press for decades: beware "new" softbacks that are just photocopied pdfs. You can find this second-hand in hardback for about £20. Digital edition at www.charlieslanguagepage.com

Lemprière, J, *Lemprière's Classical dictionary*. Currently out of print

Published under a bewildering range of auspices for decades: beware "new" softbacks that are just photocopied pdfs. You can find this second-hand in hardback or good quality paperback for as little as £1. Some abridged versions are available online, but the unabridged version is apparently only available in physical form; avoid the Routledge abridgement published in the early 20th century.

Note: Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) students 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 ICE course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

(Information correct as of 15 May 2023)