

Salvete, Omnes! You have just made the most excellent educational decision of your whole life in deciding to take Latin I. In this class, you will not only learn how to read, write, and speak the Latin language, but also you will be introduced to the most fascinating culture that the world has known. You will learn about those crazy Romans, who conquered their whole known world and unified with the same language and civilization three continents and parts of *fifty-six present nations*.

Latin and the Roman civilization are the glue that has held together western civilization for the last 22 centuries. Many of you are taking Latin because you wanted to do better on your SAT's. Bravo! You will do that and so much more. In learning Latin, you will now be able to understand the mind of not just the Romans, but also just about every major author, playwright, musician, artist, and moviemaker in those 22 centuries. Latin is the thing without which you can not (the sine qua non) understand the culture of your parents, grandparents and the entire modern world. Will it not be great when you return from an exciting movie having sucked every ounce of meaning from its reel? *Matrix*, *Titanic*, *Harry Potter*, *O Brother*, *Where Art Thou?*, *Gladiator*, *Tombstone*, *Lord of the Rings* are all superb, but once you know of the Romans and Latin, you will truly understand all that their makers wanted to convey to you. Even our own school, Northview High School Titans, takes its name from the ancient world mythology which we will study in here. Now you too can trade, barter, and exchange in the currency of the educated world—**LATIN!**

Course Information

I. Class Materials

- 1 (one) 1.5" thick 3-ring binder (available at the Agora)
- 2 to 3 hundred sheets of notebook (filler) paper
- Pens/Pencils
- Our texts (The Cambridge Latin Series, Units 1 and 2) (\$28 and \$29 respectively)—*Put a book cover on this ASAP.*

II. Grading Procedures

All Fulton County grading policies are in effect in this classroom. Your grade will be on the percentage system and will be broken down as follows for THE FIRST SEMESTER:

Homework—15% As in all foreign languages, practice is the key to mastery. With the data showing overwhelmingly the direct correlation between time spent at home and class performance, I have decided to reward the hard work which you will put in at home. Each semester there will be 15 unannounced homework checks, each constituting 1/15th of the total homework grade. Homework will be given usually four days a week.

Daily Grades/Participation—10% Your class performance will also be graded. These daily grades and participation will be a combination of worksheets, in-class translation participation, pronunciation mastery and group work.

Tests—30% There will be between 6 and 8 major tests each semester, each building upon previously learned skills, knowledge and information.

Quizzes—20% Each stage will have its own quiz. We should cover about 10 stages of our book each semester, with a few extra-book chapters involving mythology and cultural items.

Project – 10% Each semester there will be an assigned project. Details will be given as we go along.

Final Exam—15% There will be a cumulative final exam given in accordance with Fulton County policy.

FOR THE SECOND SEMESTER, the above percentages apply, with the following two changes: 1. Daily Grades and participation will become 5% and 2. The Final Exam will be called an “End of the year assessment” which is decided upon by the county and will be worth 20%.

III. Make-ups/Late Work

We will follow the policy listed in the handbook. For every day of absence, you will have as many days plus the day of return to complete your make-up and receive any credit. As is listed in the handbook, unexcused absence work can receive a maximum 75% credit. Excused absence work can be made up for full credit. Please notify me immediately upon the occurrence of such emergencies so that we might make proper contingencies. Remember that it is your

responsibility to arrange to get your assignments. I will not chase you down to make sure that you make up your work. The proper time to ask about make-ups is not in the middle of class; it is either before class begins or at some other time convenient for me throughout the day.

Make-up quizzes and tests are taken here in my classroom either before or after school, according to the arrangements that YOU make with me. You have just as many days as you would for any other assignment, it is just that these are more important. Please make proper accommodations promptly, not at the last minute.

Late work for MAJOR assignments (projects essentially) will be accepted for 10% off for each day late. For other assignments such as homework and daily work, late work will not be accepted.

Provision for Improving Grades (formerly known as the “recovery” policy) – Updated from Board Policy Docs – Aug 2012

Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities. Teachers are expected to establish a reasonable time period for recovery work to be completed during the semester. All recovery work must be directly related to course objectives and must be completed ten school days prior to the end of the semester.

Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.

I am so very excited about all that we will learn in Latin I this year. I hope, as well, that you will consider membership in the largest non-profit educational organization in the world, the Junior Classical League, which we call the Latin Club. It looks great on a resume and is an opportunity to deepen your knowledge of the ancient world, be collegial with Latin students in schools nationwide, and participate in challenging academic, artistic and athletic contests (which coincides nicely with our stated mission here at Northview High School).

Course Objectives (following the 4 Cs of Classical Languages)

By the end of this course you will be able to:

1. read edited Latin passages.
2. know English vocabulary words and their Latin roots.
3. pronounce Latin passages correctly.
4. compare and contrast the patterns of grammar and structure of Latin to English.
5. identify archaeological and artistic forms of the ancient world.
6. know cultural information about ancient Rome (family life, gender roles, leisure time, daily activities, postal service, travel, roads, children and their behavior, entertainment, hospitality, and city life)
7. know certain historical and literary facts about the ancient world (mythology, the legendary beginnings and early republic of Rome)

Latin Behavioral Expectations

I strive to build a positive environment in my classroom, as is quickly evident. I would characterize myself as a somewhat goofy, fun-loving teacher who takes his subject quite seriously. I know that you will feel inspired, encouraged, challenged, and made aware of many new things in your journey into the world of Latin. I prefer to have as few rules as possible because I want you to feel your freedom in this classroom.

However, **outside of the student policies found in the handbook**, the following are a few things that I insist upon that will most assuredly help us get along better and, most importantly, accomplish our goal in being here; that is, to become excellent translators of the Latin language:

1. I expect immediate and complete compliance the first time I ask you to do something.
2. Respect everyone (the golden rule).
3. EXCELLENCE is the only option.

This is the way that we will deal with non-threatening “mess-ups” in the classroom:

1. The first time, I will verbally remind you (usually in a creative, comedic, but non-humiliating way).
2. The second time, there will be an assigned detention and you and I will have an after class chat.
3. The third time, there will be an assigned detention and your parents and I will have a chat (I will call them or e-mail them).
4. The fourth time will result in referral to an administrator.

Tardies: A tardy defined: Not *in your seat* at the sounding of the late bell. I will start class the moment the late bell sounds. Our 180 days of blissful time with each other will pass before we know it. I need every second to accomplish our common goal. The first two tardies per semester are on the house. Any ensuing tardies will be dealt with in the manner presented in the student handbook.

Honor Code: As explained in the student handbook, cheating is defined as “the giving or receiving, in any form, information relating to a gradable experience.” Violations of the honor code will result in a zero for the assignment, plus an honor code violation form placed in the student’s disciplinary file. Read the handbook carefully to fully understand what constitutes a violation. You may also ask me.

Office Hours: I will be available for extra help two times during the week: Monday after school, 3:35 pm – 4:00 pm, and on Wednesday before school, 7:45 am – 8:15 am. You may also make appointments to see me as necessary, and, of course, if an emergency arises I am always available to listen compassionately. Tutoring is usually available through our Latin Honor Society which can be contacted through the website. I, also, have a list of professional tutors, if needed.

A note to my Latin Parents:

In case your child has not informed you, my name is Neal David. I am the Latin teacher here at Northview High School. I am *extremely* excited about the upcoming year and look forward to having some very positive interactions with all of you. I need you to expect to see your child come home with Latin homework most days (there will be exceptions occasionally). The second reason is to ask for your help in another way: the Northview Latin Club (Junior Classical League). *Please encourage your child(ren) to join.* Some of the benefits of membership:

1. Each year, we take a weekend in April to meet with 1000 other Latin students across the state at the Latin convention at Rock Eagle.
2. Each year, we take a week long national convention at a major college and university to meet with around 1600 Latin students from across the nation.
3. JCL gives out many thousands of dollars of scholarships to students who are going off to college and have exhibited interest in the classics over their years in high school

4. The National Latin Exam and The Medusa National Mythology Exam are paid for by the dues (with an option to add the National Etymology and Roman Civilization Exams, and, new this year, the National Latin Vocabulary Exam).
5. JCL is FUN and gives many different types of students from diverse backgrounds a place in which they can make friends and share common interests. We have our own website.

**(<http://www.northviewjcl.wordpress.com>)--
VISIT THIS AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE—
this year, we hope to use the website in some
new and class-effective ways.**

6. The only way to get the Latin club t-shirt is to be a part of the Latin club and, when you wear the shirt on test days, it has a “magical” effect.

This is only a short list of all the amazing benefits of Latin club. The students love Latin Club and it is truly a fascinating and very large nationwide organization. If you need to reach me, e-mail me at: davidn1@fulton.k12.ga.us. My number here is: 770-497-3828; ext. 248. Vobis gratias omnibus (thanks to you all)!!!