

Classics

The majors and minors in classics, Greek, Latin, and ancient studies are administered by the Department of Classics and Italian: Professors Debnar, Sumi; Associate Professor Arnold.

Contact Persons

Kay Klippel, *senior administrative assistant*
Ombretta Frau, *chair*

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).

The department offers four majors. 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).

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

The broadest is ancient studies, a 32-credit major approaching the ancient civilizations

from an interdisciplinary and inclusive perspective (see Ancient Studies).

Requirements for the Majors

Classics:

- A minimum of 40 credits, including:
 - At least 8 total credits in each language at the 200 level or above.
 - At least 20 credits at the 300 level, 12 of which must be in Latin or Greek.
 - 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. Courses at the 100 level normally do not count toward the major; however, in the case of second (or third) languages, 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.

Greek or Latin:

- A minimum of 32 credits
 - At least 12 credits at the 300 level in the language of concentration.
 - After consulting with her advisor, a Latin or Greek major may count courses in Latin or Greek at the 200 level or above and/or choose from a variety of courses in art history, classics (in English), history, philosophy, politics, or religion at the 200 level or above.
 - Courses at the 100 level normally do not count toward the major; however, in the case of second (or third) languages, 8 credits of Greek, Latin, or Sanskrit at the 100 level may count toward the major.

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

Requirements for the Minors

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.

Greek or Latin:

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

Ancient studies: See Ancient Studies.

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 institutions 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 apply to summer sessions of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

Course Offerings

Classics Courses (No Greek or Latin Required)

106f Tragedy Ancient and Modern

(First-year seminar; writing-intensive course) This course will examine the conventions of tragedy in the ancient Greek theater and their influence on modern American drama. Readings will include representative plays from the three celebrated ancient Athenian dramatists, Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides, and from the moderns, Eugene O’Neill, Tennessee Williams, and Arthur Miller. Tragic forms and themes in *The Book of Job* from the Hebrew Bible will provide a further interesting point of comparison.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

B. Arnold

Prereq. fy or permission of instructor; 4 credits

***127f Ancient Greece**

(Same as History 127) This course will trace the emergence and expansion of Greek civilization in the Mediterranean. From the philosophical parlors of Athens to the martial gymnasias of Sparta, the Greek city-states developed diverse political systems, social structures, and cultures. Alexander the Great then exported this legacy across the Near East. Among the themes of the course will be Greek thought, social relations, encounters with Near Eastern peoples, especially Persians and Jews, and the incorporation of the Greek world into the Roman empire. Sources will include works of classical Greek literature, as well as the more mundane insights of inscriptions, papyri, and archaeology.

Meets Humanities I-B requirement

R. Payne

4 credits

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 and the rise of Constantine. We shall strive to recreate the entire experience of the peoples of the Roman Empire and those who came in contact with it as it rose to become the dominant power in the Mediterranean. Topics include their history, war, trade and technology, religion, republican government and imperial administration, slavery, economics, and the Roman family. Sources include Polybius, Sallust, Livy, Suetonius, Tacitus, Seneca, Plutarch, and others.

Meets Humanities I-B requirement

J. Moralee

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

225s Athenian Democracy and its Foes

(Same as History 225) Democracy first took root in Athens in the late sixth century BCE and flourished, with only brief interruptions, until the city came under the power of Macedonia in the latter part of the fourth century BCE. This course will trace the development of Athenian democracy and examine such topics as citizenship; the role of women, the family, and non-citizens in Athens; the legal system; education; and public entertainment. It will also compare democratic Athens with its antithesis, Sparta. Sources will include Herodotus, Thucydides, Aristophanes, Plato, Aristotle, Demosthenes, and others.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

P. Debnar

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

***260f 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

*305 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

P. Debnar

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

P. Debnar

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

P. Debnar

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

The department

Prereq. Greek 201; 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

322s 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

The department

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

350fs 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 and 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

J. Moralee, B. Arnold

Prereq. fy,so,jr; seniors with instructor

permission; 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

The department

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

Prereq. Latin-102 or permission of instructor; 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

The department

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

***225s The Dido/Aeneas Story**

Second-year level study of Latin with readings in prose and poetry focused around the Roman foundation myth of Dido and Aeneas, which can be read on many different

levels: as a myth of the origins of Rome; as an historical allegory of the Punic wars and the later war against Cleopatra, Queen of the East; as a psychological analysis of romantic love; as moral and political philosophy; and as a classical tragedy with interesting allusions to several of the best Greek tragedies. Selections are from Vergil, Ovid, Livy and Pompeius Trogus. Offers further review of grammar and syntax.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

B. Arnold

Prereq. Latin 201 or permission of instructor; 4 credits

295fs Independent Study

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. permission of department; 1-4 credits

***302s 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 permission of the instructor.; 4 credits

***307f 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

B. Arnold

Prereq. Latin 222 or Latin 223; 4 credits

309s 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

***310 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

313f Myth, Memory, and History: Writing the Past in the Roman Republic

Livy and Sallust, the best known historians of the Roman Republic, viewed history writing as a moral enterprise, presenting events from the past as exemplary tales to inform and enlighten the lives of their readers. Their narratives thus are highly rhetorical, combining myth, memory, and history to reconstruct the past. Close reading of selections from Livy's *Ab Urbe Condita* and/or Sallust's monographs—the *Bellum Catilinae* and *Bellum Jugurthinum*—will lead to discussions about how Romans viewed their past and how they wrote about it.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

G. Sumi

Prereq. Latin 222 or permission of instructor; 4 credits

***318 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 sav-

ior 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

The department

Prereq. 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