

Latin

Advanced Placement

Overview

The AP Latin course focuses on the in-depth study of selections from two of the greatest works in Latin literature: Vergil's Aeneid and Caesar's Gallic War. The course requires students to prepare and translate the readings and place these texts in a meaningful context, which helps develop critical, historical, and literary sensitivities. Throughout the course, students consider themes in the context of ancient literature and bring these works to life through classroom discussions, debates, and presentations. Additional English readings from both of these works help place the Latin readings in a significant context.

Course Content

The content of the course is organized into four broad categories of skills that students develop and apply to their study of Latin language and literature:

- Reading and Comprehending
- Translating
- Contextualizing
- Analyzing Texts

Students demonstrate competency in reading and comprehension of Latin poetry and prose (both prepared and at sight) by identifying grammatical elements of texts, explaining the meaning of words and phrases in context, and interpreting the texts. Translations are to be as literal as possible so that students demonstrate accurate knowledge of the forms and functions of the language. Contextualization implies that students go beyond the confines of the text they are reading to reach a deeper and fuller understanding of the environment in which the text was written. Finally, analyzing texts enables students to demonstrate critical and reflective reading.

Course Themes

The AP Latin course is structured around seven themes:

- Literary Genre and Style
- Roman Values
- War and Empire
- Leadership
- Views of Non-Romans
- History and Memory
- Human Beings and the Gods

Themes facilitate the integration of language, content, and culture and promote academic inquiry. The themes may be combined, as they are interrelated.

Learning Objectives

The AP Latin course provides students with opportunities to demonstrate their proficiency in each area of the course by addressing the following learning objectives. Students are expected to

- Read and comprehend Latin poetry and prose from selected authors with appropriate assistance
- Translate previously prepared Latin texts into English as literally as possible
- Relate the Latin texts to Roman historical, cultural, and literary contexts
- Analyze linguistic and literary features of one or more Latin texts.