

Eighth Grade Latin: C

Course Expectations and Requirements

Mr. Smith, *magister*

Materials:

- A quality 3-ring binder (not the cheap floppy kind) with at least a 1½ inch spine
- 5 dividers for the binder
- Ecce Romani text book (supplied)
- Index cards for Vocabulary
- Writing utensils
- Plenty of lined paper
- Occasionally you will need art supplies (ruler, colored pens or pencils, crayons)

Content: The Latin C course continues the sequence of Latin begun in Latin A. It completes the grammar of a traditional Latin I class and most of the content of a Latin II course. It continues to introduce students to the study of the fundamentals of Latin grammar and vocabulary. Most of our time is spent learning new words and grammar and then practicing by translating Latin into English as well as English into Latin. In this class, students will develop skills of memorization, analysis, translation, comprehension, listening, reading, and pronunciation. Most importantly, we will learn to pay careful attention to details.

Additional topics will focus on the relationship between English and Latin language, etymology, mythology, ancient history, art, literature, and civilization.

Procedures: At the start of each week, you will receive a weekly calendar that lists the objectives of the week's lessons, all homework assignments, and any quizzes or tests. You are expected to maintain a binder for recording notes and endings, storing handouts, homework assignments, and lectures. I have created a 94 page booklet in outline format for recording these notes. Some notes have already been printed for you, you will copy the rest of the notes from the board. Binders will be collected periodically and graded for organization and completion.

Each term, I strive to be the teacher who gives the most notes. Let me know if I need to catch up with another of your classes.

During class, you will be graded for accuracy in translation. I will call upon students to read and translate Latin on a rotation. Each time you translate, you will receive a grade for pronunciation, accuracy, and knowledge of the grammar. This will make a significant contribution to your grade.

Homework Policy: There will be 20 minutes of homework every night, Monday through Friday, and often over the weekend. It will mostly involve memorizing lists of vocabulary and endings, written exercises and translations, and reviewing material for tests. The purpose of homework is to reinforce the lessons taught in class. You will discover that the more time you spend with homework, the easier the class will seem. Part of each night's homework includes reviewing vocabulary cards.

Written homework will be checked and graded as a significant part of the term grade. Even the smartest students who do not complete homework will fail, while the students who struggle most will certainly pass if they do the work. You are expected to spend at least 20 minutes each night learning your Latin. Homework assignments are often preparation for the next class lesson, so missed assignments will make class difficult.

Homework assignments are graded out of 10 points. Completed homework (or proof of spending 25 minutes on an assignment) counts for full credit. If a student arrives unprepared for class, Ridgeview policy states that it can be completed the next day for 50% credit. After that, no credit can be awarded for incomplete work. Since in-class translation counts as a major component of your grade, preparation of the translations is essential to success.

N.B. It is your responsibility to be sure that I record late work in the grade book.

Assessments: Your grade will be calculated on this scale (subject to change at semester):

Homework: 20%

Quizzes: 20%

Tests: 30%

Reading Pronunciation: 5%

Oral Translation: 20%

Participation: 5%

Quizzes: will be frequent – usually a vocabulary and a grammar quiz for each chapter. Two days notice will be given before a quiz and we will prepare for the quiz in class, with additional studying at home. You may make corrections to quizzes for half of the points. (For example, if you score 6 out of 10 on a vocabulary quiz, you may do corrections. Write the Latin word and its English definition 10 times on the back of the quiz. Your grade will then improve to 8 out of 10.)

N.B. Corrections must be hand-written.

Tests: Every effort will be made to conduct major tests on days that do not conflict with other classes. Tests involve objective questions about vocabulary and grammar (did you memorize?) translation (can you read Latin?) English understanding (do you see how Latin influences English?) questions about Latin grammar (can you analyze a Latin sentence?) and a short essay about Roman culture (did you take good notes, read and think about the culture lectures?). I always give a practice test as part of the review unit. I expect that we will have two or three tests each quarter. Once you have taken one “Smith test” they are predictable and easy to pass.

Participation: This grade depends upon completion of daily warm-up exercises as well as general conduct, respectful language, willingness to participate in activities, and ideas voiced in class.

I am always willing to discuss grading and evaluation with students and parents. A report of grades can easily be printed upon request and will be distributed periodically.

Extra Help: At the request of students, there can be additional review sessions before major tests. Students can also meet with me before or after school or during lunch. The best way to contact me is via email (tsmith@ridgeviewclassical.com) and I generally do not use voice mail. In an emergency, you may contact me at home, but only after attempting to get an answer to the problem from a classmate or parents. Please do not call after 9:00 pm. My home phone is 407-9892.

A note on cheating: Cheating will not be tolerated. Any student caught cheating *in flagrante delicto* (and I will catch you, oh yes, I will) will suffer dire consequences. Cheating includes copying homework from another student. A zero will be entered for the assignment grade. I will call the student's parents and inform them of the incident. The student will also be sent to Mr. Carpine.

Student signature:

Parent/guardian signature: