



Minimus Latin: Semester 1-A

Course Info:

Who: for students 7-11 years old - no prior Latin experience needed.

Class size: 4-8 students

When: meets ONLINE for 45 minutes, 1 time per week via Zoom for 15 weeks

What: covers chapters 1-6 in the book *Minimus Starting Out in Latin*

Teacher: [Dr. Debbie Sears](#)

Email: TheClassicsLab@gmail.com

Course Description:

This course introduces students to Latin using the *Minimus: Starting Out in Latin* textbook and is designed for younger learners or those completely new to the language. Each session blends Latin language learning with engaging stories, colorful illustrations, and fascinating historical details drawn from a real Roman family living in Britain nearly 2,000 years ago.

Students will develop foundational Latin skills through vocabulary building, basic grammar training, and reading practice using short, accessible texts. Lessons also highlight Roman daily life, mythology, and cultural traditions, giving students a lively picture of the ancient world.

To support comprehension and retention, supplementary activities, games, and cultural resources will be used alongside the *Minimus* textbook, making Latin learning interactive, memorable, and fun.

Upon the completion of this course students will be able to:

- Read and understand short Latin passages from *Minimus: Starting Out in Latin*.
- Define and translate ~100 Latin vocabulary words.
- Recognize and use basic Latin vocabulary and phrases in context.
- Identify and apply simple Latin grammar concepts, including nouns, verbs, and adjectives.
- Understand the meanings of common Latin derivatives and their connection to English vocabulary.
- Describe aspects of Roman daily life, mythology, and history as presented in the course.
- Pronounce Latin words with accuracy and confidence.
- Develop improved awareness of English grammar through comparison with Latin structures.

- Demonstrate a foundational understanding of the Latin language, preparing for continued study in *Minimus* Book II or other beginner Latin courses.

About the Teacher:

Salvēte! I'm Dr. Debbie Sears, and I am passionate about inspiring students to explore the beauty, complexity, and relevance of the classical world. I hold a Ph.D. in Theology and have dedicated my career to teaching Latin, and the literature, history, and culture of the Greco-Roman world. With many years of classroom and online teaching experience, I delight in helping learners unlock ancient languages and engage deeply with the texts and traditions that have shaped our modern world.

My teaching philosophy centers on making the ancient world come alive. I weave together grammar and vocabulary with historical context, mythology, art, and daily life in antiquity, helping students see the connections between the past and present. Whether you are encountering Latin for the first time or building on prior studies, I strive to create a rigorous yet welcoming learning environment where curiosity thrives, skills grow, and a love for classical studies endures long after the course ends

Required Materials:

- [*Minimus: Starting Out in Latin*](#)
- Notebook and writing material
- Access to YouTube*
- Access to [Nearpod.com](#)*
- Access to [Gimkit.com](#)*
- Access to [Magistrula.com](#)
- Access to Google classroom and Google Workspace such as Google Drive, Docs, Sheets etc.*

**Direct links will be provided for all online materials.*

Technology:

In class: this course uses the interactive platform [Nearpod](#) to present instructional slides in class. Students will need a device that is compatible with Nearpod. Previous students have had difficulty using Nearpod on Chromebooks. Students will also use the flashcard website [Gimkit](#) to practice vocabulary in and out of class.

Homework & in class: under no circumstances is Google translate or any form of AI acceptable to use in this course. Acceptable forms of online resources (such as a Latin dictionary) will be introduced in class. Google Classroom is used for homework and tests.

Academic Integrity

To maintain academic integrity and support true learning, the use of any translation tool like Google translate or AI is strictly not permitted (I will know.....). This is not permitted in-class or on homework.

Class Expectations

Be prepared

- Bring your Latin book, a notebook, and a working device that supports Zoom and Nearpod to every class.
- If you are having tech issues, please let me know via email or in the Zoom chat ASAP.
- Complete all assigned homework and vocabulary practice assigned before class.
- Have all your materials ready when class begins.

Be Present

- Arrive to class on time and ready to learn.
- Keep your camera on during class (unless discussed otherwise *prior* to class) to help with engagement and focus.
- Mute your microphone when there is background noise or when asked.
- Have a parent/guardian close by if you will need help managing the technology.

Participation

- Join class discussion, answer questions, and ask your own!
- Engage with interactive activities on Nearpod and Gimkit.
- Respect others' ideas and efforts.

Academic Integrity

- Do not use ANY online translation tool or AI tools for this class in any capacity.
- We'll go over approved Latin dictionaries to buy and online resources in class.
- Always do your own work and ask for help when unsure!

Homework and Tests

Students will be assigned homework each week. Homework is not only reviewed for accuracy, but for effort and completion. Students will have approximately 1 hour of homework to complete (this will vary based on the student's abilities). All assignments and tests will be submitted through Google Classroom, where each student will have access to their own materials and feedback. I will provide feedback on all homework and tests submitted on time. Work turned in late may not receive feedback, depending on my availability. Tests throughout the course are used to assess student progress and determine readiness for the next level of study.

Schedule:

Week 1 – Introduction to Latin & Roman Britain

1. Course overview & materials
2. Where and when Latin was spoken
3. Introduction to *Minimus* characters & setting (Vindolanda)
4. Alphabet, pronunciation, and classroom phrases in Latin

Week 2 – Chapter 1: “Meet the Family”

1. Vocabulary: family members, basic greetings
2. Grammar: singular nouns, subject pronouns
3. Culture: Vindolanda tablets & daily life in Roman Britain
4. Reading: Short story from Chapter 1

Week 3 – Chapter 1 Continued

1. Vocabulary reinforcement & simple sentence practice
2. Grammar: introduction to verb *sum* (“to be”)
3. Reading: Short story from Chapter 1
4. Culture: Roman houses and household objects
5. Activity: Label your own “Roman” house diagram in Latin

Week 4 – Chapter 2: “Food, Glorious Food”

1. Vocabulary: food items, mealtime phrases
2. Grammar: basic noun endings (-a, -us) & gender
3. Culture: Roman meals & dining customs
4. Reading: Chapter 2 story
5. Activity: Create a Latin menu

Week 5 – Chapter 2 Continued

- Vocabulary review games
- Grammar: subject–verb agreement
- Reading: Chapter 2 story
- Culture: Roman markets

Week 6 – Chapter 3: “Work, Work, Work”

1. Vocabulary: occupations & tools
2. Grammar: verb endings for present tense (-o, -s, -t)
3. Culture: Jobs in Roman Britain
4. Reading: Chapter 3 story

Week 7 – Chapter 3 Continued & Mid-Semester Review

1. Vocabulary review (Ch. 1–3)
2. Grammar review: *sum*, present tense verbs, noun endings
3. Reading: Chapter 3 story
4. Activity: “Find the Latin” scavenger hunt in the text
5. Short quiz on Ch. 1–3

Week 8 – Chapter 4: “The Best Days of Your Life”

1. Vocabulary: school-related words
2. Grammar: imperatives (commands)
3. Culture: Roman education system
4. Reading: Chapter 4 story

Week 9 – Chapter 4 Continued

1. Vocabulary reinforcement through games
2. Grammar: more imperatives, classroom commands in Latin
3. Culture: Roman writing tools & school life
4. Reading: Chapter 4 story

Week 10 – Chapter 5: “Romans and Britons”

1. Vocabulary: clothing & colors
2. Grammar: adjectives & agreement with nouns
3. Culture: Roman clothing styles vs. Celtic clothing
4. Reading: Chapter 5 story

Week 11 – Chapter 5 Continued

- Vocabulary practice (describing people in Latin)
- Grammar: adjective position in Latin sentences
- Reading: Chapter 5 story
- Culture: Textile production in Roman Britain
- Activity: Roman fashion (with labeled drawings)

Week 12 – Chapter 6: “Off to Town”

1. Vocabulary: places in town, travel words
2. Grammar: prepositions + ablative case
3. Culture: Roman towns & roads in Britain
4. Reading: Chapter 6 story

Week 13 – Chapter 6 Continued

1. Vocabulary reinforcement & map labeling activity
2. Grammar: more prepositional phrases
3. Reading: Chapter 6 story
4. Culture: Roman marketplaces & trade routes

Week 14 – Semester Review (Chapters 1–6)

1. Vocabulary games & group competitions
2. Grammar review of all topics covered
3. Culture review: key aspects of Roman Britain learned
4. Practice reading longer Latin passages from the book

Week 15 – Final Assessment & Celebration

1. Final vocabulary & grammar quiz (Chapters 1–6)
2. Reading comprehension activity
3. Student presentations of final projects (e.g., Roman house model, Latin comic strip, Vindolanda diary entry)
4. End-of-semester Roman-themed celebration