

Welcome to Mr. Arwe's Honors Latin 3/4 Class

Course syllabus and Classroom Policies and Procedures

Course Content

The material in this course comprises a survey of selected authors writing on significant historical events in the Roman ancient world. After an initial review of the Latin grammar covered in Latin 1 and 2, the class will immediately embark on a study of four particular and seminal events in Roman history. The first quarter will cover the events of 58-52 BCE and specifically the Roman military campaign against Gaul as described by Caesar (100-44 BCE) in his *Commentarii De Bello Gallico*. The second quarter will cover 100-60 BCE and specifically the Catilinian Conspiracy and political rise of Caesar described by Cicero (106-43 BCE) in his speeches to the Senate (*In Catilinam*) and by Suetonius (69-122 CE) in his *De Vita Caesarum*. The third quarter will cover 37-68 CE and specifically the intrigues of the Julio-Claudian families as detailed in the writings of Suetonius again in the *De Vita Caesarum* and Tacitus (56-117 CE) in his *Annals*. The fourth quarter will cover the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius and the destruction of Pompeii and Herculaneum in 79 CE as witnessed by Pliny the Younger (61-112 CE) and detailed in his letters to Tacitus. The underlying goal of the course will be to develop an understanding of Latin literature through the reading and study of the writings of these authors and others; to learn about the history and culture of the ancient Roman civilization; and to recognize and appreciate the connections between Roman and modern political and social developments. Many of the details of this syllabus as well as many of the handouts can be found at my website: www.mrarweslatin.weebly.com.

Core Objectives and Expectations: *Our focus this year will be on reinforcing and expanding our knowledge of the core of Latin vocabulary knowledge that was acquired over the past two years, including relevant English derivatives; reemphasizing the structure of texts, including how specific words, phrases, clauses and sentences relate to each other and the whole; demonstrating a more fluent command of the conventions of standard Latin and English grammar and usage; and honing our abilities to read and comprehend literary texts of advanced complexity independently and proficiently (from College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading and Language).*

Texts:

Students will be provided with copies of the texts relevant to the material of each quarter as well as websites that may contribute to their understanding of those texts. Students will be expected to purchase a Latin-English dictionary to assist them in their daily translating.

Classroom Expectations

To attend class and to be on time

To come to each class prepared with pen/pencil, book, paper and any homework completed

To participate in class and to be respectful of other students and teachers

To pass in all assignments timely and as neatly as possible

To talk to your teacher if you have any questions or concerns

No writing on or defacing books, desks or other school property without permission

NO food, drink, candy, gum, hats, or electronic devices in class

Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated; any such activity may result in a zero on the work as well as a five point reduction in your final quarter grade

Homework:

Homework, made up almost consistently of literal translations from original texts, is crucial to improving your skills in reading, writing and analysis. This class succeeds or fails on your ability to complete your homework assignments consistently and thoroughly. There is very little written homework assigned in this class but daily performance grades will be assigned based upon your ability to perform orally in the class analysis of the daily lines. Grading will be based on a scale of check plus (95), check (85), check minus (75), and unprepared (0).

Late work:

It is **YOUR** responsibility to make up work if you are absent. **YOU** must schedule a time with me to make up any missed work, including quizzes or tests. If you have not made up the work within 5 school days of return, you may be given a zero on the work.

Extra-Help:

I will be available for extra help or make-up work before school almost every day and after school every day but Friday. You need to make prior arrangements with me regarding day and time.

Assessments:

Each student **EARNs** his or her own grade. Expectations will always be clearly outlined and discussed in advance of an assignment's due date. The following is a breakdown of how you will be graded:

Quarterly Assessment	20% of grade
Tests (four each per quarter)	40% of grade
Quizzes (four each per quarter)	20% of grade
Homework (includes in-class assignments, etc.)	10% of grade
Classwork (includes behavior, participation, performance, etc.)	10% of grade

One of the above-referenced Test grades will be based upon a group project involving the drafting, editing and performance of a brief three-act play entirely in Latin.

Please note the importance of class participation to your grade. This means that you will be rewarded for consistent and thoughtful participation, but repeated absences or lack of preparation will cost you. It is of vital importance that you contribute meaningfully to class lessons.

Final Note:

The rules and regulations outlined in the *Lowell High School Handbook* are taken very seriously in this classroom. In particular, the following should be noted:

- Your ID badge must be visible at all times- do not enter the room without it prominently displayed. Do not take it off once the class has begun.
- Hats, Headbands, bandannas are not allowed in class and must not be visible.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices should be out of sight and turned off.

I am looking forward to working with you this school year. It is my hope that you will learn a lot from the work that we do. I also hope to learn a great deal from you. I welcome communications from parents/guardians as well as feedback from students.