

Student comments on *Classical Latin*

Erasmus AcademyNY Summer Language Program '10 & '11

Instructor: Dr. D. Ben DeSmidt

The textbook was helpful and well organized. The assignments were long, and sometimes quite difficult, but not unmanageable. The pace of the course was quite quick, but it was two semesters of college Latin in two months.

I thought the instructor did a very good job teaching difficult material in a much smaller than usual time-span.

Patrick Lambdin 7/19/2010

The pace is unbelievable; we completed *Wheelock* in a blink of an eye. It can be overwhelming, but it is not unbearable. The pace is manageable, so long as you ensure minimal obligations in your life during the class.

I believe the *Workbook for Wheelock* was unnecessary. I would suggest *38 Latin Stories* as a supplement for *Wheelock*.

For a distance learning experience, I don't believe you can get any better. While I would prefer to be in a classroom, face-to-face, and be able to visit Ben in his office if questions arose, he still made distance Latin a great time.

Professor DeSmidt is a genius. His passion for the Latin language is always apparent; and his knowledge of the language is vast. He is very helpful, and I hope you retain him as a professor for future Latin courses.

David Hurlbut July 13, 2011

The course was very helpful for the purpose for which I needed it – to help me prepare to pass the required Latin exam at my school. It kept me working intensively and gave me the opportunity to clarify unclear points about the language.

It was an intensive course, so the pace was appropriate for that. The professor was accommodating when we were running out of breath...I improved significantly in my knowledge of grammar and vocabulary in Latin. It enabled me to pass the required language exam.

The professor always responded to our questions and explained well what was unclear. He was very creative with bringing examples to explain a phenomenon we didn't understand, and willing to accommodate students' needs. I appreciated especially his

corrections of our homework, and willingness to correct extra material we worked on. I wish we had more time in the class sessions to spend with exercises and translations.

I think it might be helpful to have meetings of 4 hours instead of 3 (with a 15 minute break in the middle) and use that extra hour for practicing the grammar. Overall, I think the course was very good and very helpful and I am glad I took it.

Eva Guldanova      13 July 2011