In Latin 1, we will cover some of the basics of the Latin language. By the end of the quarter, you will be able to read aloud, understand, and enjoy simple narratives about Roman people and their lives, and be able to discuss Latin grammar. Along the way, we will also think a bit about the structure of English, and how it is similar to, and different from, the structure of Latin.

You will also learn quite a bit about the culture of the Roman Empire. The stories in our textbook focus on the lives of slaves, freed people, free citizens, soldiers, and magistrates who live in many different parts of the Roman Empire, including the Italian city of Pompeii, the Egyptian city of Alexandria, and the Roman province of Britain.

Latin 1 is designed for students who have little or no prior knowledge of Latin. Even if you have no experience studying any language in a systematic way, this class is for you. For those who have had some Latin in high school, this class may allow you to approach the language and culture of the Romans in a new way.
A brief explanation of Dartmouth’s introductory and intermediate Latin sequence for those who enter with little or no Latin:

Latin 1 is the first course in the Latin sequence. In Fall 2023, Latin 1 is offered at the 9L, 10, and 2 hours and it will be offered again in Winter 2024.

After Latin 1, you’ll be ready for Latin 2, in which you will continue to develop your language skills and learn more about the culture of first-century Roman Britain and the city of Rome itself.

Latin 2 is followed by our third-quarter course, Latin 3, in which you can complete your study of Latin grammar and read selections from some of the greatest Roman authors, including the love poetry of Catullus, the epic poetry of Vergil, Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*, and the letters of Pliny the Younger).

After taking Latin 3, you can move on to Latin 10; the topic of Latin 10 changes from quarter to quarter, so you can actually take it more than once.

Questions about starting Latin at Dartmouth? Contact our Language Program Director, Professor Lynn, at jenny.lynn@dartmouth.edu.

Illustrations:

- Encaustic Mummy Portrait from Roman Egypt (90-120 AD) from the Metropolitan Museum of Art 09.181.6
- Cubiculum (bedroom) from the Villa of P. Fannius Synistor at Boscoreale, (c. 50-40 BC) from the Metropolitan Museum of Art 03.14.13a–g
- Roman Marble Head (1st century AD) from the Hood Museum of Art S.964.94
- Portrait of the Boy Eutyches (100-150 AD) from the Metropolitan Museum of Art 18.9.2
- Gilt Bronze Head of Sulis Minerva (late 1st century AD) from the temple at Bath