



# COVINGTON LATIN SCHOOL

*Achieve here. Excel here. Belong here.*

## HONORS LATIN III

### Course Description:

Honors Latin III surveys a variety of Latin Literature. The course covers Latin prose (Caesar's *Bellum Gallicum*, Cicero's *pro Caelio* and other excerpts) and Latin poetry (Catullus). As such, a thorough discussion of the orations, poetry, stylistic devices and literary criticism occurs throughout the year. Cultural, mythological, and historical references to Roman society, its people, and the events of the waning Republic are also examined.

### Course Goals:

1. Students will examine the *Bellum Gallicum*, the *pro Caelio*, and various poems of Catullus as works of literature and be able to discuss them as such.
2. Students will be able to pronounce and read Latin on sight with fluency.
3. Students will identify and appreciate the literary and stylistic devices used.
4. Students will understand the political, social, and cultural background of the late Roman Republic.
5. Students will cultivate an awareness of classical influences on later literature.

### Course Objectives:

1. Students will progress in reading, understanding, and interpreting original Latin.
2. Students will be able to translate accurately and to demonstrate a grasp of the grammatical structures and vocabulary used.
3. Students will be able to scan the elegiac couplet and hendecasyllabics.
4. Students will be able to discuss particular motifs and themes of specific passages and relate these to the poem as a whole.
5. Students will understand that all translation is interpretation.

### Course Outline:

#### Semester I

- I. Latin grammar/history is reviewed.
  - A. Translation of excerpts from a variety of authors illustrate key points.
    - Pliny the Younger's letters to Tacitus.
      - A. Archaeology of Pompeii and Herculaneum.
      - B. Volcanology.
      - C. Art and Architecture in AD 79.
    - Cicero's *pro Milone*
      - A. Life of Cicero
      - B. The conflicts of 100BC-100AD emphasized.
- II. Cicero
  - A. Excerpts from Cicero's *pro Caelio* are translated. English translation of other parts read.
  - B. Discussion of types and parts of an oration.
  - C. Caelius, Cicero, the Clodii.
  - D. Rhetorical and stylistic devices.
  - E. Periodicity and Cicero's style.
  - F. Philosophical, geographical, and historical references.
- III. Comedy
  - A. History of Roman drama.
  - B. Archaeology and architecture of theatres.
  - C. Stock characters—Pseudolus, the adultery mime.

- D. Plautus and Terence.
- E. "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"

## Semester II

### I.

#### Caesar

- a. Translation of *de bello Gallico* Book 1: Chapters 1-7, the Helvetian campaign of 58BC.
  - a. The rest of Book 1 read in English.
  - b. Geography of Gaul.
  - c. career of Caesar.
  - d. organization of the Roman Army.
  - e. Discussion of rhetorical and stylistic devices.
- b. Translation of Book 4: Chapters 24-35 and the first sentence of Chapter 36 (*Eodem die legati . . . venerunt.*), The first expedition to Britain, 55BC
  - i. Topography and people of Britain.
  - ii. Discussion of rhetorical and stylistic devices.
- c. Translation of Book 5: Chapters 24-48, the second expedition to Britain, 54BC
  - i. Caesar's generals.
  - ii. Caesar's strategies.
  - iii. Discussion of rhetorical and stylistic devices.
- d. Translation of Book 6: Chapters 13-20, the expedition to Germany, 53 BC.
  - i. The rest of Book 6 read in English.
  - ii. The customs and people of Germany.
  - iii. The Druids.
  - iv. Contrasts between Germans and Gauls.
  - v. Discussion of rhetorical and stylistic devices.
- e. Reading of Book 7 in English, Vercingetorix, 52 BC.
  - i. Roman heroics.
  - ii. Bridges.
  - iii. Consequences of war.

### II.

#### Catullus

- A. Translation of the Lesbia poems—51, 2, 3, 83, 92, 5, 7, 36, 43, 86, 86, 87, 8, 107, 109, 70, 72, 75, 76, 60, 85, 58, 79, 11, 64 (lines 50-253)
  - 1. Biography of Catullus and the neoteric poets.
  - 2. Scansion of hendecasyllabics and the elegiac couplet.
  - c. Characterizations of Lesbia and Catullus.
  - d. Examination of stages of love affair.
  - e. Mythological, geographical, and historical references (*doctrina*).
  - f. Discussion of rhetorical and stylistic devices.
- B. Translation of poems regarding Parties and Friends—12, 50, 10, 27, 73, 77, 69, 49, 54, 93
  - a. Comparison of people and society from Cicero's and Catullus' points of view.
  - b. Mythological, geographical, and historical references.
  - c. Discussion of rhetorical and stylistic devices.
- C. Translation of poems regarding Friends, Travel—9, 84, 4, 46, 31
  - a. Continuing examination of customs and people in the Roman Republic.
  - b. Mythological, geographical, and historical references.
  - c. Discussion of rhetorical and stylistic devices.
- D. Translation of poems regarding Love, Critiques—62, 45, 22, 35, 44, 95
  - a. The self-assured poet.
  - b. The change of seasons.
  - c. Mythological, geographical, and historical references.
  - d. Discussion of rhetorical and stylistic devices.

#### Textbooks:

*Cicero's pro Caelio*, Englert, Walter, Bryn Mawr Latin Commentaries, 1990.

**Method and Evaluation:**

1. Translations: Students are expected to prepare 15-25 lines per day. Individuals are called upon to translate a short passage. Their translations should be as literal as good English will allow. All grammar forms, vocabulary, and literary devices should be mastered. Discussion of motifs and characters will take place as needed. As class time allows, students will continue to translate at sight.
2. Essays: Students will frequently write AP-style essays culled from old exams. These will be graded using the AP-published rubric.
3. Tests: In addition to vocabulary quizzes, there are frequent tests and quizzes on translations of works already read, with essay questions on content, grammar, scansion, literary devices, and in-depth analyses of specific passages.
4. Supplemental: From time to time, students will read and discuss relevant articles from classical journals. Students will study the art and architecture of the Republican era. Students will memorize a segment of the *pro Caelio* and recite it.
5. 3C Academy: As an option to the final exam, students may choose to research and present a topic of scholarship relevant to any one of our authors. Activities will include a trip to a nearby university for materials and discussions with college professors. Students will also learn to access databases such as JSTOR and *l'anne philologique*. Students will prepare a paper, a handout, possibly a slide show, and present their research to teachers, professors, alumni, parents, and other guests.

**Supplemental Materials:**

"In the Shadow of Vesuvius," *National Geographic* videos, 1987.

"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," 1966.

Various articles from *National Geographic*, *Classical Outlook*, *Classical Journal*, and other professional journals. Any assortment of pertinent literary critiques, newspaper articles, slides, cultural materials, websites, etc. Guest lectures.