Latin: One Language, Many Cultures

Module Coordinator	**Dr Charlie Kerrigan, Classics, School of Histories and Humanities**
What will you learn from this Elective?	This module helps you to unlock the many cultures embedded in the history of the Latin language and its social and ideological worlds across millennia. To a great extent we all speak Latin, hidden in the depth of our languages. Through innovative and interactive teaching methods you will acquire the tools to access those depths and to analyse their roots in the ancient Roman world. No prior training in either Classical civilisation or in second language acquisition is required. This module will demonstrate that learning Latin is an intrinsically cross-cultural experience. Whatever your disciplinary background (arts and humanities, law, STEM and Health sciences), you will discover the connections between distinct concepts of Latin origin (e.g. *legal/loyal, grammar/glamour, genus/genre*) and analyse the historical and cultural reasons behind those connections. You will explore ancient Latin values (e.g. freedom, virtue, authority) and their appropriations and reception in modern societies. You will test the usefulness of the language: does it enable you, for example, to identify an animal species or to negotiate a legal contract? You will find that Latin develops articulate expression and makes us aware of the culturally determined aspects of the languages we speak today. This module also encourages a critical and nuanced awareness of the extent to which the language of ancient Rome has shaped Western civilisations. Latin was a living language, and the leading one in Western Europe, for over a millennium. It was a language of power and colonisation, but also the language in which ordinary people expressed themselves for hundreds of years. Latin was also the main form of communication of ideas in both the Humanities and Sciences until the early modern period. Knowledge of Latin gives us access to a deeper level of understanding of our own language and of the concepts and terminology we encounter in the subjects we study and in the cultures we call our own.
Student Workload	22 contact hours (6 small group tutorials) 40 hours of directed study on primary material incl. online lessons @ www.tabella.ie (Trinity Latin project platform) 3 hours of assessed language work (analysis and translation tests) 25 hours of guided and assessed project work (Latin Word Poster).
Assessment Components	1) Participation and online discussion during term (10%) 2) Individual in-class and online language tests during term (20+30%) 3) (3) Group project on a key Latin word, concept or line, critically examining its continuing and changing relevance across space

	and time (end of term 40%, 15% on the process of individual reflection, 25% on the collective output).
Indicative Reading List	Dickey, E. *Learning Latin the Ancient Way* (Cambridge 2017) Janson, T. *A Natural History of Latin* (Oxford (2004) Gardini, N. (2019) *Long Live Latin: The Pleasures of a Useless Language* (MacMillan) Solodow, J. B., Latin Alive: *The Survival of Latin in English and Romance Languages* (Cambridge and New York, 2010).
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module, students should be able to: 1. Develop a fully researched case study relevant to each student's disciplinary interests in dialogue with other disciplines (e.g. law, natural sciences, architecture, politics, theology, etc.) 2. Analyse central Latin words and ideas (e.g. *virtus, auctoritas, imperium*) and evaluate the conceptual difficulties involved in translating them and interpreting their distance from modern modes of thinking 3. Recognise the relevance of Latin to a deeper appreciation of English and modern European languages and cultures 4. Challenge and critically analyse questions of linguistic imperialism across space and time 5. Confidently manage the foundations of the structure and thought of the Latin language and its inner workings.