

Repairing the Ruins 2021 Pre-conference: Latin Practicum

June 15 (Tuesday) 1:00pm-9:00pm

In the last decade or so Latin teaching has largely polarized into two methodologies: the natural method (which favors speaking and writing Latin) and the grammar-translation method (which favors chanting endings systematically, analysis, and translation). This division, however, did not always exist. In the centuries that produced the most successful formal Latin education, students were taught to speak, write, and read Latin as well as analyze it grammatically and translate it into their native tongue (or sometimes even into ancient Greek).

The vision of the ACCS *Institute for Classical Languages* is to bring this kind of robust mixed methodology back to the teaching of ancient languages in our schools--not merely because we believe it produces better readers of ancient texts, but because we believe it produces better readers in general, better thinkers, better problem-solvers, and better communicators.

The 2021 Latin Practicum, hosted by the *Institute for Classical Languages*, is a series of hands-on workshops, offered by experienced mixed-methodology Latin instructors and administrators, designed especially for both teachers and administrators.

New Teachers

- Learn experienced pedagogy/content
- Find direction for instruction
- Build mixed method toolkit

Experienced Teachers

- Discover new activities/strategies
- Refine pedagogy/content
- Explore enrichment

Admin/Lead Teachers

- Steward programs/growth
- Refine curriculum/assessment
- Encourage stakeholders
- Troubleshoot challenges

Attendees will be able to choose from a number of workshops, so they will be able to focus on topics and skills that interest and benefit them most. Additionally, participants are encouraged to visit breakouts from the different tracks and are free to enter/exit mid session. Here is a list of planned workshops.

Schedule

| | <u>Active Latin:</u> | <u>Grammar-Translation</u> | <u>Admin/Leadership:</u> |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1:00-1:20 | <i>Welcom, Orientation, Introductions</i> | | |
| 1:30-2:30 | Session 1 | Direct Method Grammar | |
| 2:45-3:45 | Session 2 | Direct Method Vocab | Sight Reading ¹ |
| 4:00-5:00 | Session 3 | Oral Composition | Poetry Scansion |
| | Dinner break | | |
| 6:15-7:15 | Session 4 | Games | Symptoms of Healthy Programs |
| 7:30-8:30 | Session 5 | Comp. by Imitation ² | Lateral Entry |
| 8:35-9:00 | <i>Wrap-up and Resources</i> | | |
| | | Hard Sentences | Assessment |

Session Descriptions

Direct Method Vocab

Would you like to learn how to introduce vocabulary to your students in a way that is more permanent, more accurate, and more fun? This workshop is a demonstration of how to teach vocabulary by guiding students to use new words directly--through direct method illustrated examples and composition.

Target Level: ALL

Direct Method Grammar

Target Level: ALL

Want to get students to pay attention to endings? This workshop is a demonstration of how to use direct method illustrated examples to get students to focus on the meaning of endings.

Oral Composition

Target Level: ALL

Spoken Latin in the classroom does not have to be the Wild West! This workshop will show how to get students speaking Latin grammatically and systematically--while loving it.

The Games Circuit

Target Level: ALL

Play is an important part of the learning process as it engages various parts of the brain in reviewing concepts, while at the same time breaking down barriers as students relax and enjoy language. This session invites teachers to play together as we engage in a variety of classroom games that teachers can easily reproduce in classrooms for any level of Latin instruction

Building a Cohesive Reading Lesson

Target Level: Intermediate

This session uses Part 1 as a foundation for an imitation in writing exercise which engages students more deeply with an original passage both in content and style. This lesson also doubles as a guided introduction to Latin composition. This session provides a template for similar compositions. Attendees can attend just one of this paired set or both, but together they are a powerful dynamic duo for reading and composition.

Tackling Hard Sentences

Target Level: ALL

As soon as weaker students see a hard sentence, they seem to forget everything they have learned and start guessing. This workshop shows how to get students to stop guessing and use their knowledge of grammar to understand the sentence.

Sight Reading for Beginners

Target Level: Intermediate

Sight Reading can be a bit daunting for those beginning to read authentic Latin texts. This seminar will break this exercise down into some simple steps that warm the students' mind toward the reading, reduce the intimidation factor, and guide them through the joy and excitement of reading a compelling original story by a classical author. This session also sets the stage for Part 2: Imitation in Writing. Attendees can attend just one of this paired set or both, but together they are a powerful dynamic duo for reading and composition.

Introduction to Poetry

Target Level: Intermediate, Advanced

Poetry is an essential part of the canon of classical literature, and a genre that should be a part of every Latin curriculum. In this session we will engage in a delightful and engaging introduction to Latin poetry, with a focus on meter and scansion, that will serve you and your students well in the classroom.

Lateral Entry

Target Level: Intermediate, Advanced

Are transfer students an important growth potential for your school? Curious how Latin/Languages programs on-board students of varying abilities? This seminar-style workshop will consider different solutions to challenging scenarios enabling all participants to contribute and glean from the conversation.

Assessment

Target Level: Intermediate, Advanced

Want to improve your tests & quizzes? Considering adding projects to your curriculum? Interested in ways of lessening the gap between your advanced and struggling students in the same class? This workshop will provide you with structures and examples of improving the ways you hold your students accountable and assess their understanding more effectively.

Symptoms of Healthy Latin Programs

Target Level: ALL

How can you be sure that your (teachers') classroom routines are promoting good language learning? How can you litmus test a program? What are some immediately implementable tweaks that encourage long term growth amidst faculty and students alike? This workshop will showcase practices that contribute to student and teacher growth for lead teachers and administrators to use to evaluate and improve classroom culture.