Decline and Fall

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to ten letters; one is foreign and capitalized) then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right continue on the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Five across words and five down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is removed. Those ten letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a two-word phrase related to the mystery entry. Thanks to Kevin Wald '93 for test-solving and editing this puzzle.

Across

1. Conjugate in French before half of lectures
2. Small, rough, deformed male with grass
3. Sailor allowed a glass
4. Comedian's means of communication
5. Groom about to go inside cage
6. Wicked Peter has no regret
7. Commander holds terminal list
8. Get up around noon to bathe
9. Pandora cruelly denied a reprieve
10. Fellow gets $1000 for 1000 in attendance
11. Around the end of September, bring back fresh bird
12. Deviate from path heading west
13. Rode flat illegally to get tire tool
14. Seaman beginning to navigate lake
15. Bird of wondrous wanderings
16. Joined firm primarily to get exploited
17. Spread and shake arms with energy
18. Ada's had to swallow a bit
19. . . . while mother wasted ten
20. Refuse a stew that's cooked
21. Papa managed with aid, getting confused and frail at the end of a meal
22. Sapling cultivator
23. One isn't agitated with emotional strain

Down

1. Native gets medicine for new prisoner
2. Driving from bed right before eviction
3. Baby losing mass daily
4. Rack of rotting flesh
5. Member of motor gang
6. City in Arizona with large synagogue
7. Noah or Wallace like ale
8. Sing of one barrier to love
9. Clean up and clear register
10. Quick-turning cars
11. *Mystery entry*
12. Get up to wrap rector in fiber
13. Ceremonial meal includes knight and dispatcher
14. Author has a unit of work to assimilate
15. Limb covering insect is absent
16. Some pictures comprise a story
17. Malarkey about having wings
18. Clean, white residue
19. Hidden tooth has slight cavity
20. A Spanish horse in France and a wolf without a tail
21. Something small contained in something large isn't, absurdly, about eating at first
22. Secure and prepare for slaughter, losing time for initiation of sacraments