

Erskine Theological Seminary

LT 201: ECCLESIASTICAL LATIN III

Fall 2006

Required for M.A.T.S. Church History Students: 3 Hours

Due West: Thursdays, 1:00-4:00 pm

Professor: Don Fairbairn

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Office Hours for Fall 2006: Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00 am, 3:00 – 5:00 pm
Thursdays, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

I will make every reasonable effort to be in my office during these hours. However, due to meetings and unforeseen circumstances that may arise, my schedule may change. If you need to see me, I recommend that you call or email me to schedule an appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course gives students experience in the reading and interpretation of the Latin Vulgate and of selected Latin theological and historical texts from various periods in Christian history. *Prerequisites: LT 101, 102 (Ecclesiastical Latin I and II) or equivalent.*

COURSE PURPOSE:

Since so many of the documents of the Western Church were written in Latin, the study of ecclesiastical Latin gives students greater ability to understand and appropriate the Western Church's heritage. This course seeks to enable students to make the transition from studying the mechanics of the Latin language to studying important texts written in Latin.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. As a part of that mission, one goal is that graduates be prepared to **utilize the Church's historical and theological heritage as an important resource** in their personal spiritual development and ministry. This course helps meet that goal by sharpening the students' ability to read and interpret important Church documents written in Latin.

It is the teacher's intention that by the end of the term, students will:

1. Solidify their ability to recognize Latin forms and vocabulary learned in the previous two courses.

2. Increase their grasp of Latin syntax and their comfort in working with a highly inflected language.
3. Gain experience in reading connected Latin prose.
4. Begin honing their ability to recognize Latin words and constructions that are important for the interpretation of texts.

COURSE METHOD:

The purpose and objectives of this course will be achieved through three learning components. The first is the **content component**, the student's own mastery of the vocabulary and forms necessary to recognize Latin words and their uses in their syntactical contexts. Throughout the semester, the student will need to learn and review forms, vocabulary, and syntax. This component addresses objectives 1 and 2 above.

The second component is **classroom participation**. Much time in class will be spent on reading Latin sentences and paragraphs. All students will be expected to have prepared their translation assignments ahead of time and will be required in class to translate aloud from the Latin texts, NOT simply to read their English translations prepared previously. This component addresses objective 3 above.

The third is the **interpretive component**. As the course proceeds, discussion will focus more and more on the meaning and significance of the texts, rather than simply on what the texts say. Students will work together to build skills in interpreting and recognizing the significance of the selected texts. This component addresses objective 4 above.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Collins, John F. *A Primer of Ecclesiastical Latin*. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1991. (ISBN: 0813206677)

(The course will also involve reading of photocopied selections from Latin texts not found in Collins.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Requirement One: Each student will complete all assignments given by the professor. The assignment schedule below gives a rough outline of the texts to be prepared, but changes will likely be made based on the interests and ability level of the students. No grade will be assigned for this work, but the professor may raise or lower the student's final grade based on his/her performance in class.

Requirement Two (60 points): Each student will take three non-cumulative examinations covering forms, syntax, and translation of texts prepared for class.

Requirement Three (40 points): Each student will take a final, comprehensive examination covering material from the entire semester.

OVERALL GRADING SCALE:

100-95	A	85-84	C+	71-70	D-
94-93	A-	83-80	C		
92-91	B+	79-78	C-	69-0	F
90-88	B	77-76	D+		
87-86	B-	75-72	D		

COURSE EXPECTATIONS and SEMINARY POLICIES:

Registration: Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract, and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, a “drop/add” form must be completed and the appropriate signatures must be secured. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student’s receiving a grade of “F” for the course, and full tuition charges will apply. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

Attendance: There is no direct penalty for missing class in this course. However, students are responsible for ALL material covered, and they should recognize that class attendance is very important for their success in learning Latin and passing the examinations. If a student does have to miss a class, he/she should learn the material missed with the help of other students and/or the professor.

Inclusive Language: The Seminary encourages all students to make use of language, in reference to human beings, that is inclusive rather than needlessly exclusive. It is a mark of a good communicator to build bridges rather than barriers; therefore, such language should be used in all written work and oral presentations. The Seminary Catalog stands as an example of recommended usage.

Return of Written Work: Federal privacy guidelines do not allow the return of student documents to an unsecured mail box *unless* the student grants permission in writing. Students who wish to have their work returned as early as possible to their student mail boxes will place their student box number on the front page of their work. This will be viewed as written permission to return documents in this manner. Students who decline to give such permission (that is, students who do not write their box numbers on their work) will get their work back in person at a later time.

Late or Incomplete Work: Any exam not taken with the class should be made up as soon as possible. The final deadline for completing all exams is noon on Monday, Dec. 18. Any exam not completed by this deadline will be given a grade of “0,” unless the student has made **prior** arrangements to take an incomplete for the course. Incomplete (I) marks will be handled in accordance with policy statements in the Catalog. In particular, one should note that the student does not automatically have the privilege of taking an incomplete. Rather, it is the professor’s prerogative to give an incomplete, and only when the student has completed most of the work for the course and has been providentially hindered from completing the remainder. Note that there is a processing fee associated with incompletes, and that incompletes must be completed by the stated deadline or they automatically become an “F.” Only the Dean may approve extensions of deadlines for incompletes.

Chapel Attendance Policy: All morning and afternoon on-campus classes (except for Friday and Saturday courses) carry a chapel attendance requirement. Consult the Catalog or registration booklet for the specifics of the chapel attendance policy. There is a per chapel fee if one attends fewer chapels than required.

COURSE OUTLINE—SCHEDULE of READINGS and EXAMINATIONS:

Students should prepare the readings prior to the date they are to be discussed in class. The professor reserves the right to make changes in the reading schedule in response to student interest and ability, but it is probably safe to say that any changes will consist of dropping certain readings or replacing certain readings with others, not adding more readings than those listed here.

- Sep. 7 Test on material from Collins, units 1-35 (non-graded, working as a group)
- Sep. 14 Luke 1 (Collins, 336-40)
- Sep. 21 Luke 2 (Collins, 340-3) (Class begins at 2:00, after Erskine Lecture Series.)
- Sep. 28 Mark 14:26-15:47 (Collins, 343-9)
- Oct. 5 **Examination 1** (Class begins at 2:00, after Erskine Lecture Series.)
- Oct. 12 Genesis 3 (photocopied)
- Oct. 19 *Te Deum, Veni Carthaginem*, Eucharistic Prayer of Hippolytus
(Collins, 352-3, 366-8)
- Oct. 26 The Roman Catholic Mass (Collins, 328-43)
- Nov. 2 **Examination 2** (Class begins at 2:00, after Erskine Lecture Series.)
- Nov. 9 Various forms of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds (photocopied)
- Nov. 16 Selections from the Second Helvetic Confession (photocopied)
- Nov. 23 **NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break**
- Nov. 30 **Examination 3**
- Dec. 7 Selections from Calvin's *Institutes* (photocopied)
- Dec. 14 **Final Examination**
- Dec. 18 **All Make-Up and Late Work Due**