

LatinPerDiem

Dr. David C. Noe

Lingua Latina Per Se Illustrata (LLPSI) – Unit I Chapters I–IX (Familia Romana)

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Dr. David C. Noe, LatinPerDiem

Course Format: Self-paced with video-on-demand + optional live support

Duration: Flexible (recommended 16-20 weeks, depending on pace)

Course Description

This Unit I course introduces the foundational entry point of the immersive, inductive "nature method" of Hans H. Ørberg's *Lingua Latina per se Illustrata: Pars I – Familia Romana*. Students dive directly into continuous, authentic Latin prose about the Roman family, geography, and daily life while gradually acquiring vocabulary, morphology, and syntax primarily in context.

This unit establishes the critical bedrock concepts of the Latin language, covering **Capitula I–IX** (9 chapters). By the end of this introductory unit, students will navigate basic Latin sentence structures with developing fluency, managing first- and second-declension nouns, fundamental subject-verb agreement, basic adjective modifications, singular and plural nominal forms, and early relative and interrogative sentence patterns.

Learning Objectives

By the end of Unit I, students will be able to:

- Read and comprehend Chapters I–IX of *Familia Romana* with minimal or no translation aid.
- Recognize and actively use the introductory vocabulary and grammatical foundations introduced in each initial chapter.
- Discuss early Roman cultural constructs, basic geography, and domestic family structures reflected in the text.
- Complete the *Pensa* (exercises) and demonstrate mastery through chapter homework assignments, vocabulary quizzes, a midterm, and a comprehensive final exam.

Required & Supplementary Materials

- **Required Text:** Hans H. Ørberg, *Lingua Latina per se Illustrata: Pars I – Familia Romana* (full-color edition preferred).
- **Required Media:** Access to the **33 course videos** (provided via the LatinPerDiem platform).
- **Optional Supplements:** *A Companion to Familia Romana*, *Exercitia Latina I*, *Colloquia Personarum*, and/or vocabulary lists.
- **Personal Tools:** A notebook or digital tool for recording vocabulary variations and grammar notes.

Methodology & Instructional Pedagogy

The instructional heart of this course relies on active oral immersion, deliberate repetition, and targeted form drills. In each of the 33 recorded video lectures, Dr. Noe engages directly with four live students, using spoken Latin as the primary medium of instruction. By discussing the text, asking questions, and drilling grammatical structures primarily in the target language, Dr. Noe guides these classroom participants through the immediate application of new concepts.

Within this inductive framework, rote memorization is not entirely avoided, as the mastery of terminal endings and core vocabulary remains a necessary component of classical language acquisition. However, mechanical memorization is not prioritized as the primary tool; instead, paradigms are reinforced through constant contextual usage and spoken application.

As a remote student signing up for this course, your role is to actively watch, listen to, and learn from these four video participants. They serve as your classroom proxies. Rather than watching a polished, artificial presentation, you will see real students working through the language in real time. You will learn not only by imitating their successes and clear pronunciation, but also by observing their struggles, missteps, and subsequent corrections. By practicing the forms alongside them during Dr. Noe's prompts, you will develop the intuitive linguistic habits necessary to read Latin well.

Course Features & Components

Instructional Videos

The core of the course consists of **33 videos** distributed across Chapters I–IX. Each video is **20 to 45 minutes in length**. Each chapter includes *approximately* four dedicated videos, but the exact number is **not distributed evenly**—it varies depending on the length, narrative density, grammatical complexity, and natural breaks in each *capitulum*.

These videos break the material into manageable segments and include:

- Reading aloud with pronunciation guidance and proper macron/vowel length observation.
- Line-by-line or section-by-section explanation of meaning and context.
- Targeted vocabulary focus and structural form practice.

- Grammar in action via inductive discovery.

Homework, Practice, & Quizzes

- **Preparation:** Read the assigned *lectiones* before or alongside watching the videos.
- **Textbook Exercises:** Complete the *Grammatica Latina* notes and *Pensa* A, B, and C in the book for every chapter.
- **Chapter Assessments:** One **Vocabulary Quiz and Homework Assignment** at the end of each chapter (9 total). Quizzes test recognition, forms, and basic usage (Latin ↔ English and English → Latin sentences drawn directly from the chapter text).

Additional Support

- Weekly optional Zoom office hours for live interaction.
- Email, text, and phone access to the instructor for text and syntax questions.
- Recorded office sessions available for later review.
- One full year of continuous access to all online course materials.

Grading and Assessment Breakdown

Your final grade is calculated based on consistent chapter-by-chapter work and two comprehensive benchmark examinations. Each of the nine chapters covered in this unit (Chapters I through IX) features a dedicated homework assignment and vocabulary quiz:

- **Chapter Homework & Vocabulary Quizzes (9 chapters × 7% each):** 63%
- **Midterm Examination:** 17%
- **Final Examination:** 20%
- **Total:** 100%

Course Schedule & Chapter Summaries

Capitulum I — Imperium Rōmānum

- **General Content:** This introductory chapter establishes the geographic scope of the Roman Empire. Students explore maps of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East, learning the names of major rivers, provinces, and islands in their native Latin forms.
- **Grammatical Focus:** Singular and Plural paradigms of First and Second Declension nouns using masculine, feminine, and neuter subjects; early identification of the verb *esse* (singular *est* and plural *sunt*); introduction to the subject question form *quid?* and *ubi?*.
- **Assessment:** Capitulum I Homework & Vocabulary Quiz (7%)

Capitulum II — Familia Rōmāna

- **General Content:** The narrative shifts inward to focus directly on the core Roman household of Julius and Aemilia. The text introduces their children (Marcus, Quintus, and

Iulia) alongside the domestic dynamic of masters, mistresses, and household servants.

- **Grammatical Focus:** Nominal masculine and feminine patterns in the Nominative case; introduction to the Genitive case denoting possession (*-ae, -ī*); possessive pronouns (*meus, tuus*); masculine and feminine plural forms.
- **Assessment:** Capitulum II Homework & Vocabulary Quiz (7%)

Capitulum III — Puer Improbus

- **General Content:** This chapter introduces dramatic action into the household storyline. Marcus targets and strikes his sister Iulia, leading to an immediate, tearful confrontation that brings Aemilia into the scene to manage her children's misbehavior.
- **Grammatical Focus:** Basic sentence structures containing direct transitive actions; introduction to the Accusative Case (*-um, -am*) functioning as the direct object; early distinction between active verbal endings (*-at* vs. *-ant*); relative connective clauses (*quī, quae*).
- **Assessment:** Capitulum III Homework & Vocabulary Quiz (7%)

Capitulum IV — Dominus et Servī

- **General Content:** Iulius returns home and interacts directly with his household staff, centering on accountability and financial contents. The narrative highlights the sorting and counting of coins, leading to an intense interrogation of his servant Medus.
- **Grammatical Focus:** Vocative case endings for direct address; introduction to Imperative verb formatting used for command delivery (*-ā, -ē, -ī*); expanding parsing configurations for interrogative pronouns (*quis, quem, quae*); direct negation structures.
- **Assessment:** Capitulum IV Homework & Vocabulary Quiz (7%)

Capitulum V — Villa et Hortus

- **General Content:** A spatial tour layout of the traditional grand Roman estate. The storyline explores the physical architectural dynamics of the home, transitioning cleanly from the inner walled rooms out into the open courtyard gardens.
- **Grammatical Focus:** Mastery of plural object paradigms within the Accusative case (*-ōs, -ās, -a*); systematic introduction to the Ablative case used alongside positional spatial prepositions (*in, cum, ex, ab, sine*); structural verb agreement matching mixed compound subjects.
- **Assessments:**
 - Capitulum V Homework & Vocabulary Quiz (7%)
 - **MIDTERM EXAMINATION** (Covers Chapters I–V; 17% of final grade)

Capitulum VI — Via Latīna

- **General Content:** Characters travel along the historical road network connecting Rome to Tusculum. The narrative portrays the mobility methods of antiquity, detailing masters traveling in carriage transport setups (*lecticae*) while attendants journey on foot.
- **Grammatical Focus:** Locational prepositions governing either the Accusative (*ad, ante, post, per*) or the Ablative case; foundational rules parsing the Ablative of Instrument or Means; introduction to the formatting layout of early passive verb structures (*-tur*).
- **Assessment:** Capitulum VI Homework & Vocabulary Quiz (7%)

Capitulum VII — Puella et Rosa

- **General Content:** Iulius approaches his estate and prepares to greet his daughter. The scene tracks domestic anticipation, highlighting gifts, personal ornamentation items, and reflective interactions by a water mirror layout.
- **Grammatical Focus:** Parsing nominal and pronominal modifiers within the Genitive plural configuration (*-ōrum, -ārum*); introduction to the Dative case highlighting indirect delivery targets (*-ō, -ae*); sorting out specific spatial interrogative words (*unde?, quō?*).
- **Assessment:** Capitulum VII Homework & Vocabulary Quiz (7%)

Capitulum VIII — Taberna Rōmāna

- **General Content:** Shopkeeper (*tabernarius*) Albinus managing a busy marketplace shop in town. The text provides a vibrant financial look into classic commercial life, mapping customer negotiations, jewelry sales, luxury buying exchanges, and pricing valuations.
- **Grammatical Focus:** Comparative analysis tracking variations of demonstrative pronouns (*hic, haec, hoc* vs. *ille, illa, illud*); identifying thematic root rules governing price tracking verbs and spatial nominal modifications.
- **Assessment:** Capitulum VIII Homework & Vocabulary Quiz (7%)

Capitulum IX — Pāstor et Ovēs

- **General Content:** A peaceful shift into the agrarian realities of the Roman countryside. The content tracks a lone shepherd guarding his flock against environmental dangers, moving through hillsides, shade paths, and tracking hidden predators nearby.
- **Grammatical Focus:** Full introduction to the Third Declension nominal category for masculine and feminine groupings (*pāstor, ovis*); parsing Third Declension positional agreement structures; expanding core vocabulary markers tracking rural elements.
- **Assessments:**
 - Capitulum IX Homework & Vocabulary Quiz (7%)
 - **COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAMINATION** (Covers Chapters I–IX; 20% of final grade)

Suggested Weekly Pace (Flexible)

- **Standard Pace (≈ 1 chapter per week):** Watch the chapter's specific videos + complete corresponding *Pensa* in the text + take the weekly vocabulary and form quiz.
- **Daily Recommendation:**
 - Spend 15–20 minutes in active reading aloud, tracking syntax contextually, and performing written exercise execution.
 - Dedicate targeted time to the practice of morphological forms using LatinPerDiem (LPD) supplemental drill materials.
 - Engage in extensive listening exercises by rewatching recorded classroom interactions to build oral familiarity and audio comprehension.
 - Make regular use of the Calvin's Latin Bible app to deepen language familiarity through Sacred Scripture and ancient historical creeds, while simultaneously using its platform to practice active audio recitation.

Course Policies

- **Self-Paced Progression:** Move at your own speed within the designated platform access period.
- **Academic Honesty:** All submitted homework and exam work should be entirely your own execution. The use of computerized translation tools or automated output generators is strictly prohibited; the primary objective of the natural method is to develop an intuitive capacity to think directly within the Latin language.
- **Platform Contact:** Technical issues or pedagogical questions may be submitted at any time via the communication tools on the LatinPerDiem platform.