

The Well-Trained Mind Academy  
**Classical Civilization for the Logic Stage**

*Course Blackboard Site:* wtma.blackboard.com

*Required Texts:*

*Handbook to Life in Ancient Greece*, by Lesley Adkins and Roy A. Adkins, ISBN 019512491X

*Handbook to Life in Ancient Rome*, by Lesley Adkins and Roy A. Adkins, ISBN 0195123328

*Course Description:*

In this course, students will explore the achievements, practices, and beliefs of the ancient Greeks and Romans which have shaped our world of today. We will learn how the modern world is indebted to Roman and Greek accomplishments, including advances in the construction of roads and buildings, the establishment of legal and political systems, and the development of genres in art and literature. We will investigate cultural practices in ancient Greece and Rome, such as religious rituals, rites of passage, and societal structures, and make connections between those and the practices of our own cultures. The study of these accomplishments and practices will ultimately teach us about the perspectives, attitudes, and values of these ancient civilizations; how the Greeks and Romans viewed their world; and what it meant to be a Greek or Roman.

This course, classified as a social studies course, is designed as a supplement to a Latin or Greek language course or to an ancient history course, for students who are interested in studying Greek and Roman daily life and customs in depth. It will also provide additional preparation for Latin students taking the National Latin Exam, or for students participating in the National Roman Civilization Exam. It is also appropriate for students who have not studied Greek or Latin, or who are not yet ready for language study, but are interested in learning more about the ancient world. This course will develop students' reading, writing, and critical thinking skills.

**Please note: the texts for this course address aspects of the classical world that some families may find objectionable, in particular violence and ancient customs concerning sexuality. While these topics are not part of the course content, and all assigned readings and lectures will be age appropriate, parents should be aware that the textbook contains this additional content. If you have any concerns, we encourage you to check the texts out at the local library before enrolling your student.**

*Assignments and Grading Breakdown:*

- Attendance and participation (10%): This will be assessed via polls and discussion questions in class, as well as brief reflection questions following class.
- Weekly comprehension quizzes (20%): Brief multiple choice, matching, fill in the blank, and short answer quizzes about the material learned in the previous class or on additional readings from the text; students may use resources to complete these quizzes.

- Weekly discussion questions (20%): Discussion questions will be about material learned in the previous class, or they may require students to read and respond to material in the text not covered in class. Students will have a choice of questions to answer in 1-2 paragraphs. Responses should answer all parts of the question, and should cite evidence from the reading and/or lecture. Each student must write a meaningful reply to the question by midnight EST on Thursday, and meaningfully respond to two other students' responses by midnight EST the following Monday. The response should be at least three sentences. It can be a question or thought about the original student post, and it should also introduce a new idea or piece of evidence into the discussion. More details on what posts and responses can look like will be given in class.
- Projects (25%):
  - Mid-Semester and End-of Semester Project: Students will complete a creative or research project incorporating what they have learned about the lives of Greeks and Romans during each half of the semester. Students will have a choice as to the format of the project (for example: creative writing project, research paper, handicraft, piece of artwork), but all projects will include a writing element. (25%)
- Tests (25%)
  - Midterm (10%)—Students will be required to complete a mid-semester test which will cover the material learned in the first eight weeks of class.
  - Final (15%)—Students will complete a semester ending test which will feature questions on material learned throughout the semester.

*Grading breakdown:*

Attendance and Participation -10%

Quizzes - 20%

Discussion Questions - 20%

Mid-Semester Project - 10%

End-of-Semester Project - 15%

Midterm Test - 10%

Final Test - 15%

*Example Class Schedule:*

Week	Topic
1	Society (names, classes)
2	Family
3	Religion and Rituals (birth, death, marriage)

4	Housing
5	Domestic Life (food, clothing)
6	Education
7	Slavery and Freedman
8	Urban Life
9	Empire and Provinces
10	Law and Order
11	Occupations (military, farming, political life)
12	Travel and Trade (commerce, roads)
13	Technology
14	Public Entertainment and Sports
15	Literature, Art, and Philosophy
16	Language
Exam Week	Optional Sharing Session (Students will share the projects they've chosen to further explore one facet of ancient Roman or Greek culture )