

Teaching Latin in the Online Environment

In the rush to maintain and sustain new technologies in the classroom, or not in the classroom, as it may be, there is no reason Classics, particularly Latin, should be left behind. An inspection of the material that introductory Latin courses cover reveals that there is little reason the concepts cannot easily translate to being taught in the online environment.

At the primarily undergraduate, public, metropolitan university where I teach, I have developed and am currently piloting an online introductory Latin course. It is helping my university in its goal of increasing its online presence, and it has helped my department in its goal of expanding Latin enrollments.

I have chosen to use Minkova and Tunberg's *Latin for the New Millennium* curriculum, which has been uniquely adaptable to a format that complies with Quality Matters, a nationally recognized quality assurance program that sets standards for university courses; and, in fact, the class will be QM certified by the end of the year. The course is designed to work smoothly on the university's online learning management system, Blackboard. The online curriculum marries YouTube videos, which I have produced in order to teach the concepts, with online exercises adapted from the book and workbook, which help to cement the concepts in the learner's mind.

The presentation will demonstrate the online class in action, so that the audience can see the structure and form of the online space. I will also review critically some currently existing, pre-fabricated curricula that have tried to put Latin online, and explain why I did not use them. The bulk of the presentation will consist of an analysis of the class, covering such topics as: student success as measured by outcomes (including a comparison with the face-to-face version of the same class); and, difficulties and obstacles (e.g., communication online, and establishing online materials). These topics may be especially interesting to those who are considering

moving their Latin program, or a portion of it, online, and may reveal whether or not it is worth a department's investment of time and money to undertake such a move.