

CLA 201 H1S Latin and Greek in Scientific Terminology

Essay Assignment (revised January 2023)

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Topic: Greek and Latin in the Terminology of One Branch of Science

Due Date: Monday, March 27th, 2023

Length: 10-12 double spaced pages (circa 2000-2400 words) – This excludes the title page, bibliography & in-text citations

Grading: 20% of the final grade for the course (penalty for lateness of 2% of the essay *per diem*, automatic fail for incorrect citations – see below)
Automatic failure may result from failure to provide adequate citation (see below).

General Requirements:

The essay is drawn from a recent scientific article (dated after October 2022) from a reputable scientific journal (ex. from Roberts/Gerstein). Select a passage from this article of no more than 500 words and include it at the back of your essay. Choose 20-25 words from the article passage and highlight them in the attached article. The words must be scientific terms of Greek, Latin or Greco-Latin origin. The goal of the paper is to analyze and discuss the etymology of these words. The paper should not, however, seem like a random list, but rather a cohesive group or groups pertaining to a specific criteria or theme. For example, one group could be words which describe different species of the same animal class. Finding an organizing principle or structure for the words will play an important part in developing the intellectual progression of the paper.

Format: This is a research paper designed to test your ability to identify and decipher the Greek and Latin roots of scientific terms in a scientific text. It does not, therefore, need to argue a point. A thesis is not required, however proper essay format should apply. Please double-space your essay and number your pages. Use a 12 point standard font (e.g. Times New Roman), double-space, and use 1 to 1 ½ inch margins. Use formal academic prose. Ensure your essay is saved as a PDF document.

Hand-in as follows:

1. Cover page: Title of essay (something more specific and/or creative than “Essay for CLA201”), your name, your student number, course number, due date (and word count, if you want). Use the Crowdmark essay email to trigger your essay submission.

2. Essay:

- i. Introduction: Present your article (author, title, journal, etc.), briefly summarize it (or the section of the article you are using) and introduce the content of the paper.
- ii. Main Body Paragraphs: Present your 20-25 words in an organized fashion, making connections where possible.
- iii. Concluding Paragraph: Draw your paper together by making a statement about the observations from the research; talk about links between the words if possible.

3. Bibliography: Include all books, journals, websites and dictionaries used in the paper. Use appropriate academic sources at all times; be sure to evaluate the quality of the information presented (especially with websites). As much as possible, use a variety of sources in the analysis; this will strengthen the paper. Permitted citation formats include: MLA, APA, Chicago. Please be consistent in the chosen style. Contact a TA to ask permission to use a different style.

N.B. 1 It is vital that you acknowledge your sources for your paper; do so not only with a bibliography, but also with in-text citations. If either of these are absent, this will result in an automatic fail.

N.B. 2 The Online Etymological Dictionary is NOT an academic source; do not use <https://www.etymonline.com> for your paper.

4. Copy of article/article section used, with the selected words highlighted.

Main Body Paragraphs:

Each paragraph should introduce at least one new word. For each word, include: a) an English definition b) the Latin and Greek parts into which the word can be broken c) definition of the Latin or Greek parts d) where applicable, the Latin or Greek definition of the whole word. Note whether the Latin or Greek definition matches the English definition or whether it shows differences. Discuss the relationship between the current scientific usage of the word and the etymological origins of the elements of the word. This analysis will transform the paper into something more substantive and thoughtful than just the initial definitions. Draw your own conclusions or use sources to support your analysis.

Style: Use formal essay style throughout, i.e. complete sentences, correct grammar and spelling. Please avoid the use of “I”, point-form, contractions, slang, and abbreviations. Please be sure to proof-read your essay; do not only rely on spell-check.

Marking Scheme: The accuracy of your definitions and ability to break down correctly the chosen terms into their Greek and Latin roots will be of primary importance. The difficulty of the chosen words (avoid choosing words specifically examined in the textbook), clarity of thought and expression, and originality will also be taken into account. Remember that the following penalties apply: 2% late penalty per day & automatic fail for lack of appropriate citation (either no bibliography or no in-text citations).

Dictionaries:

*All dictionary definitions should be paraphrased and cited in the paper.
See the Additional Essay Instructions for further details on dictionary citation.

The Oxford English Dictionary is the most complete English dictionary, accessible on paper and online through the University of Toronto's e-resources.

Latin Dictionaries: *Oxford Latin Dictionary* – most recently revised in 2015
A Latin Dictionary by C. T. Lewis & Charles Short – shorter, older, but still useful
Le Grand Gaffiot: Dictionnaire français-latin – most recently revised in 2000, French dictionary, includes Late Antique/Early Medieval words.

Greek Dictionaries: *A Greek-English Lexicon* (abbreviated LSJ) by Henry George Liddell & Robert Scott, augmented by Henry Stuart Jones in 1925
Le Grand Bailly: Dictionnaire grec-français – Not as good as the Liddell & Scott, but friendly to French-speakers

Online Availability: Both the Lewis & Short as well as the Liddell & Scott are available online via the Perseus Project (<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus:text:1999.04.0059> & <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/resolveform?redirect=true>). Keep in mind, however, the Greek online dictionary is more difficult to use because it requires searching in Roman letters to represent Greek letters.