

*Erskine Theological Seminary*

## **LT 501: ECCLESIASTICAL LATIN I**

Fall 2008

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 2008:** Wednesdays: 9:00 – 11:00 A.M., 4:00 – 5:00 P.M.  
Thursdays: 4:00 – 5:00 P.M.

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.

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed for students interested in theology and Church history. It introduces the fundamentals of ecclesiastical Latin grammar, syntax, and vocabulary, with a view toward preparing students to study Latin theological and historical documents.

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **COURSE PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this course and its successor, Ecclesiastical Latin II, is to enable students to read (with the aid of a dictionary) the Latin Bible and other Latin writings from the history of the Christian Church.

### **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**. Since so many of the documents of the Western Church were written in Latin, the study of that language gives students greater ability to understand and appropriate the Church's heritage. Courses in Latin are especially useful for M.A.T.S. students in the Church history track and for Th.M. students majoring in historical theology. Thus, they fulfill the M.A.T.S. goal that **graduates possess a reading knowledge of the ancient languages needed for scholarly research in their field** and the Th.M. goal that **graduates possess significant mastery of the ancient and modern languages needed for their specific research/thesis**.

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

1. **Understand** the nature of language expression and the differences in the way English and Latin express ideas.
2. **Become comfortable** working with the inflection-based structure of Latin syntax, in contrast to the word-order-based structure of English syntax.
3. **Begin mastering** Latin morphology.
4. **Gain experience** reading simple Latin sentences and paragraphs.

### **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 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 memorize and review forms and vocabulary. The student's mastery of this content will be measured through weekly quizzes.

The second component is **classroom participation**. Much time in class will be spent on recitation of forms and reading Latin sentences. All students will be expected to have prepared their translation assignments ahead of time and to participate actively.

The third is the **summative component**. There will be two cumulative examinations which will cover all material learned up to that point in the course.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

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

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**Requirement One:** Students will complete all assignments given by the instructor at the end of class each week. These assignments will include memorization of forms and vocabulary and preparation of translation sentences to be discussed in class. 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 (100 points):** Students will take ten (10) weekly quizzes covering vocabulary, forms, and translation.

**Requirement Three (100 points):** Students will take two (2) major cumulative examinations.

### **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:**

**Drop/Add/Withdrawal:** 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, he/she must complete a “drop/add” form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. 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. He/she must also make arrangements to make up the quiz from that week.

**The Seminary policies on plagiarism, conduct in theological discussions, and language about God and humanity** are in effect but are not particularly applicable to this class.

**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 Work:** Any quiz or exam not taken on time must be made up later. The final deadline for making up quizzes or exams is noon on Monday, Dec. 15. Any work still not made up by this deadline will be given a grade of “0,” unless the student has made **prior** arrangements to take an incomplete for the course. (See the policy on incompletes just below.)

**Incompletes:** The grade of “I” or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of “I” is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An “I” in this course must be removed by March 1. Only the Dean may grant the extension of an incomplete beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grade automatically becomes an “F.”

**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 reg-

istration booklet for the specifics of the chapel attendance policy. There is a per-chapel fee if one attends fewer chapels than required.

### **COURSE OUTLINE:**

The normal class pattern will be that on a given week, the students will take a quiz, then they will discuss translation assignments for that week, then the instructor will introduce two units of new material. Each quiz will include vocabulary and forms learned for that week and translation sentences discussed the previous week. This means that each unit will be covered over a three-week period from the time it is introduced until the time the students are tested on its translation sentences.

Thus, students should allocate time in their weekly preparation for learning new vocabulary and grammar for the quiz, preparing new translation sentences, and reviewing previously-translated sentences for the quiz.

The specific schedule, indicating exactly what material will be on each quiz and exam, is as follows:

<b>Sep. 4</b>	No Class—Professor will be in Belgium.	Read Fairbairn, pp. 8-98
<b>Sep. 11</b>	Introduction to Latin and to the course	Intro. to Units 1 and 2
<b>Sep. 18</b>	<u>Quiz 1</u> (Units 1, 2 vocab./forms)	Intro. to Units 3 and 4
<b>Sep. 25</b>	<u>Quiz 2</u> (Units 3, 4 vocab./forms; Units 1, 2 translation)	Intro. to Units 5 and 6
<b>Oct. 2</b>	<u>Quiz 3</u> (Units 5, 6 vocab./forms; Units 3, 4 translation)	Intro. to Units 7 and 8
<b>Oct. 9</b>	<u>Quiz 4</u> (Units 7, 8 vocab./forms; Units 5, 6 translation)	Intro. to Units 9, 10
<b>Oct. 16</b>	<b>Lecture Series – Class starts at 2:00 P.M.</b> <u>Quiz 5</u> (Units 9, 10 vocab./forms; Units 7, 8 translation)	Review for exam
<b>Oct. 23</b>	<u>Cumulative Exam 1</u> (Units 1-10 vocab./forms/translation)	Intro. to Units 11, 12
<b>Oct. 30</b>	<u>Quiz 6</u> (Units 11, 12 vocab./forms)	Intro. to Unit 13
<b>Nov. 6</b>	<u>Quiz 7</u> (Unit 13 vocab./forms; Units 11, 12 trans.)	Intro. to Units 14, 15
<b>Nov. 13</b>	<u>Quiz 8</u> (Units 14, 15 vocab./forms; Unit 13 trans.)	Intro. to Unit 16
<b>Nov. 20</b>	<u>Quiz 9</u> (Unit 16 vocab./forms, Units 14, 15 trans.)	Intro. to Units 17, 18
<b>Nov. 27</b>	No Class—Thanksgiving Break	
<b>Dec. 4</b>	<u>Quiz 10</u> (Units 17, 18 vocab./forms, Unit 16 trans.)	
<b>Dec. 11</b>	<u>Cumulative Exam 2</u> (Units 1-18 vocab./forms/translations)	