

WATERSHED COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Course Expectations in Latin I and Latin II
Fall Semester 2007

Course Overviews: Both Latin I (Introductory) and Latin II (Intermediate) focus on the grammar and syntax of literary Latin prose and poetry. In Latin I, the readings move from basic “made” Latin passages to simplified versions of “real” Latin. The passages include Roman myths (fables), history, and epigrams. The texts are Wheelock’s *Latin* and its accompanying workbook. The readings in Latin II, taken from Wheelock’s *Latin Reader*, include excerpts from the prose writings of Cicero, Livy, and Pliny, as well as brief immersions in the poetry of Ovid. If and when time permits, the class also will study passages from the Vulgate Bible and a few examples of Medieval Latin. Students in Latin II are provided with a Latin dictionary and taught how to use it to the best advantage when tackling complex Latin writings.

There are no homework assignments nor tests/quizzes in either course. Students are, in effect, tested daily in the give-and-go of class discussions and can progress quite nicely without work at home on their own. There are no papers or projects assigned.

General Objectives of the Latin Program: Both courses concentrate on the Latin linguistic matters which lead directly to a reasonable competence in the reading of literary Latin with a dictionary. The first year necessarily deals with some -- but not all -- of the minutiae of Latin grammar and syntax, while the second year, following a review of those matters, moves into some of the more complex constructions found in Latin sentences and lines of poetry. At all points in this continuum, the lessons in grammar and syntax are learned against blocks of Latin prose (later, poetry) and not by the analysis of unconnected sentences. While it seems to be true that Latin students, while working with an inflected, non-living language such as Latin and comparing it with the distributive syntax of English, benefit by osmosis in the areas of written composition and vocabulary in their own language, that is by and large an unintended consequence, not an objective, of the program.

Criteria for Course Credit: Latin students in both courses are expected to arrive in class on time, textbook(s) in hand, to be attentive to all proceedings, and to take part in them. No credit will be given to students who fail to meet any one of those expectations reasonably as recorded across the weeks of the full term.