

## History of English, Latin and Humanities

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Although my classes are mostly geared to upper school, they are available to middle-schoolers. This year some of my best students are enrolled in grades 6-8.

History of English language: diachronic account of English from Proto-Indo-European origins to present with related subjects, i.e. Scottish border ballads and the Bayeux Tapestry, folded in *ad libitum*. The Bayeux Tapestry records the Battle of Hastings and events leading up to the battle, a watershed of English without which we'd all be speaking something like a dialect of German. More than this, the Norman Conquest and English "Danelaw" which preceded it have direct connections to this year's Scandinavian theme. Assignments include Q&A sheets as well as PowerPoint presentations and play acting. Topics on my wish list: side trips into the Sussex and Gullah dialects (related) as well as the pronunciation of Middle English from the Chaucerian period.

Goatsong: tragedy as a literary genre, or more accurately, literary genres, from 5<sup>th</sup>-century Athens to the twentieth century. Outstanding examples of Greek, Roman and English tragedy are covered, as well as Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*, often considered a "bourgeois" or "domestic" tragedy—though really, most or all tragedies are domestic tragedies. We will spend much of the year on Greek tragedy since I am a specialist in that area and the subject continues to fascinate me. Sidelights include movies and excursions into related fields of "mass culture" as time allows. If the students are into it, we may or not create a contamination of two of Sophocles' plays combined with other ingredients.

Latin 1-2: beginning and intermediate Latin language. Since I have advanced training in classical Greek and Latin, these languages are a staple of my program here at T-D.