

# INSTITUTE OF OCCIDENTAL STUDIES (IKON), UKM

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**IKON SEMINAR SERIES 9/2012**

*The Importance of Latin and Ancient Greek Languages in  
Occidental Studies*

By:

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Date/Time/Venue:

**14 September 2012 (Friday),  
10.00 a.m ,  
Sudut Wacana, ATMA Building  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia,**

## Abstract

The legacy of the Romans and their Latin language to Occidental culture is indisputable. The history of Rome itself is the central theme of Western civilisation while the earlier Greek culture was mediated by Rome through adoption and absorption. Before the dawn of the modern era in Europe, education was the study of Latin and the development of national vernacular languages was indelibly influenced. The prestige of the extant corpus of Latin and Greek texts meant that Occidental literature and philosophy developed in response to and as a continuation of this legacy. The early advances in scientific knowledge were transmitted in Latin, and even the greatest scientific minds of our era were tempered by the study of Rome and Greece in their youth. The community of learned men throughout all of Occidental history shared common points of reference in Latin and Greek history, culture and language. To study Occidental culture in all its facets thus requires intimate association with these shared references, especially through the direct knowledge of the Latin and Greek languages.