

Latin 10.01

The Landscape of Latin Literature

Fall 2023



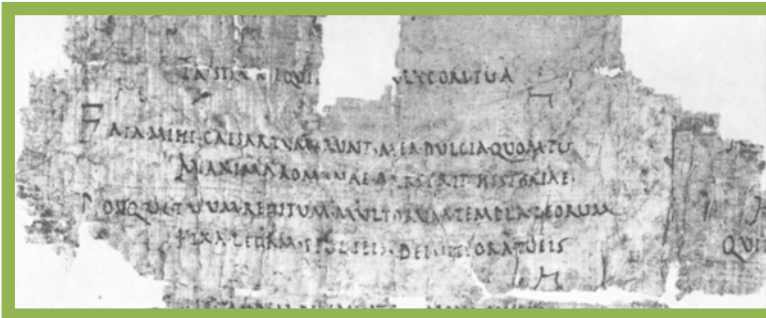
Though the Roman poetry and prose texts that we read today were written down in ancient times, those ancient copies are almost entirely lost; we only know these texts from later manuscripts and printed books. In this course, we'll learn what ancient letters and books looked like, how they were published, how those texts were copied and recopied over the centuries, and how modern editors cope with the variance and error that this process of textual transmission has introduced.

We'll also look at some examples of ancient writing that do survive – curses written on thin sheets of lead, letters written on wooden tablets that are still being dug from the wet clay of a military camp in the north of England, graffiti preserved on the walls of Pompeii, and texts on papyrus that survived as scraps in the garbage dumps of Egypt or were carbonized by volcanic eruption.

Authors we will read include Cicero, Pliny, Ovid, Catullus, and Martial.

Latin 10.01 is designed for students who have completed at least the Latin 1, 2, and 3 sequence here at Dartmouth, or who have come to Dartmouth having learned all the basics of Latin grammar, but who are looking for a review of grammar and poetic meter.

Students who have already taken Latin 10.02, 10.03, or 10.04, but do not feel ready for 20-level classes, are also encouraged to take this class, and more advanced Latin students may choose to enroll on the basis of interest.



Images

- British Museum 1978,0102.80 (Lead Curse Tablet from Uley)
- British Museum 1986,1001.64 = Tab. Vind. 291
- Bibliotheca Medicea Laurenziana MS Pluteo 50.31, colophon
- *CIL* IV 1893-1894
- Papyrus Qasr Ibrim 78-3-11
- Herculaneum Papyrus undergoing scansion
- MS Vat. lat. 3867 folio 3v