LATIN LEVEL 4 LANGUAGE

A College Board Approved Latin Four level class
Fall 2014 – Spring 2015

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Sciens libertas est.
Vis vobiscum.

INTRODUCTION

You’ve had three years with me. You know what this is all about. Now you are part of the most elite group of students – those who are translating actual historical texts in Latin, and those who actually requested me four times.

This year, the rigor will be stepped up in terms of what I demand of you, but loosened in terms of how you do it. I am very excited about what you are translating this year, and you should be too!

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as an advanced Latin course. It will put into practice what you’ve been learning for the last three years. No more textbooks – now it’s just translating Latin. At first, it will seem tougher than last year, but then this class will be easier, as you find your feet. Stick with it, because this is what you’ve been working toward for the last 3 years.

PEDAGOGY

There will be a tremendous focus on translation and understanding the contexts of what we translate. Students will be required to translate at home daily, in addition to daily translations in class. Parsing will continue in class as well. Most translations will be with your fellow students – as groups do better than individuals when trying to understand the meanings behind the meanings.
REQUIREMENTS

Students will be required to bring their own pens, pencils, paper, and textbooks to class daily. Additionally, they will need to bring their notes to class daily, maintain a binder, and bring any work to class that the instructor has given out.

In short, bring your binder, book, and pen to class. If you come to class wearing a shirt and shoes, if you bring your cell phone to class, you can bring these things that matter to your grade.

BINDER

Keep your binder in five sections, in this order (with the syllabus at the very beginning):
Vocabulary/Grammar Notes
Cultural Notes
Classwork/Homework
Quizzes
Funny Quotes the teacher has said in class

PARTICIPATION POLICY

Any hope you have of learning a language depends on your participation verbally and loudly. Shyness is not a good excuse. We will all sound foolish learning a language, so get past that. Participate well, loudly, and often, and I guarantee you will do well. If you do not want to participate, you will not be allowed to remain in class. You have the right to fail, just not in my room.

ESSENTIAL CLASS RULES

• Be respectful at all times of the teacher, the classroom, your fellow students, and yourself. I will make sure that you do so.
• Your cell phone should be on silent in your pocket or book bag. Anything else risks immediate confiscation by the instructor.
• Tardies are not acceptable. You will miss class time, and it is disrespectful to the learning process.
• You must be working if you want to stay. Students have a right to fail, but not in my room. If you’re here, you’re working.
• Other class rules are posted in the classroom. Your attendance confirms your agreement to abide by these rules.

TARDY POLICY

As stated above, tardies are unacceptable. You are allowed 5 tardies a semester. You need to keep track of how many times you are tardy, because I will only tell you when you’ve gone over 5, by assigning a detention. Tardy means missing class, or not being ready when the bell rings. If you are late to class, you are tardy. If you go to the potty, you are tardy. If you do not have your materials out and ready, you are tardy. This is why I give you 5 for free. You should not need to go to the bathroom during class more than once a month. If you need to do so more often, reschedule your day.
CELL PHONE POLICY

Do not have your cell phone out, or audible during class. Your phone will be confiscated, and it will be turned in to the office upon the first offense. Please, save yourself the trouble, and me the paperwork. Just go without the danged phone for an hour while you’re with me. If your family really needs to get a hold of you, they will call the school, or you can get to it after this class. If you believe you have an exception to this rule, you must see me ahead of time.

GRADING POLICY

A = 90-100%
B = 80-89.99%
C = 70-79.99%
D = 60-69.99%
F = 0-59.99%

The grading will go as follows:

- Quizzes: 33%
- Translations: 33%
- Comprehensive Final: 34%

You have the opportunity to redo any classwork or homework for which you did not receive a satisfactory grade. Simply redo it before the next chapter is begun, and staple the old corrected work to the back of the new improved work. This is an easy way to keep your grade up, and of course, to LEARN THE LANGUAGE.

Quizzes can also be redone within three days of getting them. They must be done after school and in my room, unless I say otherwise. You must staple the old one to the back of the new one.

Extra Credit (variable%): You may watch movies, or read books that I have deemed worthy of extra credit. To claim the extra credit, simply write up a two-page essay about how the chosen movie/book relates to what you have learned. To make it safe for yourself, please consult me about the movie/book, so as to not waste work and time.

MAKE-UP WORK

I will allow make-up work if the following conditions are met:

- You provide me with a doctor’s note, or
- You call or tell me ahead of time about the planned absence, and we arrange for you to make up the work

The make-up work will often be the same as the assigned work – in terms of you classwork and homework. Please make work up when you have been absent, or get the assignments from a partner in class, and do it during your absence.


SPECIAL BONUS

If every student scores a passing score (70-100%), then the class as a whole will get a 5% flat bonus to their score on that assignment. This does not apply to participation.

FINAL INFORMATION

This syllabus, and all of the information contained therein, is subject to change at the teacher’s discretion. I want you to succeed. You just need to want to as well.

COURSE OUTLINE (vocab will be ongoing)

1. Catullus
2. Caesar
3. Cicero**

Review for Final
4. Livy
5. Plautus**
6. Ovid**

Review for Final

** - optional, time and instruction permitting
MOVIES AND MUSIC

At times, we will watch movies and listen to music in this class. Some words and images will be considered adult themes, including language, violence, and brief partial nudity. Your parents/guardians must sign this slip if they DO NOT want you to see these movies. If they do not have a problem with this, then this does not need to be signed. I assure you and your parents/guardians that the movies are picked with the utmost educational value in mind, not for entertainment value.

By signing here, I affirm that I DO NOT want my child to watch movies in Mr. Harmony’s Latin class. I understand that his choices are educationally-minded, but I do not find them acceptable for my child/ward to watch. I understand that my child will not suffer any scholastic pressure to watch these movies, and that a fair and alternate assignment will be given.

___________________________________   ________________________
parent/guardian signature     date
I understand, and though I may not like them, I fully accept Mr. Harmony's terms and methods for my learning Latin from him. My signature at the bottom of this page signifies my deliberate agreement to abide by Mr. Harmony's requirements. Failure to turn in this signature sheet signifies my tacit consent to abide by Mr. Harmony's requirements.

_____________________________________                 ______________
student signature                                                                  date

I have read, and though my child may not want me to, I also agree to help hold my child to the high standards he/she deserves to be held to. I fully understand Mr. Harmony's intentions, policies, and reasons. Failure to sign is my tacit acceptance of these terms.

_____________________________________                ______________
parent signature                                                                  date

_______________________________
night-time phone number to contact

daytime phone number to contact

email address – please print legibly