Why Learn A World Language?

◦ In an increasingly globalized world, the knowledge of a world language becomes an indispensable skill important not only for personal enrichment, but also for broadening employment opportunities.

◦ According to a study from the University of Chicago, knowledge of a world language helps you boost decision-making skills.

◦ Students who study world languages score higher on standardized tests, as a study from York University in Toronto showed.

Students who study a world language for at least one year score an average of 38 points higher on the SATs.

◦ Knowledge of a world language increases your chances of landing a good job, as demonstrated in a recent poll in The Economist.

An MIT study shows that people who know two or more languages earn an average of $128,000 more over their lifetimes.

◦ Learning a second language has compelling health benefits, as suggested by a study from York University in Toronto that connects prevention of the onset of dementia with foreign language learning.
No other language and no other city has had so much influence—and for so long a time—on our own culture than the Latin language and culture. Students of ancient, medieval, or early modern history should be able to study the original Latin documents (archives, local histories, inscriptions), many of which have not been translated; students of English literature should be familiar with the ancient authors who were used either as models or objects of emulation by the great English writers of earlier ages; students of philosophy or religion should be familiar with the Latin sources in their fields.

Who spoke Latin?
Latin was brought to Italy about 1000 BC by Indo-European immigrants. It began, as all languages do, as an isolated local tongue of a small territory on the Tiber River called Latium. As the people in Latium developed into an organized community, the city of Rome was eventually founded in, according to legend, 753 BC. It was the official language of the Roman Republic and later of the western half of the Roman Empire. After the fall of the Western Empire toward the end of the 5th century, Latin continued to be the academic lingua franca of Western Europe until the end of the 17th century. Along with the extinct languages Oscan, Umbrian, and Faliscan, it belongs to the Italic branch of the Indo-European languages. It is the official language in Vatican City and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

Famous Authors in Classical Latin
✦ Augustine of Hippo - On Christian Doctrine (De Doctrina Christiana)
✦ Julius Caesar - The Gallic Wars (Commentarii de Bello Gallico).
✦ Cicero - On the Republic (De Re Publica)
✦ Ovid - Metamorphoses (Metamorphōseōn libri).
✦ Suetonius - The Twelve Caesars (De Vita Caesarum)
✦ Vergil - The Aeneid (Aenēis)

Why Study Latin?

Learn these useful Latin phrases!
✦ anno domini (A.D.): “in the year of (the) Lord”
✦ carpe diem!: “Seize the day!”
✦ componens mentis: “having mastery of (one’s) mind” (in full possession of one’s mental faculties)
✦ ex post facto: “from the deed/fact, after wards” (deduced or discovered after the event with the benefit of hindsight)
✦ in flagranti delicto: “in the blazing crime” (caught in the act)
✦ in vitro: “in glass” (in a test tube)
✦ mens sana in corpore sano: “a healthy mind in a healthy body”
✦ pro persona (p.p.): “instead of the person” (Used when a letter is being signed - with authorization - on behalf of someone else.)
✦ pro bono: “for good” (in the public interest or for no money. American lawyers may work part-time “pro bono”.)
✦ Tempus fugit: “Time flies!” (time runs away)