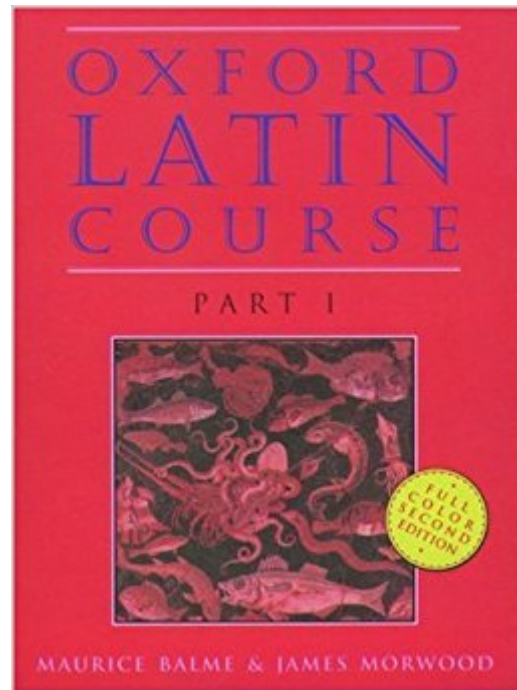




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Oxford Latin Course, Part I



Synopsis

Designed for North American students, this special version of the Oxford Latin Course combines the best features of both modern and traditional methods of Latin teaching, providing an exciting, stimulating introduction and approach to Latin based on the reading of original texts. In this four-volume North American edition, the order of declensions corresponds to customary U.S. usage, and the spelling has been Americanized. In addition, it offers full-color illustrations and photographs throughout Parts I and II and an expanded Teacher's Book with translations for each part. Parts I-III (now available in hardcover editions) are built around a narrative detailing the life of Horace, now based more closely on historical sources, which helps students to get to know real Romans--with their daily activities, concerns, and habits--and to develop an understanding of Roman civilization during the time of Cicero and Augustus. Part IV (paperback) is a reader consisting of extracts from Caesar, Cicero, Catullus, Virgil, Livy, and Ovid. The second edition of the Oxford Latin Course has been carefully designed to maximize student interest, understanding, and competence. It features a clearer presentation of grammar, revised narrative passages, new background sections, more emphasis on daily life and on the role of women, a greater number and variety of exercises, and review chapters and tests. Each chapter opens with a set of cartoons with Latin captions that illustrate new grammar points. A Latin reading follows, with new vocabulary highlighted in the margins and follow-up exercises that focus on reading comprehension and grammatical analysis. A background essay in English concludes each chapter. Covering a variety of topics--from history to food, from slavery to travel, these engaging essays present a well-rounded picture of Augustan Rome. The Oxford Latin Course, Second Edition offers today's students and teachers an exceptionally engaging and attractive introduction to the language, literature, and culture of Rome--one that builds skills effectively and is exciting to use.

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"A very sound and concise work, well organized. The reference grammar and vocabulary sections are excellent tools for the student."--Jeff Begeal, Northern Nash Senior High School

"This text is very attractive and inviting. The illustrations are terrific. Critical thinking skills are encouraged. Humor is effectively interspersed."--Claudia Colvin, St. Anselm's Abbey School

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Maurice Balme is now retired, formerly Head of Classics at Harrow School (1962-72)

OLC is not commonly adopted in the US, but I think that it has some very important advantages over its competitors in the inductive-grammar method market that should be considered. (If you want a traditional grammar-method book for a class of accelerated gifted students, maybe look elsewhere. That's a whole different animal.)

1. The use of Horace as a main character is an inspired alternative to Caecilius. The trouble with Caecilius has always been that he has to die so soon, which cuts CLC largely free of primary sources. The large body of autobiographical data in Horace's poetry allows for a continuing story which can be connected to primary sources in translation at early reading levels. Also, since most students will go on to read Augustan literature before Flavian literature, it's very useful to have a late Republic-era main story. (Plus Ecce characters have no primary source basis whatsoever.)
2. Culture chapters are, on the whole, more sophisticated than in the competition.
3. The inclusion of some English-to-Latin helps cut down on the misuse of the inductive grammar method (i.e. turning "inductive grammar" into "no grammar").
4. Since it's a single volume, rather than the two volumes that would make up a high school level Latin 1 in CLC (you need the red book AND the blue if you're teaching 9th grade or above!), it's easier to get your school/district to agree to buy you enough materials.
5. Syntax is more varied, even in early chapters, than most competitors; students are less likely to be shocked by sentences which start with something that's not the nominative.

NB: Be aware that this book makes the idiosyncratic decision to delay teaching tenses other than the present. While I think this is a very clever way to keep the workload manageable for mixed-ability classes due to the use of the historical present in Latin, if you/your district/your parents care about the National Latin exam, it's an issue. I personally hate the NLE so I don't care. Oh, and while most of the Latin is very well written, the "phi, phae, pho,

phum" pun in the Polyphemus story is a little cringe-inducing. . .

My daughter had to purchase this book for a 7th grade Latin class. Overall I like the book. I only wish that it gave more explanation as to the mechanics of Latin. Having said that though I think it is definitely a credible book and good for those who are learning Latin.

Material met all my expectations and will be extremely useful in my substitute work helping students master this intriguing language.

Having read some very critical reviews of this series, I wanted to say I have found it engaging and pretty well done. For my students, perhaps an overwhelming reason to choose it was the price, which compares very favorably with the \$60 to \$80 many conventional Latin texts cost. I agree with some critics it would be better if there were more supplementary materials and, for many teachers who were educated more traditionally, not introducing all the principal parts of verbs at once is an adjustment. However, I do feel there are many things to commend this series, including the heavy emphasis on reading for comprehension instead of just rote learning. It certainly introduces a lot of vocabulary in a short time and gives a context for it. All in all, my home school students have done well with this text.

I used the first edition for a Latin course I taught 8+ years ago. I found and purchased this at a local State University (ASU) book store and could not believe this was intended for a college level course. I used it for group of HS level homeschoolers. I recently purchased the 2nd edition to teach Latin to my 12 and 9 year old sons. We've made it through 7 Lessons and although they are challenged to keep it all straight (declensions, conjugations, case, gender, number, agreement, ...) , they are succeeding. If they were older I'd probably use Wheelock where you get real Latin jewels in the "sententiae antiniquae". I'm a little disappointed in the 2nd Edition format. The grammar/exercises have been removed from the mainline content (reading passages, historical highlights) and placed in the back of the book. And there is no indication which exercises should be given prior to content. So, if you are doing this on your own, you may want to first read the "cartoon" at the start of each chapter/lesson and then do all the grammar/exercises followed by the mainline content. I'm trying to interleave the exercises with content to make it more fun. Lastly, the Latin profanity in Lesson 6 is completely inappropriate.

This is a fairly OK course, but we like Henle better. Henle teaches more grammar, oxford doesn't delve into the grammar aspect much.

This is a wonderful textbook and is a must have for anyone who is interested in learning Latin. This book has made learning Latin a breeze.

Textbook for daughter

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