

Latin Placement

For all new students:

If you have studied Latin before, you may have enough knowledge of the language to take second-year Latin (Latin 201-202).

To determine whether you should take this second-year course, please examine the passages below. If you recognize the word forms and can read the passages without difficulty (using a dictionary is acceptable), then you should register for Latin 201-202.

If you have further questions about language placement, please notify the Academic Dean, Dr. Brian FitzGerald (bfitzgerald@magdalen.edu).

If you have already made a complete study of Latin grammar and believe you are at a level above Latin 201-202, please contact Dr. FitzGerald before purchasing any textbook.

I. Read the following passage about the Roman hero Aeneas:

Aēnēas* diū per multās terrās māgnā constantiā errāvit et per multa maria nāvigāvit. Multae rēs ab eō sunt vīsae atque factae. Terrae aliēnae perīculōrum plēnae ab eō petītae sunt. Dīdō* rēgīna ab eō est amāta et posteā relicta. Tandem Aēnēas in Ītaliā prope patriam erat. Ibi hostēs quī valde terribilēs erant eum exspectābant.

*Aēnēas, Aēnēae (masculine) = Aeneas

*Dīdō, Dīdōnis (feminine) = Dido (queen of Carthage)

II. Read the following passage about the Huns, adapted from the Roman historian Ammianus Marcellinus:

Dē Hūnīs* in librīs patrum nostrōrum nōn multa sunt dicta. Hī sunt ferī et ferōcēs. Terribilēs vidērī cupiunt timōremque in aliīs hominibus excitāre. Itaque faciēs eōrum cōsultō* vulnerantur. Postquam vulnera sānāta sunt, cicātrīcēs* manent, propter quās barba crēscere nōn potest. Hōrum fōrma nōn est pulchra, sed terribilis! Sī ad nōstram patriam vēnierint, fugiēmus.

*Hūnī, Hūnōrum (masculine plural) = the Huns

*cōsultō (adverb) = on purpose

*cicātrīx, cicātrīcis (feminine) = scar