

Latin HS1



Dr. Clark
Department of Foreign Language and Literature
Bard High School Early College
Spring 2008
Room 513, M WRF 11:45-12:35

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this class we will learn the essentials of the Latin language. Our text is *Latin Via Ovid*, by Norma Goldman and Jacob E Nyenhuis (hardcover) 2nd edition (1982), Wayne State University Press (ISBN: 0814317324). An important ancillary text is Norma Goldman's *English Grammar for Students of Latin* 2nd edition (April 1993) Olivia & Hill Press (ISBN: 0934034192). This text has proved quite helpful for students who need a review of the fundamentals of English grammar. Students may borrow a copy as needed.

The class will complete the first 12 chapters of *LVO* this semester. The first and second conjugation and the perfect systems of all four conjugations, as well as the first three noun declensions will be introduced.

GRADING

There will be weekly quizzes—sometimes more than one a week—and a test on each chapter of *LVO*. The grade will be calculated in the following manner:

- 45%: tests (the lowest grade will be dropped)
- 20%: quizzes (the lowest grade will be dropped)
- 15%: midterm exam (March 31)
- 20%: final exam (TBA)

The first semester of language study is without doubt the most crucial: this is the foundation upon which any progress in the language must rest. Consequently, this course has been designed so that any student at BHSEC who participates attentively in class, does the homework and spends the necessary time preparing for tests (this will vary from student to student) will pass with flying colors. First semester Latin is not rocket science; it just takes a modicum of effort and responsibility. Tutoring is available from the instructor as well as from advanced students: **it is not a substitute for doing the required work.** *I cannot stress enough how important it is not to fall behind this first semester.* If this happens, the student will not be prepared to continue with second semester Latin, thus endangering his or her ability to meet the college's language requirement. Any student whose average falls below 80 after the second test is required to attend weekly tutoring during 0 period.

Extra Credit: *I, Claudius* and Imperial Rome. One afternoon a week (either Friday, or during Dean's Hour) I will be showing the 1970s PBS series *I, Claudius*. **ALL** students are encouraged to come this. Though the production values are VERY low, it's nonetheless superfabulous: just wait till you get to know Augustus' massively wicked and ruthless wife, Livia, as portrayed by the sublime Sian Phillips. Short discussions will follow and students are encouraged to study any cultural topics that appeal to them (slavery, public libraries, Roman food, sexuality, apartment buildings, clothing, gladiators, etc.) and present their findings during class. Students may only miss one of the 13 episodes to receive credit. All episodes must be watched with the class for credit.