

Preview of the Revised AP Latin Course

The revised AP Latin course is designed to provide advanced high school students with a rich and rigorous year-long Latin course, approximately equivalent to an upper-intermediate (typically fourth or fifth semester) college or university Latin course. Students who successfully complete the course are able to read, understand, translate and analyze Latin poetry and prose of moderate difficulty. Despite many similarities, Latin poetry and Latin prose have broadly different features and patterns; thus, the syllabus of required readings includes poetry and prose to ensure that students will be confident in handling both.

AP Latin students prepare, translate and analyze the required Latin readings with an accuracy that reflects precise understanding of the Latin in all its details; they also read and comprehend passages at sight, even if not with full understanding of every detail. These types of study – reading, translation and analysis of texts – powerfully reinforce each other. Throughout the AP course, students develop their linguistic competence and analytical skills through various activities: precise, literal rendering of prepared poetry and prose; reading with comprehension of sight passages, both poetry and prose; and written analyses that reflect the results of critical reading in clear and coherent arguments supported by textual examples.

Because the Latin language is the best route to learning about the fascinating history, literature and culture of the ancient Romans, texts for the required syllabus have been chosen that will allow students to encounter some of the central people, events, and literary genres of Roman times, focusing on the core periods of the late Republic and the early Principate. Vergil's *Aeneid*, arguably the most beloved and influential work of Latin literature, is both a model of Latin poetic style and a profound meditation on the meaning of Roman history and civilization. Caesar's *Gallic War*, for generations a standard school text, is still worth studying both for its pure and straightforward Latinity, and for its historical interest, as it raises controversial issues of war and peace, empire, ethnicity, leadership, and the roles and purposes of historiography. English readings from Vergil's *Aeneid* and Caesar's *Gallic War* are also included in the required syllabus in order to put the Latin excerpts in a significant context. Using these authors and works as a base, the course helps students reach beyond translation to read with critical, historical and literary sensitivity.

A new curriculum framework for the course will be published that outlines *learning objectives* for the course and *evidence statements* of how students might satisfy each objective. Standards of student performance are defined in *achievement level descriptions* across five levels. The curriculum framework provides the *syllabus* of required readings in Latin and in English, and recommendations of authors for in-class work on reading Latin at sight; *terminology* that students learn and apply to their study of the required Latin readings; and *themes and essential questions* that may be used to design instructional activities for students to relate the Latin texts to important issues, historical figures and events of the ancient Roman world as they continue to develop their language skills in the AP course.

What's New in the Revised Course?

- Required syllabus of readings includes both poetry and prose; Latin readings are from the books 1, 2, 4 and 6 of the *Aeneid*, and books 1, 4, 5 and 6 of Caesar's *Gallic War*; readings in English are also included in the required syllabus.
- Curriculum framework provides a list of terms (grammar and syntax, literary style) that students are expected to learn and apply to their study of the required Latin texts.
- More emphasis is placed on developing students' ability to read Latin at sight; curriculum framework provides a list of recommended verse and prose authors.
- More explicit descriptions are provided of what is expected of students in terms of contextual knowledge and the ability to relate the required Latin texts to Roman historical, political, cultural and literary contexts.

Required Syllabus for the Revised AP Latin Course

This required syllabus of course readings outlines the minimum amount that students are to study in Latin and in English, based on one academic year's work, in order to be well prepared for a successful performance on the AP exam. Care has been taken to reduce the overall breadth of the Latin readings in the current AP Latin: Vergil required syllabus, while still presenting complete passages that represent the most crucial scenes from books 1, 2, 4 and 6 of the *Aeneid*. Similarly, the required Latin prose passages from Caesar's *Gallic War* are complete episodes that represent the most important scenes and speeches from that work.

Required Readings in Latin

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

Caesar, *Gallic War*

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

Required Readings in English

Vergil, *Aeneid*

Books 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12

Caesar, *Gallic War*

Books 1, 6, 7

Reading in English in the AP Course

The purpose of the English readings is to put the Latin passages in the context of the work as a whole with its significant themes, central characters and key ideas. Understanding the broader context helps students appreciate the meaning and significance of the passages read in Latin, and to see what features are typical of the author's style and approach. Students should be asked to consider and apply their knowledge of the work as a whole as they read, translate, discuss and analyze specific passages read in Latin. Rather than just "background" information, the required English readings should be seen as integral to the discussion and analysis of the Latin readings.

Reading Latin at Sight in the AP Course

In order to develop students' ability to read Latin at sight, teachers should choose texts with relatively common vocabulary and straightforward grammar and syntax. Prose authors recommended for sight-reading work include Nepos, Cicero (but not Cicero's letters), Livy, Pliny the Younger, and Seneca the Younger rather than, say, Tacitus or Sallust. Recommended verse authors include Ovid, Martial, Tibullus and Catullus rather than, for example, Horace, Juvenal or Lucan. Portions of the works of Vergil and Caesar that are not included in the required reading list are also recommended for use in class to work on reading at sight. The names given here are representative of authors whose works may be used for sight-reading passages on the AP exam – the list is neither exclusive nor exhaustive.

Resources for Caesar

This document is a collection of sites that may be useful to you. Since they were all accessed by Google search, they are considered public domain (neither a user name nor password is required). However, if you do use these sources, please be sure to acknowledge their URLs.

LATIN TEXT:

The Latin Library

The text for Caesar's Gallic War and the Civil War can be found at the following site:

<http://www.thelatinlibrary.com/caesar/>

Perseus

The Perseus Project also has the Latin text as well, broken up in smaller chunks. By clicking on a word one can bring up parses, dictionary entries, and frequency statistics

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text;jsessionid=37CA6304DA78CF1BD56A6AD10CE23F35?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0002%3Abook%3D1%3Achapter%3D1%3Asection%3D1>

TRANSLATION:

The following sites have useful translations

MIT:

<http://classics.mit.edu/Caesar/gallic.html>

Electronic Text Center, University of Virginia Library:

<http://etext.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/CaeComm.html>

McAdams:

<http://mcadams.posc.mu.edu/txt/ah/Caesar/index.html>

VOCABULARY:

This site contains Gonzalez Lodge's list of 1000 words:

<http://community.middlebury.edu/~harris/CaesarWords.html>

Caesar's campaigns in Gaul:

Athena Review:

<http://www.athenapub.com/caesarg1.htm>

Historical Background:

Barbara McManus (VROMA)

<http://www.vroma.org/~bmcmanus/caesar.html>

Campaign maps:

Corpus scriptorium Latinorum (- a digital library of Latin literature)

<http://www.forumromanum.org/literature/caesar/maps.html>

The coinage of Julius Caesar:

<http://www.humanities.mq.edu.au/acans/caesar/Home.htm>

The landings of Caesar in Britain:

Athena Review:

<http://www.athenapub.com/caesar1.htm>

In the Classroom:

1. Professor Gilbert Lawall's website:

<http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~glawall/Caesar/classroom.html>

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2. A GREAT website for Ancient Rome:

<http://www.teacheroz.com/romans.htm>

3. Latinteach Resources:

http://latinteach.com/Site/RESOURCES/Entries/2008/7/17_Teaching_Caesar.htm

Latin Tutorial: 1. Multiple-Choice Item Writing for Teachers

http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/courses/teachers_corner/9611.html

PODCASTS:

Podcasts of Caesar's *De Bello Gallico* I and II

<http://www.haverford.edu/classics/audio/#caesbc2>

The assassination of Julius Caesar, from podiobooks. This is a free complete chapter of a larger free book. The story is narrated, as a radio news show taking place during Caesar's assassination. It's well worth a listen.

<http://c4.libsyn.com/media/580/PB-GreatMomentsinHistory->

[02.mp3?nvb=20100621133230&nva=20100622134230&sid=edf79f45a488852168eb322eebbda2a7&t=0001e12e11b7435f6ea9e](http://c4.libsyn.com/media/580/PB-GreatMomentsinHistory-02.mp3?nvb=20100621133230&nva=20100622134230&sid=edf79f45a488852168eb322eebbda2a7&t=0001e12e11b7435f6ea9e)

Youtube:

1. Julius Caesar (Part 1 of 3):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JO565zLOQSc>

2. Julius Caesar (Part 2 of 3):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVKAEDyMI9U&feature=related>

3. Julius Caesar (Part 3 of 3):

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z88_UTf23nc&feature=related

4. The Roman army and its components:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ndh3b9wC-A0>

5. The Battle of Alesia:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kk_noLVEBNY

or:

6. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wr8er4XBhTw&feature=related>

The Battle of Gergovia:

7. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pniyFbvXMUI&feature=related>

The Battle of Pharsalus:

8. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNgDf5_pgBo

In addition to these resources mentioned above, I have also included in the document on your CD, a list of Resources in Caesar provided by Professor Chris Francese, of Dickinson College, March 2010. I have excluded this list here in order to save paper.

DISK CONTENTS

FOLDER	CONTENTS
Activities	9 activity sheets (translations, spots, essays, ...)
Finn Coins	11 handouts of coins (Presentation by Dr. Jim Finn)
General	Numerous documents, e.g.: Directions for reading Caesar; The Roman army and its divisions; Caesar's Campaigns in Gaul; The Gallic people; The Gallic Province; Index of people and places in the BG.
Latin & English	Documents containing the English translations of the work to be translated, PLUS the Latin of the work not included in the reading list.
Participants	List of participants and their email addresses
Course & Resources	Course work for AP Vergil & Caesar; Document sheet listing some resources for AP Caesar
Translations	Translations of all the work that must be read in Latin