

Final Reflection on My Summer 2022 Enrichment Experience at the Latin/Greek Institute, CUNY

By Lauren Fakhoury

Thanks to the Garwin Family Foundation, I have spent this summer studying Latin at the Latin/Greek Institute in New York City. It has been overwhelming and exhausting at times, but I have learned more than I ever imagined could be fit into a single summer. I have also gotten to explore the city and live on my own. It has been a great experience, and I am sad that it is over already.

The class itself was more intense than any I have ever taken. The first five weeks were dedicated to plowing through a textbook covering the fundamentals of Latin grammar. It was a lot of blunt memorization, and frankly, it was painful. That said, the work began to pay off after we finished the textbook and began to hop around to different authors. During weeks six and seven, we read about Catulline's conspiracy through Cicero and Sallust. We then moved on to Vergil's *Aeneid*, and finally, to Horace and an elective, which for me was Augustine's *Confessions*. I really enjoyed anything with monsters. In the *Aeneid*, my favorite passages were the ones about the Rumor monster, and I liked reading Horace's poem about the agricultural god Priapus, who scares off a pair of witches as they perform a ritual.

It was also nice to meet people who are interested in the same things as I am. Whether studying Classics or something similar in college or preparing for a translation test, my classmates were eager to learn the language. It was great to hear about their reasons for wanting to read Latin and be exposed to new possibilities for the future.

Outside of class itself, I had to figure out how to navigate the city. After a few rides in the wrong direction, I finally managed to take the subway where I wanted to go. I also learned little practical things, like the necessity of having a grocery bag on me at all times, because New York does not provide them; or that it is really impossible to tell which deli will be best from the outside.

Beyond just going about my day in New York, though, I got to explore the city. I went on runs to see the bridges, the riverside, and Central Park. I also found lots of coffee shops and libraries for studying, museums to wander around, and plenty of good food. The bagels, of course, were amazing (I think Ess-a-Bagel's sesame has to win), as were the bakeries and farmers' markets.

All in all, this summer has taught me tons. I have gotten to begin to learn Latin, and to do so in a city much bigger, louder, and more chaotic than any other I have spent time in. I loved being in such a vibrant place and miss it already. Thank you to the GFF for making it happen.