Welcome to the Latin course at PSU. In the following weeks you will learn an important language for your vocabulary, writing skills, your appreciation for Western history, and other benefits which will become apparent as we go along. It is a language which was known by nearly every important person in Western history for the last two thousand years. It has influenced all modern literature in any European language and has left an indelible mark on the development of Western political ideas. Without it, a page of modern English would be unintelligible, since most English words are derived from Latin. You have chosen wisely to learn Latin and the rewards will be satisfying.

The cornerstone of a Latin course is a good textbook. We will use *Wheelock’s Latin*, which has helped millions of students for the past fifty years to learn Latin. It has forty chapters, of which we will cover thirty-two in the first year. In the second year, we will finish Wheelock and proceed to real Latin literature (Caesar, Ovid, Cicero, Virgil, etc.). There are also two short books of stories we will use, entitled *Auricula Meretricula* and *Short Latin Stories*. All three books are available in the PSU bookstore.

We will proceed at the pace of about one chapter per week, having quizzes after every two chapters and exams (opportunities) every three chapters. After chapter 2, there will be a quiz, and after chapter 3 an exam; after chapter 5 another quiz and after chapter 6 another exam, and so forth. At the end of the term there will have been four quizzes and four exams. The average score from all of these will be the basis of the final grade.

[This syllabus is representative of the course content and is subject to change.]
In addition to written work, class attendance and participation will also constitute part of the grade. It is strongly recommended that good attendance is maintained, since days missed make it more difficult to “catch up” in the following session. Nevertheless, absences for good reason will be allowed. In general, more than three unexplained absences will begin to affect the final grade. All quizzes and exams must be taken to get a passing grade.

There is a Latin club of sorts – actually a club for students of all ancient languages – called the Order of the Dead Tongues. It plans events, such as attending lectures, plays, movies, church services in Latin and Greek, colloquia and other items of interest to students of Latin. It also occasionally hosts get-togethers and offers some tutorial help for Latin students who need it. Early in the term, Cassie Miura, the club’s president and Grand Imperial Empress, will collect contact information for any Latin students who wish to join. The group provides encouragement and support for students with an interest in ancient languages, history and archaeology.

There is also a minor in Classical Studies available in the department of Foreign Languages. I will hand out literature outlining the requirements for the minor and will be glad to give information to anyone interested in it. There are currently about ten students in the program.

I will keep office hours Monday through Thursday, 10:15-11:00 am and I will be glad to make appointments for other times, if necessary. I can be reached at 503-725-9776, or at det@pdx.edu. My office is in NH M227C. The office is on a small mezzanine on the Broadway side of the second floor of Neuberger Hall. Please come by

[This syllabus is representative of the course content and is subject to change.]
if you feel the need for help at any time, or if you wish to discuss anything related to your studies.

In the past, many students who began this course with reservations, have found it to be their most enjoyable class, whether their majors were in the arts, sciences, social sciences, business or were pre-professional. Latin has a way of charming people and providing them with many benefits they did not expect. It even helps them sometimes to get a job. If you say that you have taken Latin, in a conversation or on an application form, it is surprising how many other people either have taken it, or want to take it. You can find Latin chat rooms on the internet, where Latin serves the purpose it once had, binding together people from many nations in one common language. You can even find Elvis songs in Latin and we will sing some of them, in addition to some Christmas songs in December. With a little patience and persistence, anyone can learn Latin. My goal is to help you do that and to make it a pleasant experience. There is certainly some work involved, but it can be fun. In the meantime, I include an excerpt from a book in which a father advises his son to take Latin. Ualete et fortuna bona sit uobis!

EXCERPTUM

[This syllabus is representative of the course content and is subject to change.]