To understand WESTERN CULTURE:

If your goal in college is to learn how to think, study Greco-Roman antiquity. Classical studies is interdisciplinary—taking in literature, art, architecture, and military, political, and social history—and thus provides students with a model for thinking about how whole societies work. Studying Greco-Roman antiquity provides a fine sense for the workings of literature and historical writing. Written for members of sophisticated intellectual cultures, classical works require students to foster a sense for those cultures in their own minds. That process, rewarding in itself, also gives students keen insight into the place of speech in contemporary cultures, from advertising to political oratory.

WHY LEARN GREEK AND LATIN?

To meet great minds ON THEIR OWN TERMS:

To learn to READ and WRITE with CARE:

If one writes quickly, one may not write well; but if one can write well, one can write quickly. —Quintilian

Can’t you even tell me who gives us the words we use? —Socrates in Plato’s Cratylus

Learning Greek and Latin involves not only learning the languages but also their grammar, the foundation of modern linguistic thought. Beginning language courses introduce phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and stylistics, which in advanced courses become sophisticated tools for the understanding of any language or literature ancient or modern. Students of Greek and Latin acquire broad understandings of the etymology and vocabulary of English, including its scientific, legal, and theological terminology.
The Department of Classics studies Greco-Roman Civilization from the Late Bronze Age to the disintegration of the Roman Empire and provides instruction in the ancient Greek and Latin languages, Greek and Roman literature, and the history, art, religion, philosophy, and archaeology of the Greco-Roman world.

Homer’s Greece and Plato’s Athens, Cicero’s Rome, Vergil’s Italy, and Augustus’ Africa can be explored in two major courses of study and a variety of minor options. A broad survey of the literature and culture of Greece and Rome is provided by the Classical Civilizations Major. The Major in Classics adds a close study of the ancient languages.

For further information: http://www.nd.edu/~col/