Course Review for: Biblia Sacra

The objectives scope of Biblia Sacra are clearly stated by the authors. The course is suitable for self learners that want to read and understand the Vulgate Bible of St. Jerome. The course is based on the 4th edition of the Vulgate, but I see the course being a valuable tool for almost any version of the Vulgate. For learners that want to purse classical, medieval or Renaissance Latin literature, this course would serve as a foundation for those studies but is best suited for Ecclesiastical Latin.

The introduction to the course clearly lays out the framework for proper study. The workbooks are to be used in conjunction with the audio files. The course uses original passages from the Vulgate to organically introduce and teach the sometimes dry concepts of grammar and syntax. The course is suitable for individual study and can also be used for group study as well. I found the course to be much more than a tool to learn the Vulgate or Ecclesiastical Latin. I soon realized that I was taken back to a period in history with new insights never before imagined. Learners will find themselves deriving new insights from the wisdom of the scriptures like never before. People of the Catholic faith will find the course to be a wonderful resource to help open up and reveal the history of the Church not possible without understanding Latin.

Ecclesiastical Latin and Latin in general connects our western culture to our Christian roots as well as our historical evolution as human beings. If someone has aspirations to learn any of the Romance languages such as Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Romanian, etc. then the time spent learning Latin will prove to be a good investment.

I highly recommend this course along with the Smith Latin-English dictionary.

Tim Layton