

Should I Sign Up for AP Latin 4?



1 AP LATIN COURSE DESCRIPTION

The AP Latin course is designed to give you the experiences needed to be successful on the **College Board AP Latin exam** scheduled in May each year (you will complete your exam locally according to your own arrangements). This course will [1] help you develop your ability to translate the required passages from Caesar's *De bello Gallico* and Vergil's *Aeneid* into English as literally as possible, [2] help you understand the context of the written passages through analysis and be able to communicate that context and analysis in writing, [3] help you understand style of writing and the rhetorical devices employed by the Latin authors.

By the end of AP Latin IV, you will have **translated all the Latin of Vergil and Caesar assigned by the College Board to be successful on the AP Latin Exam**. You will learn to **analyze the text and draw your own logical conclusions in written essays**. You will both **give and receive written criticism of your analytical essays** throughout the course. You will **read Latin prose and poetry aloud** with accurate comprehension and appreciation. For the Vergil text, you will also learn to **scan dactylic hexameter verse**. You will **practice AP style exam questions** and sight passages during both semesters and **complete a full "mock up" exam** as the final exam in the second semester of the course.

1.1 SPECIFICS

- The class meets on Thursdays at 1 Pm ET (all rising AP students are guaranteed a spot **ONLY** if they register during the early-bird period February 15-March 1). Many years the class fills by March 1 or soon after. Occasionally spots open due to drops later in the year.
- You must **make your own arrangements** to take the exam at your local testing facility.
- Yes, this is a College Board approved syllabus and course! You can list it on your transcript as an **AP Latin course**, come what may, AP classes are credited on your transcript according to a 5-point scale (not a 4-point scale) by all colleges that accept weighted grades.
- I am required by the College Board to include and/or emphasize the following:
 - Scansion
 - Analytical essay writing (you'll be working on essays a lot).
 - Sight translations
 - Completion of all syllabus readings
 - Recitation in class (English and Latin)
- This course is the equivalent of a **second-year college Latin class**. Everyone who completes this class in good standing will be able to breeze into a **junior or senior college level Latin course** (300 or 400 level) while saving a ton of money:
 - Most colleges and universities require a 3, 4, or 5 score to grant credit for this course.
 - Success on this AP exam generally credits a student with 12 to 16 credit hours (worth \$14,000-\$45,000) unlike most AP courses which are often only worth 3 or 4 credits.
 - Most students earn **two full years of college language credit** if/when the college of their choice accepts the AP score for their program. Contact the program that interests you to see if they accept AP Latin for language credit and what your must score to earn it.

- Check with your intended college/university to be sure they accept Latin for college language credit! *Just because you earn a nice pass on this exam is not a guarantee your university nor your program will “count” Latin toward your degree.*

You'll complete a full three-hour mock-up AP Latin exam as your final exam, second semester. There is therefore no need to purchase “AP Latin prep materials” unless you just want the extra practice.

2 EXPECTATIONS

2.1 IN AP LATIN, YOU'LL NEED TO...

- Translate 60-80 lines each week
- Complete 3 peer-reviewed analytical essays *each semester*
- Develop shorter timed analytical essays on each exam that will also include AP style questions, grammar, syntax, poetic devices, background information and scansion.
- “Sight translate” passages under timed conditions and answer questions about Latin that is completely new to you.
- Fill in any Latin gaps that have developed for yourself on your own time.
- Consider me your coach. Coaches are truth-tellers, not hand-holders. I will not coddle nor cocoon you if you need to do more work. It is your job to hear criticism and double down to improve your own efforts.

2.2 WHAT YOU'LL ALSO LEARN:

- All about the Trojan Cycle
- Overview of the history of Rome
- Culture
- Religion
- Poetry
- Latin
- Mounds of cool stuff
- Gobs of interesting stuff
- Geography of the Mediterranean
- Tips on what NOT to say to dead people in the underworld
- How to bungle an invasion and still sound totally awesome to the folks back home
- How to win an invasion and sound even better to the folks back home.
- Did I mention Druids?

AP Latin Students must be very familiar with Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*! **Both epics are available as optional workshops (recorded) during the summer prior to the start of the AP class. Alternatively, AP students should take MYTHOLOGY (ALPHA and BETA). Another good addition is Roman History. Consider registering for these courses and workshops in preparation for / contemporaneous with the AP Latin course.**

3 IS AP LATIN THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU?

3.1 **YES?** THE ANSWER IS LIKELY “YES” IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBES YOU:

- I love Latin and can't give it up yet.
- I totally dig the idea of testing out of college language requirements using a language I already know pretty well.
- I am thinking about majoring or minoring in Classics in college and want to get right to the good stuff (300 level courses and above) once I start classes.
- I plan to go to a top university on the cheap. AP Latin is worth a ton of college money!
- I'm a bit of a glutton for punishment and adore most academic challenges.
- I'm very determined and stubborn to succeed. I am willing to tackle this head on and do what needs to be done. *Eye of the tiger! RAwR!*
- I plan on going into a challenging academic field like science, law, medicine, etc.. Success in AP Latin plus a nice AP “5” is going to be a major boost to my college career.

3.2 **NO?** THE ANSWER IS LIKELY “NO” IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING THINGS ARE TRUE FOR YOU:

- *“I really **don't want to take AP Latin** but a parent/guardian/advisor/crotchety granny sure wants me to take it anyway because it will be 'good for me'.”*
 - **AP Latin is challenging and demanding so YOU need the drive to complete it.**
 - People who are not personally motivated to take the AP class will find that it is extra difficult *if not impossible*. Instead of taking AP Latin, consider taking the **SAT Special Subject Latin exam at the end of 3-year Latin** as you bring your Latin studies to a close. If you perform well on the SAT Latin exam, you can “test out” of first year college Latin in most major universities.
- *“**I hate to write. I won't do it. I can't imagine the horror of developing my college-level analytical writing skills for two full semesters, yuck. I intend to go into a college program that requires absolutely no writing...like maybe basket weaving or mathematical otter studies.**”*
 - If you are succeeding well in Latin 3, **your Latin skills are ready for AP Latin**. Now you'll need to double down on your writing skills!
 - It is impossible to pass the AP Latin exam unless you write a very decent AP essay (ESSAYS on the AP exam are in English, mind you). If you are not willing to **work on your skills** to write a great analytical essay, you'll find this class is extra difficult. We devote a fair amount of time on mastering the art of writing a fierce AP essay. All your classmates will critique you every time you do it. *If you'd rather have dental surgery than write anything for others to read, this class may not be a good fit for you.*
 - IF, however, you are NOT a good academic writer but sincerely wish to improve your skills, this class will likely address your short fallings in research and analysis. if YOU put in the effort, you will assuredly improve this skill to benefit all other fields and programs you encounter during your academic preparation.
- *“**I have a very packed schedule next year and am hoping I can wedge AP Latin into the one hour I have left between my String Theory Practicum and Curing Cancer workshop. If AP Latin will only take an hour or two a week out of my schedule I'm ready to get started.**”*

- No can do, my friend. Latin 4 normally takes AS MUCH or even a *little bit more* time than Latin 3. Calculate the time you spend on Latin 3 *all in*. Add about 10% more time to that number to calculate the time you'll need to succeed in AP Latin (that will tackle the extra time writing and reviewing essays).
- We've had many students take AP Latin successfully while dealing with a fully loaded schedule, but they were willing to forgo other pastimes like Olympic Curling. Evaluate if you have enough time to make it all work for you but anticipate spending AT LEAST as much time on AP Latin as you spent on Latin 3.

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| AP Latin CONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This class requires time, effort, determination...lots of hard stuff • You shouldn't try to take it if you are also completing three or four other AP classes at the same time. |
| AP Latin PROS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success in AP Latin means up to 16 credit hours at institutions that accept AP credits at the prescribed "pass" (contact your institution—some "take" a 3 while others only look at a "5.") • You will improve your analytical writing and your translation skills while learning a ton of cool things about the Romans. • You will be studying Latin at the 2nd year college level. IF you are interested in being a Classics major (a philologist) you will START your classes with way cool Junior year level Latin classes! |
| Preparing for AP Latin | <p>You need the following for AP Latin success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid Latin translation skills (regularly earning scores of 90 or higher in Lukeion Latin 3 is a sign you have what it takes). • Strong familiarity with Homer's <i>Iliad</i> and <i>Odyssey</i> • Strong familiarity with <i>Roman History</i> (I provide an overview in class but you should have more than just a familiarity). • Previous research paper writing experience <p>You would benefit from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lukeion Classical History: The Romans – meets only in the Spring semester (this class includes experience writing a research paper) • Lukeion Mythology Alpha – autumn semester (includes <i>Iliad</i> and <i>Odyssey</i> plus experience writing a research paper; count this as English half credit) • Lukeion Mythology Beta – spring semester (includes the <i>Aeneid</i> in English plus experience writing a research paper; count this as an English half credit) • Alternative workshops if you lack time for semester courses: <i>Iliad</i>, <i>Odyssey</i> |

CAVEAT:

Registration for **AP Latin opens for current Lukeion Latin 3 students on February 15.**

The course typically fills before public registration opens on March 1.

Class size is strictly limited but there is a guaranteed a spot for current Latin 3 students who register before March 1 when public registration opens.

ALAS, there is NO option to AUDIT AP Latin nor can one take the class by recording per my agreement with the College Board. This is a hard rule. Sorry. All students must attend the class live online. The class meeting time is Thursdays at 1 PM ET (this last year I also offered a second section at 4 PM ET which I'll repeat ONLY if early-bird Lukeion Latin student demand is sufficient).