

Salvete Omnes!

We would like to cordially invite you to attend Rice University's 8th Annual Owl Certamen! The event will be held on the Rice University campus on January 14th, 2017, from 8AM until 6PM. This year Owl Certamen will feature Certamen, Academic Testing, Sight Latin Reading, and Classical Art contests. More details on each of the competitions are listed below.

Registration will be open through Monday, January 9th. In order to register, please visit <http://ces.rice.edu/certamen> and click on the appropriate registration form. Registration fees will be \$12 per student through Monday, January 9th. Any registrations made after Monday, January 9th, including walk-in, will be \$20 per student.

Registration fees are payable during the morning of the event. A single payment is to be made for each school; either cash or check is acceptable. Checks should be made out to Rice University. The tentative schedule of the day is as follows:

7:30AM-8:30AM	Registration
8:30AM-9:00AM	Welcome
9:00AM-11:00AM	Academic Testing
11:15 AM	Sight recitation check-in closes for Certamen players
11:45 AM	Sight recitation check-in closes for non-Certamen players
10:30AM-2:00PM	Sight Recitation (end time may vary)
12:00PM-12:30 PM	Certamen Round I
11:30AM-5:00PM	Art Viewing/Pick-Up
11:30AM-1:30PM	Lunch
1:30PM-2:00PM	Certamen Round II
2:20PM-2:50PM	Certamen Round III
3:15PM-5:15PM	Certamen Finals
5:15PM-5:40PM	Awards
5:40PM-6:00PM	Closing Remarks and Packet Pickup

Certamen

There will be three levels of competitive certamen – novice, intermediate, and advanced. Each team will have the opportunity to play three rounds, before the three highest scoring teams (additive from all rounds) advance to the finals. Teams will not be allowed to make player substitutions during rounds. However, substitutions between rounds are acceptable. Schools may enter no more than one novice and one intermediate team, but may enter up to two advanced teams. However, please be aware that if space is short, schools may be limited to one advanced team. Please also be aware that only one team per school per level may compete in the final round.

Unless stated otherwise, Certamen rounds will follow the most recent NCJL Certamen rules available online. The complete ruleset, and other general information about the Certamen competition, is available on the NJCL Website, located here:

<http://www.njcl.org/pages/Certamen>

Academic Testing

Students will have the opportunity to take at most two of the following academic tests:

- Ancient Greek Grammar and Reading Comprehension (does not count towards the two test limit)
- Latin Grammar and Reading Comprehension
- Roman Life and Culture
- Mythology
- History

Students will have a two hour time window to complete these tests. Each test will consist of 50 multiple choice questions.

There are not separate tests for each level of Latin. All students will take the same test, but will only be scored against other students at their level of Latin. All students taking the Ancient Greek Grammar and Reading Comprehension test will be scored against each other.

The academic tests are written with the following difficulty distribution:

- 20% Very easy
- 20% Easy
- 20% Medium
- 20% Hard
- 20% Extremely hard

Sight Latin Reading

Students will have ten minutes to prepare and then present a passage given to them by the judges. Students may have their own Latin dictionary during the ten minute preparation period. In order to receive placement in this contest, students must receive an average score of at least 50/100 from the judges. All Certamen players must check in to the holding room no later than 11:15 and all non-Certamen players must check in no later than 11:45.

Classical Art Competition

Students may submit a piece of two-dimensional art (in the medium of ink, black and white, colored pencil, etc.) the day of Owl Certamen. The art will be judged and then will remain on display for viewing throughout the day. Sculptures, dioramas, and photographs will not be accepted. In order to receive placement in Classical Art, students must receive an average score of at least 50/100 from the judges.

For questions and comments, the official Owl Certamen e-mail address is owlcertamen@rice.edu. You may also contact Dr. Ted Somerville at his university e-mail address, ted.somerville@rice.edu.

We hope to see you on January 14th!

Regards,
Dr. Ted Somerville, Classical Studies
Susannah Wright
Bryce Deskins