

Classics

The majors and minors in classics, Greek, Latin, and ancient studies are administered by the Department of Classics and Italian: Professor Debnar (on leave fall 2009); Associate Professors Arnold, Sumi; Visiting Assistant Professor Landon.

Contact Persons

Susan LaBarre, *senior administrative assistant*
Geoffrey Sumi, *associate professor of classics*

The discipline of classics comprises the study of the language, literature, history, culture, and society of the Greeks and Romans and of the ancient Mediterranean world from about the eighth century BCE to the fifth century of our own era (c. 476 CE). Literary genres (such as epic poetry, drama, and historiography), political institutions and ideals (such as democracy and free speech), as well as principles of philosophy and science are all part of the rich legacy that the ancient Greeks and Romans bequeathed to western Europe. Many of their ideas and institutions were consciously revived in the Renaissance and Enlightenment and remain with us today.

The department offers courses in ancient Greek and Latin at all levels (for Sanskrit, see Asian Studies), as well as a wide array of courses (in English) approaching the culture and history of Greek and Roman antiquity from a variety of perspectives. Majors have the opportunity to spend part or all of their junior years abroad (e.g., in Rome, Athens, or Great Britain) and to use those tools that have placed the study of antiquity at the forefront of computer-based research and education.

The department offers four majors. The broadest is ancient studies, a 32-credit major approaching the ancient civilizations from an interdisciplinary and inclusive perspective (see Ancient Studies).

Students may also major in Greek or in Latin. These majors require 32 credits in one of the ancient languages and its literature.

The classics major is a 40-credit major combining the study of both ancient Greek and

Latin with a variety of courses in ancient history, art, philosophy, politics, or religion. Students who declare a classics major automatically fulfill the College's "outside the major" requirement (see p. 8).

Requirements for the Majors

Ancient studies: For requirements and a list of advisors from other departments, see Ancient Studies.

Greek or Latin:

- A minimum of 32 credits
 - At least 20 of the 32 credits must be at the 200 level or above in the chosen ancient language; at least 12 of these credits must be at the 300 level.
 - For the remaining credits, after consulting with her advisor, a Latin or Greek major may choose from a variety of courses in art history, classics (in English), history, language, philosophy, politics, or religion at the 200 level or above.
 - In the case of a second ancient language, 8 credits at the 100 level may count toward the major.

Classics:

- A minimum of 40 credits, including:
 - At least 24 total credits in Greek or Latin at the 200 level or above (at least 8 credits in each language).
 - At least 20 credits at the 300 level, 12 of which must be in Latin or Greek (either language or both).
 - After consulting with her advisor, a major may choose from a variety of related courses in art history, Asian studies, classics (in English), history, politics, or religion at the 200 level or above. In the case of the second (or a third) language, 8 credits of Greek, Latin, or Sanskrit at the 100 level may count toward the major.

Students anticipating graduate work in classics should begin the study of both Greek and Latin as soon as possible.

Requirements for the Minors

Ancient studies: See Ancient Studies.

Greek or Latin:

- A minimum of 16 credits above the 100 level in the ancient language, including at least 4 at the 300 level

Classics:

- A minimum of 16 credits in the ancient languages, including at least 4 at the 300 level
- The 16 credits must include courses in both languages; 4 credits at the 100 level in the second language may count toward the minor.

Teacher Licensure

Students interested in pursuing licensure in the fields of Latin and classics can combine their course work in Latin and classics with a minor in education. In some instances course work in the major coincides with course work required for licensure; in other cases, it does not. For specific course requirements for licensure within the majors of Latin and classics, please consult your advisor or the chair of the classics department. For information about the requirements for the minor in education, please consult "Teacher Licensure" in the Other Degree and Certificate Programs chapter and Ms. Lawrence in the psychology and education department. Licensure also requires a formal application as well as passing scores on the Massachusetts Test of Educator Licensure (MTEL) in both the literacy component and the subject matter component. Copies of the test objectives for the MTEL are available in the classics department and in the Department of Psychology and Education. Licensure application information and materials are available in the Department of Psychology and Education.

Study Abroad

The department encourages study abroad. In recent years a number of students in the department have spent part of their junior years at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies (ICCS) in Rome. Some have pursued their studies at Oxford, Saint Andrews, and other in-

stitutions in Great Britain. Arcadia College and College Year in Athens both offer programs in Greece. Students who anticipate taking an advanced degree in archaeology, ancient art history, ancient history, or classics can also enroll in summer sessions of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

Course Offerings

Classics Courses (No Greek or Latin Required)

128f Ancient Rome

(Same as History 128) A survey of the political, social, and cultural history of Rome from the Republic to the Empire, down to the early fourth century with the rise of Constantine. We shall strive to recreate the entire experience of the peoples of the Rome and those that came in contact with it as it rose to become the dominant power in the Mediterranean: their history, war, trade and technology, religion, republican government and imperial administration, slavery, economics, and the Roman family. Special emphasis will be given to the growth of Rome and its empire. Sources include Polybius, Salust, Livy, Suetonius, Tacitus, Seneca, Plutarch, and others.

Meets Humanities I-B requirement

G. Sumi

4 credits

211s Gods and Mortals: Ancient Greek and Roman Myth

(Taught in English) We will accompany Odysseus on his return from Troy, retrieve the Golden Fleece with Jason, and race with Ovid through his witty—and often troubling—retelling of Greek myths from a Roman perspective. This course examines how Greek and Roman authors and artists from very different periods used myth to explore questions about life, art, and politics. Works include: Homer, *Odyssey*; Apollonius of Rhodes, *Argonautica*; Ovid, *Metamorphoses* and *Heroides*; Greek tragedy, and ancient images representing myths.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

P. Debnar

Optional screenings of films related to ancient myth.; 4 credits

***212 Greek Tragedy and Film**

(Same as Film Studies 220) This course examines the evolution of tragedy in classical Athens from choral performance to sophisticated drama through the contributions of the three most important tragedians: Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides. Attention is given both to the political context in which the plays were performed and to the dramatic effects employed by the playwrights that made the stage an influential medium of powerful artistry. Students will also study the influence of ancient tragedy on film by examining dramatic strategies modern directors employ and the allusions to Greek tragedy found in some innovative films by Roman Polanski, Woody Allen, Jules Dassin, Michael Cacoyannis, and others.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

B. Arnold

2 meetings (75 minutes) plus 1 screening; 4 credits

215f Ancient and Medieval Political Thought

(Same as Politics 211) Through the works of such thinkers as Aeschylus, Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Seneca, and Pizan, this course explores the broad themes of ancient and medieval political thought. We will pay particular attention to the ways these writers characterized the relationship between the individual and community; the roles knowledge, reason, emotion, and rhetoric play in political life; the link between gender and citizenship; and the various forms political community can take.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

L. Markovits

Prereq. soph, jr, sr; 4 credits

***232 From Hoplites to Legions: Warfare in the Ancient World**

Greeks and Romans viewed warfare as an abiding part of the human condition. The literature and artwork of this period are filled with images of the two faces of war: it conferred great glory on the victors as well as profound horror and suffering on all involved. This course examines warfare from archaic Greece and the rise of the city-state (c. 800 BCE) to the fall of the Roman Empire in the West (c. 476 CE). By closely reading a variety of primary sources and secondary materials, we will consider such topics as the

culture and ethics of war and imperialism; logistics and strategies of warfare; and armor, weaponry, and battlefield tactics.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

G. Sumi

4 credits

***260 Knowing God**

This course examines the following key texts from the ancient world that treat significantly the problem of knowing God and the mystery enveloping such knowledge: Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*, Plato's *Phaedo*, Cicero's *Concerning the Nature of the Gods*, *Job*, Paul's *Epistle to the Romans*, and others. Attention is also given to the different ways of thinking about the divine and human natures in these works, which are broadly reflective of Graeco-Roman and Judaeo-Christian value systems.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

B. Arnold

may satisfy either Humanities I-A or I-B requirement; 4 credits

295fs Independent Study

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. Permission of department; 1-4 credits

305s Sport and Spectacle in the Ancient World

(Same as History 305) Sport and spectacle were essential components of civic, religious, and social life in ancient Greece and Rome. This research seminar analyzes these related concepts by engaging in a close examination of the ancient primary evidence and secondary source material and then continuing with a discussion of the relevance of sport and spectacle in a modern context. Topics include the agonistic culture of ancient Greece, panhellenism, religion and sport, violent entertainment and social values, sporting venues, the politics and sociology of spectatorship, and the social status of athletes and entertainers.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

G. Sumi

Prereq. History 120(01) or (02) or equivalent, permission of instructor; 4 credits

395fs Independent Study

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. Permission of department; 1-8 credits

Greek**101f Elementary Greek: Homer's *Iliad***

This course introduces the ancient Greek language and epic meter through the study of the *Iliad*. The grammar of the *Iliad*, originally an oral poem, is relatively uncomplicated, so that by the middle of the first semester students will begin to read the poem in Greek. By the end of the year they will have read a portion of *Iliad*, Book I.

Meets language requirement; does not meet a distribution requirement

G. Sumi

Students must complete both Greek 101 (4 credits) and 102 (4 credits) to satisfy the language requirement; 4 credits

102s Elementary Greek: Homer's *Iliad*

An introduction to the ancient Greek language and epic meter through the study of the *Iliad*. The grammar of the *Iliad*, originally an oral poem, is relatively uncomplicated. By the middle of the first semester, therefore, students will begin to read the poem in Greek. By the end of the year they will have read a portion of *Iliad*, Book I.

Meets language requirement; does not meet a distribution requirement

G. Sumi

Prereq. Greek 101; Students must complete both Greek 101 (4 credits) and 102 (4 credits) to satisfy the language requirement; 4 credits

201f Intermediate Greek Poetry and Prose

A review of ancient Greek grammar with continued reading of poetry and the introduction of prose through selections from Herodotus' *Histories*.

Meets language requirement; does not meet a distribution requirement

M. Landon

Students who have not completed Greek 102 should consult with the professor; 2 meetings (75 minutes) plus 1 additional meeting; 4 credits

222s Classical Greek Prose and Poetry

This course focuses on Attic Greek, the dialect in which the tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, the comedies of Aristophanes, Thucydides' History, and Plato's dialogues were composed. Each year the readings will focus on a particular theme as it is treated in prose and poetry, such as: Socrates (Plato, Xenophon, Aristophanes); Athenian law courts (Lysias, Plato, Aristophanes); Medea (Euripides and Apollonius); Alcibiades (Thucydides, Plato, Plutarch).

Meets either language requirement or

Humanities I-A requirement

P. Debnar

Students who have not completed Greek 201 should consult with the professor; 4 credits

250f Tutorial

Studies in Greek lyric and elegy, pastoral poetry, the dialogues of Plato, the Greek novel, the use of myth in literature, or other authors, topics, or genres.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

The department

Prereq. jr, sr, permission of instructor; 2-4 credits

295fs Independent Study

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. permission of department; 1-4 credits

***322 Classical Greek Prose and Poetry**

This course focuses on Attic Greek, the dialect in which the tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, the comedies of Aristophanes, Thucydides' History, and Plato's dialogues were composed. Each year the readings will focus on a particular theme as it is treated in prose and poetry, such as: Socrates (Plato, Xenophon, Aristophanes); Athenian law courts (Lysias, Plato, Aristophanes); Medea (Euripides and Apollonius); Alcibiades (Thucydides, Plato, Plutarch). Students in this course attend class meetings for Greek 222.

Meets either language requirement or

Humanities I-A requirement

P. Debnar

Students who have not completed 2 semesters of intermediate Greek should consult with the professor; 4 credits

350f Advanced Tutorial

Studies in Greek lyric and elegy, pastoral poetry, the dialogues of Plato, the Greek novel, the use of myth in literature, or other authors, topics, or genres.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

The department

Prereq. Greek 222 or above or permission of instructor; 2-4 credits

395fs Independent Study

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. jr, sr, and permission of department; 1-8 credits

Latin

101f Elementary Latin

Offers study and practice in the grammar and syntax of classical Latin.

Meets language requirement; does not meet a distribution requirement

B. Arnold

students must complete both Latin 101 (4 credits) and 102 (4 credits) to satisfy the language requirement; 4 credits

102s Elementary Latin

Offers study and practice in the grammar and syntax of classical Latin.

Meets language requirement; does not meet a distribution requirement

B. Arnold

Students who have not completed Latin 101 should consult the department. Students must complete both Latin 101 (4 credits) and 102 (4 credits) to satisfy the language requirement; 4 credits

201f Intermediate Latin I

Combines a thorough review of Latin grammar and syntax with an introduction to the life and literature of ancient Rome, based on the reading of selected passages of Roman prose and poetry.

Meets language requirement; does not meet a distribution requirement

B. Arnold

Students who have not completed Latin 102 must take the diagnostic exam; 4 credits

222s Intermediate Latin II

Includes the life and literature of the early Roman empire, as seen in selected works of authors such as Petronius, Ovid, Pliny, and others. Offers further review of grammar and syntax.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

P. Debnar

Students who have not completed Latin 201 should consult with the professor; 4 credits

295fs Independent Study

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. permission of department; 1-4 credits

*302 Cicero and the Enemies of the Roman Republic

The career of the Roman orator and statesman Marcus Tullius Cicero spanned the last generation of the Roman Republic, a period of political instability and civil war. As the leading orator of his day, Cicero often used his rhetorical skills to thwart those who he believed were bent on the destruction of the Roman Republic. In this course, we will examine the role of public oratory in the political process in this period with a close reading of Cicero's speeches and letters concerning one of his political enemies (Catiline, Clodius, or Mark Antony).

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

G. Sumi

Prereq. Latin 222 or a 300-level Latin course or permission of the instructor; 4 credits

*307 The Slender Muse

A study of the highly romantic poetry that launched a revolution in Latin literature, including such works as Catullus's *epyllion* on Peleus and Thetis and Vergil's *Eclogues* and *Georgics*, with attention to the new understanding of poetry shown in these poems and to their commentary on the social turmoil of the last phase of the Republic.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

Arnold

Prereq. Latin 222 or permission of instructor; 4 credits

309 Vergil: *Aeneid

A study of the *Aeneid* with attention both to its presentation of the classic conflict between Greek and Roman value systems and to its controversial portrayal of empire in the Augustan age.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

B. Arnold

Prereq. Latin 222 or permission of instructor; 4 credits

310s Ovid: *Metamorphoses*

A study of Ovid's ambitious epic celebrating change and transformative forces, with attention to the challenges it poses to traditional Roman values and to conventional Roman notions of the work appropriate to a poet. In particular, consideration will be given to the way Ovid's poem subversively responds to Vergil's work.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

B. Arnold

Students who have not completed Latin 222 must consult with the professor; 4 credits

***312 *Roma Ludens*: Comedy and Satire in Ancient Rome**

Could Romans be funny? Perhaps surprisingly, in a culture where seriousness (*gravitas*) and sternness (*severitas*) were praiseworthy attributes, Romans enjoyed theatrical productions adapted from Greek comedies - from raucous and ribald farces to more subtle comedies of manners. They also believed that satire, poetry that poked fun at the vices and foibles of human nature, was a truly Roman genre. Moreover, both comic and satirical elements appear in a wide range of Roman literature. Authors may include Plautus, Terence, Horace, Ovid, Martial, Juvenal, and others.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

P. Debnar

Prereq. Latin 222 or permission of instructor; 2 meetings (75 minutes); 4 credits

***313 The Roman Historians**

In the minds of Romans, history and historiography were closely linked. Thus, in this course, we will examine equally form and content (i.e., how Romans wrote their history

and what they tended to write about) in the works of Livy, Sallust, and/or Tacitus.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

G. Sumi

Prereq. Latin 222 or permission of instructor; 4 credits

318f Views on Augustus

Augustus came to power after a long period of civil unrest. He restored order and stability and established a peace that would endure for more than two centuries. As Rome's savior and its first emperor, his accomplishments were the subject of biography, history, and even poetry. He is a complex historical figure who eludes simple interpretation. Yet we will try in this course to understand Augustus' character and accomplishments through a variety of sources, including Suetonius, Horace, and Augustus himself.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

M. Landon

Latin 222 or permission of instructor; 4 credits

350fs Junior/Senior Tutorial

Studies in Roman lyric, elegy, didactic poetry, the Roman novel, Roman use of myth in literature, or other authors or genres.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

The department

Prereq. jr, sr with 8 credits of advanced work in Latin; Permissions of instructor; 2-4 credits

395fs Independent Study

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. jr, sr, and permission of department; 1-8 credits