

AP Latin: Vergil and Caesar

Leon High School

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Course Objectives: This AP Latin course is designed to give students the experiences needed to be successful on the College Board AP Latin exam. The course's goals are to develop the students' abilities to translate the required passages from Caesar's *De Bello Gallico* and Vergil's *Aeneid* into English as literally as possible, to help them understand the context of the written passages (including the political, historical, literary, and cultural background of each author and text), and to help them understand the reasons behind the particular style of writing and the rhetorical devices employed. The course should also help students to be successful in analyzing Latin passages to understand how and why the author uses the language in a particular way and the effects he is hoping to produce. Students will learn to analyze the text and draw their own logical conclusions. This course should give students tools to read Latin prose and poetry aloud and with accurate comprehension and appreciation. For the Vergil text, students will learn dactylic hexameter and how it is used to enhance the text and create effect, and students will scan the poetry at least once a week.

- Classroom Rules:**
1. Be in your assigned seat when the bell rings. Remain seated until you are given permission to get up.
 2. Be prepared! Bring your materials every day, including textbook, notebook, homework, and supplies.
 3. Be respectful of your classmates, teacher, and school at all times.
 4. Cheating results in a zero

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity violations can include plagiarism, cheating, and unauthorized group work on any assignment, project, or test.

If a student is caught the following will occur:

- The student will receive an F with zero credit.
- The citizenship grade will be lowered for the grading period.
- A notice will be recorded with the guidance office.

Any occurrence of academic dishonesty may be reported by the guidance office on college admissions applications.

Course Overview

Students will be expected to read the *De Bello Gallico* and the *Aeneid* in an English translation within the first two weeks of undertaking the study of the particular text at hand. These English versions of the texts will be systematically reviewed as context for the Latin readings as we progress through the course.

Students are expected to keep up with assignments on a daily basis. At each class meeting, they will be expected to translate literally and demonstrate comprehension of the Latin passages from books 1, 4, 5, and 6 of Caesar's *De Bello Gallico* in the fall semester and passages from books 1, 2, 5, and 6 in Vergil's *Aeneid* in the spring semester, prior to taking the AP exam.

Students will be provided an annotated text of *De Bello Gallico* and the *Aeneid*, and will be expected to use it along with a modern translation to complete the following assignments:

- Daily literal translation: Students are required to keep and use a spiral or composition notebook to record their daily literal translations. Along with the notebook, students are to bring daily their Caesar or Vergil text, their writing materials, and highlighters.
- Each week, through presentations (both student and teacher generated) and discussions of cultural and historical topics, characters, geography of the ancient world, and relevant

literary techniques students will gain an accurate appreciation of the historical, cultural, and literary contexts. Students will use specific terminology throughout the course to refer to grammar and literary devices.

- After 30-40 line units, students will demonstrate comprehension through discussions and by formulating and answering questions (written and oral) about passage content, grammar, literary techniques, and vocabulary. Students will also receive handouts and worksheets related to specific passages, and they will complete questions as they read through the passage. Students will work on these unit worksheets independently and also by discussing the questions in small groups.
- Students will take a quiz over the assigned passages each week. Questions will include giving a literal translation of a section of the passage; short answers on identifying themes and uses of the language including specific terminology for grammar and literary devices; relevant vocabulary, grammar, scansion, historical and cultural content, and literary techniques.
- Students will read selections from their passages aloud to partners or the class, on a weekly basis. When reading poetry, they will scan and read aloud in meter.
- Students will be given a list of new vocabulary words each week, and be expected to make vocabulary flashcards to review daily. Students are expected to retain this vocabulary and build a working vocabulary for both stories.
- Students will take vocabulary quizzes every week based on their flashcard words.
- Every two to three weeks, after students have read and analyzed key passages, they will take a test on the passages. Tests will cover the same content as the quizzes but also add an essay component involving analysis, discussion of motives, political and social relevance, and themes. Emphasis will be on finding evidence in the Latin text to support their ideas. Short answers and multiple-choice questions based upon sight-readings will also be included. Sight-readings will be drawn from non-syllabus- based prose and poetry, e.g., Cicero, Catullus, Ovid, Martial, Sallust, and Pliny.
- At least once a quarter, students will be required to write a take home essay that shows understanding of a prompt with related passages of Latin.
- Cumulative semester exams will cover the selected books from *De Bello Gallico* and the *Aeneid*. Scansion, multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions on content, background, and style will be used. Selections from sight passages will be included for analysis and comprehension. Objective questions will cover the English readings over the selected books.
- Students will practice for the multiple-choice section of the AP exam by frequent reading of unseen passages from several Roman authors, throughout the semester. In addition to the tests and cumulative exams, students will read at least two unseen passages each nine weeks of both poetry and prose from authors such as Cicero, Catullus, Ovid, Martial, Sallust, and Pliny. Students will be encouraged to read aloud passages to demonstrate comprehension. Students will answer comprehension, stylistic, and grammar questions on the passages.

Methods of Instruction

A variety of instructional methods will be employed to allow all students to develop their reading comprehension and critical thinking skills. Students will be working together on daily assignments.

Each class meeting, students will tell me the content of each passage and go over literal translations they have already prepared. They will then be given assignments and asked to work together to accomplish the daily class work.

Students will also be doing individual research projects on a specific cultural or historical topic from the *De Bello Gallico* or the *Aeneid*, or on the life and works of Caesar or Vergil. Each student will complete one project on Caesar in the first semester and on Vergil in the second. Project presentations will be ongoing throughout the first (Caesar) and second (Vergil) semesters.

Required Texts

- Mueller, Hans-Friedrich. *Caesar: Selections from De Bello Gallico*. Bolchazy-Carducci, 2012. Cost \$52.00
- Williams, Rose and Debra L.Nousek. *A Caesar Workbook*. Bolchazy-Carducci, 2012. Cost \$29.00
- Mandelbaum, Allen, tr. *The Aeneid of Virgil*. University of California, 2007. Cost \$6.99
- Boyd, Barbara Weiden. *Aeneid: Selected Readings from Books 1, 2, 4 and 6*. Bolchazy-Carducci, 2012. Cost \$44.00
- Bradley, Katherine, and Barbara Weiden Boyd. *A Vergil Workbook*. Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, 2nd ed., 2012. Cost \$29.00

Grading Distribution: Grades will be weighted based on the following categories.

10% - Daily assignments, discussions, reading passages aloud; worksheets on grammar, culture, or language; vocabulary flashcards.

20% - Keeping a running translation of our translations of *De Bello Gallico* and the *Aeneid* in their notebooks.

30% - Weekly quizzes on recent passages including multiple choice items on content and comprehension, short answer on literary technique and scansion; and bi-weekly vocabulary quizzes.

40% -Projects and Tests. One project on a historical event or cultural theme a semester with ongoing individual presentations. Tests will be given every 3-4 weeks on a larger section of the readings from the Latin texts. These will include essays in which students must interpret and analyze passages based on the question and provide textual evidence to support their opinions; literal translations of passages; short answers on stylistic uses within the text and on the required English readings; scansion of 5-6 lines; multiple choice items will cover relevant content, vocabulary, literary style, and grammar on sight passages.

Grading Scale:	A 90-100	D 60-69
	B 80-89	F 0-59
	C 70-79	

Course Schedule

First Nine Weeks

1. Read the entire *Aeneid* in translation Chapters 1-12 and discuss as contextual background throughout the Latin readings.
 - a. Discuss important background information on Vergil and the *Aeneid*
 - b. Go over rubric for Creative Project on Vergil or the *Aeneid* (presentations of creative projects are ongoing)
 - c. Read *Aeneid* Book 1: 1-60
2. Read *Aeneid* Book 1: 61-120
3. Read *Aeneid* Book 1: 121-181
4. Read *Aeneid* Book 1: 182-209, 418-440
5. Read *Aeneid* Book 1: 494-578
6. Test on *Aeneid* Book 1
 - a. Discuss background information on Book 2
 - b. Read *Aeneid* Book 2: 40-56, 201-249

7. Read *Aeneid* Book 2: 268-297, 559-589
8. Read *Aeneid* Book 2: 590-620
9. Review and take Unit Exam on *Aeneid* Books 1 and 2

Second Nine Weeks

1. Discuss background information on Book 4
 - a. Read *Aeneid* Book 4: 160-218
2. Read *Aeneid* Book 4: 259-309
3. Read *Aeneid* Book 4: 310-361
4. Read *Aeneid* Book 4: 659-705
5. Test on *Aeneid* Book 4
 - a. Discuss background information on Book 6
 - b. Read *Aeneid* Book 6: 295-332, 384-404
6. Read *Aeneid* Book 6: 405-425
7. Read *Aeneid* Book 6: 450-476, 847-877
8. Read *Aeneid* Book 6: 878-899
 - a. Review *Aeneid* Books 1, 2, 4, 6
9. Review and take Semester Exam on *Gallic Wars* Books 1, 4, 5, 6 and *Aeneid* Books 1, 2, 4, 6

Third Nine Weeks

1. Read *De Bello Gallico* in translation, Books 1-7
 - a. Discuss important background information on Caesar and the *Gallic Wars* & rubric for creative project on Caesar or *De Bello Gallico* (presentations of creative projects are ongoing)
 - b. Read *De bello Gallico* Book 1: Chapter 1
2. Read *De Bello Gallico* Book 1: Chapters 2-3
3. Read *De Bello Gallico* Book 1: Chapters 4-5
4. Read *De Bello Gallico* Book 1: Chapters 6-7
 - a. Review Book 1
 - b. Test Book 1
5. Read *De Bello Gallico* Book 4: Chapters 24-26
6. Read *De Bello Gallico* Book 4: Chapters 27-30
7. Read *De Bello Gallico* Book 4: Chapters 31-34
8. Read *De Bello Gallico* Book 4: Chapter 35 and the first sentence of Chapter 36 (Eodem die legati . . . venerunt.)
9. Review and take Unit Exam on *Gallic Wars*, Books 1 and 4 and on the English readings.

Fourth Nine Weeks

1. Read *De Bello Gallico* Book 5: Chapters 24-29
2. Read *De Bello Gallico* Book 5: Chapters 30-35
3. Read *De Bello Gallico* Book 5: Chapters 36-41
4. Read *De Bello Gallico* Book 5: Chapters 42-48
5. Test on Book 5
6. Read *De Bello Gallico* Book 6: Chapters 13-14
7. Read *De Bello Gallico* Book 6: Chapters 15-16
8. Read *De Bello Gallico* Book 6: Chapters 17-18
9. Read *De Bello Gallico* Book 6: Chapters 19-20
 - a. Review and take Semester Exam on the *Gallic Wars*, Books 1, 4, 5, 6

Required Readings

Caesar, *De Bello Gallico*

Book 1: Chapters 1-7

Book 4: Chapters 24-35 and the first sentence of Chapter 36 (Eodem die legati . . . venerunt.)

Book 5: Chapters 24-48

Book 6: Chapters 13-20

Vergil, *Aeneid*

Book 1: Lines 1-209, 418-440, 494-578

Book 2: Lines 40-56, 201-249, 268-297, 559-620

Book 4: Lines 160-218, 259-361, 659-705

Book 6: Lines 295-332, 384-425, 450-476, 847-899