

CLAS 2233 COIN1: Scientific Terminology

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Course Information (Syllabus)

Overview

This course explores how ancient Greek and Latin contribute to the meaning and structure of modern scientific vocabulary. You will learn how to recognize the component parts of scientific terms, how today's dictionary definitions of scientific terms emerged from the original Greek and Latin component meanings, and what types of rules guide the construction of new scientific terms. Each module introduces specific vocabulary that is applied cumulatively to the assignments, leading to the development of a broad core vocabulary – and strategies for interpreting unfamiliar vocabulary – by the end of the course.

Students who take this course are usually enrolled in life sciences programs or are interested in classics or linguistics. However, students from all backgrounds are welcome: you don't need to have studied Greek, Latin, or biology before taking this course. Only the vocabulary that is introduced in the course will be tested in the module quizzes and final exam.

Learning objectives:

1. To gain an understanding of the components of scientific terminology (how it's made).
2. To acquire basic scientific literacy (how it's used).

Instructor

I'm Katherine Liong, a proud Acadia alumna and past president ("Consul") of the Acadia Classics Society. I have a PhD in Classics from Edinburgh University, and I teach undergraduate courses in classics and sociology, at Open Acadia and the University of New Brunswick, respectively.

I take a hands-on approach to helping my students to succeed, and I welcome questions and curiosity. Scientific Terminology is one of my favourite courses to teach because it combines my interests in medical science with my training in ancient Greek and Latin. Before I discovered classics at university, I wanted to be a medical doctor; now I research medical metaphor in Latin oratory, and allergies in ancient societies.



Dr Katherine Liong

Pronouns: she/her/hers

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Course Materials

Required textbook: Donald Ayers. *Bioscientific Terminology*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1972. ISBN: 9780816503056.

See the [student handbook](#) for ordering information. Both hard copy and ebook formats are available at the Acadia University Bookstore, as well as from major online retailers.

Assessment

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| Quizzes | 10% |
| Assignments | 50% |
| Scientific Abstract* | 20% |
| Final Exam | 20% |
| *You must pass the scientific abstract to pass this course. | |

The **quizzes** are closed-book and have a 5-minute time limit. Results are available immediately after completion. There are 11 quizzes in total, but only the best 10 marks are counted toward your final grade.

The **assignments** and **scientific abstract** are submitted on Moodle via indicated drop-boxes. Files must be readable by Word (such as .doc, .docx, .rtf, .odf) or be in .pdf format. Clearly identify yourself and the assignment number/title on the first page of your file, and keep a back-up copy in case the original file is lost or corrupted during uploading. There are 11 assignments in total, but only the best 10 marks are counted toward your final grade. Feedback is provided as a .docx file posted on Moodle.

The **final exam** is a three-hour, "closed-book" (no notes/reference materials permitted) online exam that you complete on Moodle at your location (e.g. at home, in a library study room). It can be scheduled for any date/time, but must be requested at least 10 business days in advance. You are eligible to request your exam as soon as your scientific abstract is submitted on Moodle. See further information and use the exam request form linked here: <https://www2.acadiau.ca/online/current-students/exams.html>

You **must** pass the scientific abstract (50% minimum grade) to pass this course.

There is no extra credit work in this course. If you are unsure of the requirements for an assignment, or have an emergency that prevents you from completing or uploading your work on time, please contact me as soon as possible.

Final grades are issued as letter grades, using the university-wide conversion scale in the [student handbook](#).

Accommodations

Accommodations (e.g. additional time on tests) must be requested through the Accessible Learning Services office - <https://www2.acadiau.ca/student-life/accessiblelearning.html>.

Communication Policy

I aim to reply to emailed questions and to post assignment feedback on Moodle within 48 hours. If you've been waiting longer than this, please email me to check in! If I need to be away from the course for more than a few days (e.g. due to illness or scheduled absence), a notification will be posted on Moodle and/or emailed to your Acadia email address.

I'm happy to discuss or review assignment marks, as long as requests are made in a respectful, friendly manner. I can also confirm your final grade percentage, if you need the information for a scholarship application, etc. However, **do not** ask me to "bump up" the final grade percentage to raise your letter grade.

Course Schedule

You have six months to complete this course. The suggested schedule below is paced at one module per week to give you an idea of how quickly the course can progress with steady work. An effective schedule will take account of your other commitments (other courses, work, family, etc), and allow time for memorizing new vocabulary as well as completing the activities in each module. If you intend to complete the course in less than three months or need advice on pacing your work, please let me know so that we can arrange a suitable schedule.

Above all, please don't leave your coursework until the end of your registration period. I will make every reasonable effort to help you complete the course in time, but grading work fairly takes time, too. Graduating students are responsible for allowing sufficient time for grade processing, and for applying for transfer credit (e.g. Letter of Permission), if applicable.

See the [student handbook](#) for information about withdrawals and extensions.

Suggested Schedule

Plan and record your progress using this printable timetable form: [Blank Course Schedule CLAS 2233](#).

| Module, Topic, and Readings | Activities | Suggested Schedule |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Module 1: Greek Prefixes Read: Ch. 1-3. | Quiz 1 Assignment 1 | Week 1 |
| Module 2: Greek Suffixes 1 Read: Ch. 4-6. | Quiz 2 Assignment 2 | Week 2 |
| Module 3: Greek Suffixes 2 Read: Ch. 7-13. | Quiz 3 Assignment 3 | Week 3 |
| Module 4: Latin Prefixes Read: Ch. 21-23. | Quiz 4 Assignment 4 | Week 4 |
| Module 5: Latin Suffixes 1 Read: Ch. 24-29. | Quiz 5 Assignment 5 | Week 5 |
| Module 6: Latin Suffixes 2 Read: Ch. 30-34. | Quiz 6 Assignment 6 | Week 6 |
| Module 7: Greek and Latin BASES for Numbers, Amounts, and Size Read: Vocabulary list + ch. 1, 21 discussion sections. | Quiz 7 Assignment 7 | Week 7 |
| Module 8: Greek and Latin BASES for Parts of the Body Read: Vocabulary list + ch. 15-18 discussion sections. | Quiz 8 Assignment 8 | Week 8 |
| Module 9: Greek and Latin BASES for Medical Terminology Read: Vocabulary list + ch. 19 discussion section. | Quiz 9 Assignment 9 | Week 9 |

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| Module 10: Greek and Latin BASES for Animals Read: Vocabulary list + ch. 14 discussion section. | Quiz 10 Assignment 10 | Week 10 |
| Module 11: Greek and Latin BASES for Plants and the Environment Read: Vocabulary list. | Quiz 11 Assignment 11 | Week 11 |
| (End of Course) | Scientific Abstract Final Exam | Weeks 12-14 |

Student Handbook

Available here: <https://courseware.acadiau.ca/openacadia/studenthandbook.html>

You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the contents of the student handbook. It contains important information about ordering your textbook, scheduling your exam, applying for an extension, withdrawing from the course, and computer and library services available to you. If you have questions about the policies outlined in the handbook, contact:

Open Acadia
Rhodes Hall, 21 University Ave.
Acadia University
Wolfville, NS B4P 2R6
Phone: 902-585-1434 or 1-800-565-6568
Email: openacadia@acadiau.ca

Academic Integrity

From the Acadia University Academic Calendar:

Academic integrity demands responsible use of the work of other scholars. It is compromised by academic dishonesty such as cheating and plagiarism. A student who is uncertain whether or not a course of action might constitute cheating or plagiarism should seek in advance the advice of the instructor involved. The following are considered infractions of academic integrity and may lead to sanction:

- Cheating is copying or the use of unauthorized aids or the intentional falsification or invention of information in any academic exercise.
- Plagiarism is the act of presenting the ideas or words of another as one's own. Students are required to acknowledge and document the sources of ideas that they use in their written work.
- Self-plagiarism is also a form of plagiarism. It is the presentation of the same work in more than one course without the permission of the instructors involved.
- A student who knowingly helps another to commit an act of academic dishonesty is equally guilty.

Penalties are levied in relation to the degree of the relevant infraction. They range from requiring the student to re-do the piece of work, through failure on that piece of work, to failure in the course, and to dismissal from the university.

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