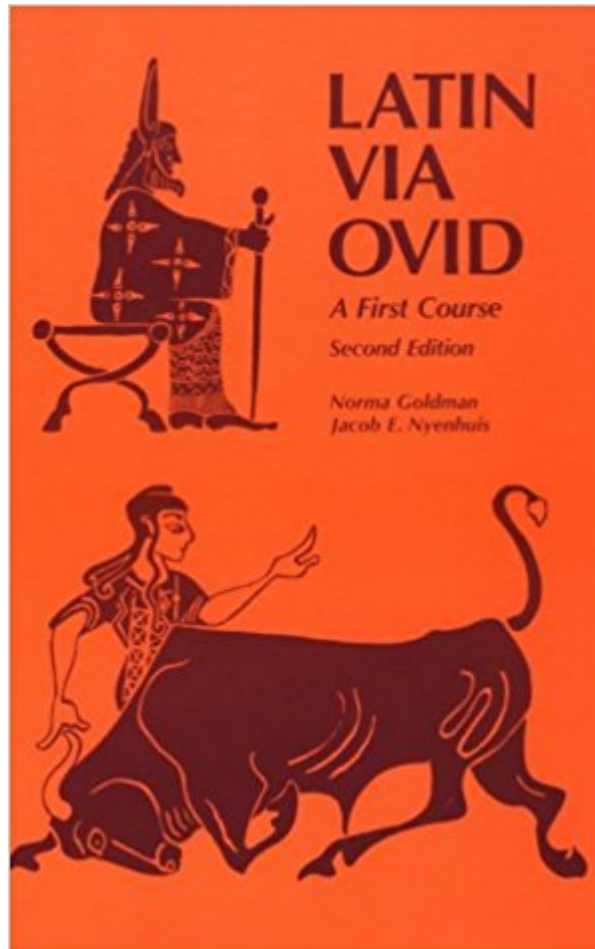


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Latin Via Ovid: A First Course Second Edition



Synopsis

Using an introduction to mythology by the master storyteller Ovid himself, the authors have prepared a unique teaching tool designed to achieve proficiency at Latin in one year at the college level, two years at the high school or intermediate level. The volume provides students with imaginative, connected reading, beginning with introductory prose versions of Ovid's simple myth tales and progressing to the rich poetry of Ovidian Latin (with appropriate teaching aids) within forty lessons. The grammatical approach is traditional, but the central emphasis is on reading. In each chapter the reading appears first, followed by the vocabulary, the grammar, exercises, and etymology relating to the vocabulary. The exercises begin with a group of questions in Latin (based on the reading), to be answered in Latin. Each tale is preceded by a brief discussion in English of the story and its mythological significance. The myths retold by Ovid and the attractive format are conceived to impel the student into acquiring the skill to read the author in the original language. For additional complimentary materials on this topic, please see Latin Via Ovid Audio materials (available via downloadable flash drive and cassette tapes) by Norma Goldman and Jacob E. Nyenhuis and the accompanying text Practice, Practice: A Latin Via Ovid Workbook by Norma Goldman and Michael Rossi.

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Customer Reviews

Using an introduction to mythology by the master storyteller Ovid himself, the authors have prepared a unique teaching tool designed to achieve proficiency at Latin in one year at the college

level, two years at the high school or intermediate level.

Text: English, Latin

I needed this book for my Introductory College Latin course. It provides a lot of information and sets up lessons in very logical ways. Sometimes, it can get a bit dull, especially during sections concerning declensions and conjugations (the text is pretty small so I think that adds to it), but the Ovidian stories really do spruce things up. If you like mythology, this is a good way to go about learning Latin. However, I do have to mention that sometimes the formation of Latin sentences in the stories are more awkward than they need to be, and there are a few occasions where unexplained topics and vague exercise directions can lead to confusion. I am sure there are plenty of equivalent (and superior) methods of learning Latin, but this textbook gets the job done just fine.

I have had eight hours of College Latin at this point. I found two surprising but very important advantages of this Ovid text. First, the text is an excellent review for someone who has had a beginning course. Each chapter has a series of numbered paragraphs on the "structure" of Latin. These paragraphs are numbered consecutively through the book, from 1 to 169. These include, eventually, all the nuts and bolts you need to know to understand a Latin text - declensions, conjugations, inflection, parts of speech, and dozens of others. These are exactly the things that the typical student who is not a prodigy has leak out of their ears immediately after finishing an introductory course. Second, the book is a great first reader. That is, as an introduction to reading "real" Latin. You are helped the first 30 chapters by readings of fables from Ovid of increasing technical difficulty. These make interesting reading based on their content. Eventually, after chapter 30, you are on your own. I found it thrilling to have a decent grasp of what Ovid was trying to say, after spending a certain number of hours on the earlier material. I found this much more satisfying as a first reader than other books advertised as first readers, like, "The Romans Speak For Themselves", and Brian Beyer's "War With Hannibal". These two, for example, spend an entire book helping you read only 7-10 Latin pages. "Latin Via Ovid" has several times as many pages like these. Much recommended

Having gone completely through Wheelock first, I can say that this book is pretty good, but not as good as Wheelock. The grammar is presented fairly well, though Wheelock's presentation is probably clearer. As someone must have said already, there is no answer key for the exercises.

You can get a sort of answer key from the publisher on request, but it only provides a translation of the main reading in each chapter and answers for only the English to Latin composition questions at the end of each chapter, but provides no answers to any of the other exercises, nor does it include translations of the "interim readings". So as an "answer key" it is pretty deficient, and it's not even included in the book. The readings become markedly more difficult as one approaches the end of the book, and so the help of an expert becomes more and more necessary as the book progresses, so for someone working on his own at home as I am, I am wishing more and more as I approach the end that I had an expert available to ask questions of. Therefore, this book is better suited for a classroom setting than home study.

Ovid's *Metamorphoses* provides the source material for this book which itself contains a wealth of fascinating stories to help keep the reader engaged. New vocabulary is introduced in each chapter which is both thorough and relevant to the text. Additionally, Latin-English and English-Latin (smaller) dictionaries are provided in the back of the book. In addition to the dictionaries, the authors have also provided appendices covering topics such as the Roman calendar, theogony, a bibliography of texts on mythology, Roman chronology, and a very useful guide to reading Roman poetry. I would highly recommend this book as an essential part of any Latin learner's library.

This is a totally amazing Latin text. People can use it to teach themselves Latin and read the stories in the original Latin. I like that the vocabulary for each story is on the back page of the story so you have to actually learn the words. The grammar is really easy to understand and the exercises are really helpful in reinforcing the grammar rules. This would be a fine text to use in a class room too. The stories are all the main myths everybody knows and a lot of other ones that will be new to most readers. I really enjoy this book.

I love the selections from Ovid in this book! I like the slow start, using words very similar to their English equivalents, and the series of exercises that follow the selection. I even enjoy the discussion of etymology at the ends of the chapters. My only complaint is the lack of answers at the back for the exercises. I'm trying to learn Latin on my own, and having the help of seeing answers would make my task somewhat less daunting. Still, taking enough care, and looking back at the examples and reading excerpt, I think I'll learn Latin well enough to read it on my own. Eventually.

As a beginner of Latin, this book is very helpful and I can learn the language step by step and the

pace is considered moderate.

I do not understand the reason for the questions above. It is a wonderful book for teaching Latin to young students.

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