Classical Studies

Baechle, Banta, Pittenger.

The foundation of the Classical Studies major is the study of the languages and, through them, the cultures and cultural values of Greece and Rome. The major is interdisciplinary; it deals with multiple aspects of the Greco-Roman world. Literature, history, philosophy, early Christianity, art, archaeology, and anthropology are all relevant subjects. Students with any of these interests can focus their major and Independent Study to suit their own interests. Classical Studies offers courses in three areas: Classics, Greek, or Latin. Courses from other departments may be counted toward the major as well with the approval of the Department.

Major: Two or more 300-level courses in either Greek or Latin and at least one semester at any level in the other language; Cla 471 (culminating experience); Seminar for Majors (.50 unit); four other appropriate courses as determined by the Classical Studies Department.
Comprehensive evaluation with passing grade. 8.5 courses.

Classics

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Minor: Classics, Latin, or Greek courses — Five, not including Lat 115-116 or Gre 115-116. Total of five minor courses.

Cla 160. Special Topics.
Cla 231. Ancient Epic. A survey of Greek and Roman epic poetry in English translation. Students will learn the formal elements of epic poetry and how to use these formal elements to understand the themes and concerns of each epic. Offered every third year.
Cla 232. Ancient Drama. A survey of Classical tragedy and comedy in English translation. Students will learn the formal elements of drama and how to use these formal elements to understand the themes and concerns of individual plays. Offered every third year.
Cla 233. Mythology. Depending on the instructor, the course will be an introduction to Greek myth or to Roman myth and Roman uses of Greek myth. Topics may include: myth in its historical and social context, myth as a conceptual language for expressing a culture’s world-wide view, modern theoretical understandings of the functions of myth, myth as part of a literary and artistic tradition. Offered alternate years.
Cla 251. Greek History. A survey of Greek history from the Aegean Bronze Age to the age of Alexander. Identical to His 251. Offered every third year.
Cla 252. Roman History. A survey of Roman history from the founding of the city to the fall of the Roman Empire. Identical to His 252. Offered alternate years.
Cla 253. Roman Games. Mass-entertainment by means of blood-sports, in the arena and the circus, was a prominent feature of Roman culture. This course will examine the social, religious,
economic and political significance of the Roman games from a historical standpoint, including archaeological remains, artistic renderings and literary sources both pagan and Christian. Discussion will also touch on modern parallels and big-budget Hollywood films. All sources in English translation. No prerequisite. Identical to His 253. Offered alternate years during Spring Term.

**Cla 260. Special Topics.**

**Cla 307. Directed Study.** .50 unit.

**Cla 333. Socratic Literature.** A study of the character Socrates in the works of Plato, Aristophanes, and Xenophon in English translation. Students will learn how to interpret these diverse texts by trying to understand who the character Socrates is for each of these very different authors. Offered every third year.

**Cla 343. Class, Status, and Gender in Ancient Athens.** The basic aim of the course is to develop a picture of how people in ancient Athens thought about differences among various kinds of people, free and slave, rich and poor, citizen and foreigner, male and female. The course examines the social and political world in which these differences had effect. Offered every third year.

**Cla 344. Greek Archaeology and Classical Athenian Culture.** The goal of this course is to study Athenian culture in light of the realities of Athenian daily life, religion, and politics, insofar as we can reconstruct them on the basis of material evidence supplemented by ancient texts. Students will read texts bearing on various aspects of that culture – temples and sanctuaries, warfare, athletics, etc.– in conjunction with particular archaeological sites and museums in Athens and elsewhere in Greece. Offered every third year.

**Cla 351. Alexander & the Hellenistic World.** Alexander the Great remains one of the most compelling figures in all of history, and after his death the Mediterranean world was never the same again. His successors carved up his vast empire between them, and the new hybrid civilization they created (known as Hellenistic or “Greek-ish”) was still in place more than a century later when the Romans came along. This course is taught as a seminar and will cover a wide range of topics, including warfare, politics, society, culture and always the problem of evidence. No prerequisite, but students are encouraged to contact the instructor in advance. Offered every three years. Identical to His 351.

**Cla 360. Special Topics.**

**Cla 366. Studies in Historiography.** An examination of selected topics in the ancient world, emphasizing the history, philosophy and methods of historical investigation. Content may vary. May be repeated for credit with permission of instructor. Offered alternate years. Identical to His 366.

**Cla 370. Directed Study.** One unit.

**Cla 401. Seminar for Majors.** Preliminary work for the Independent Study combined with background for the reading lists for the comprehensive exam and study of the history and methodologies of Classics as a discipline. .50 unit

**Cla 471. Independent Study.**

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**Greek**

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*Minor.* Greek courses – Five.
**Gre 115. Beginning Classical Greek I.** An introduction to Ancient Greek and to Athenian culture of the fifth and fourth centuries B.C.E. Students will develop skills in grammatical analysis, useful for understanding how both Greek and other languages work. At the same time they will begin learning about the literature and social values of Classical Athens.

**Gre 116. Beginning Classical Greek II.** A continuation of Gre 115. During the second semester the readings will become progressively more complex grammatically and the cultural context of the readings richer and more detailed. Prerequisite: Gre 115 or permission.

**Gre 217. Intermediate Greek.** After review of the work done in the first two semesters, students will continue to work on their understanding of the language and its grammar. Unadapted ancient prose texts bearing on central cultural concerns of the Athenians will be read, excerpted or as wholes. Further readings in English will provide background and historical context. Prerequisite: Gre 116 or permission.

**Gre 218. Advanced Intermediate Greek.** After finishing the reading of the prose texts started in the first semester, the course will move on to selections from a drama, usually a tragedy of Euripides or a comedy of Aristophanes, bearing on the topics addressed in the first semester. There will be additional readings in English on the history and practice of Athenian theater. Prerequisite: Gre 217 or permission.

**Gre 307. Directed Study.** .50 unit

**Gre 323. Ancient Greek Poetry/Drama.** The texts read for the course in a given year may vary. Normally, a course on fifth-century drama will alternate with a course on Homer and other early poetry. Course can be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: 218 or permission.

**Gre 324. Ancient Greek Prose.** The topic of the course in a given year may vary. Normally, a course on Herodotus and Thucydides will alternate with a course based on the texts of the orators, Plato and Aristotle. Course can be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: 218 or permission.

**Gre 370. Directed Study.** One unit.

**Latin**

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*Minor:* Latin courses – Four, beyond Lat 115 or its equivalent. Total of four minor courses.

**Lat 115. Introduction to Classical Latin I.** An introduction to the basic structure of Classical Latin and to the study of ancient and inflected languages generally. In addition to developing understanding of the grammar of Classical Latin, students will be introduced to ancient Roman civilization and literature through appropriately graded readings based on original Latin texts.

**Lat 116. Introduction to Classical Latin II.** A continuation of Lat 115. Completion and comprehensive review of Latin grammar leading to the first reading of unadapted Latin texts. Besides development of basic Latin reading skills, emphasis is also given to the development of Latin and its place within world languages, as well as its significance for the study of Roman civilization and history. Prerequisite: Lat 115 or permission.

**Lat 217. Intermediate Latin.** Consolidation of knowledge of the fundamentals of the Latin language, with specific attention given to the expansion of lexical, phonological and analytical skills in Latin in preparation for the advanced sequence of courses. Overview of the development of Latin language and literature and of Roman culture. Readings of unadapted Latin will be drawn primarily
from the Satyricon of Petronius, the history of Livy, and the Aeneid of Vergil, which will also be read in whole in English translation. Prerequisite: Lat 116 or permission.

**Lat 218. Advanced Latin.** The first course taken in the advanced sequence of Latin. Lat 218 is offered concurrently with Lat 320, 321, 322, 323, 324 or 325, and it draws its topic and specific readings from the more advanced course, though assignments for Lat 218 focus more on maturation of basic reading and interpretive skills. Prerequisite: Lat 217 or permission.

**Lat 260. Special Topics.**

**Lat 307. Directed Study.** .50 unit.

**Lat 320. Medieval Latin.** Survey of Latin language and literature from the 4th to the 14th century and of the cultures from which it arose. Prerequisite: Lat 217. Offered every third year.

**Lat 321. Latin Poetry.** Study of the major authors and genres of Latin poetry. Readings focus primarily on the Epic, Didactic, Lyric, and Elegiac poetry of the Late Republican and Augustan periods of Latin literature, and will include at least Ovid’s Metamorphoses, Horace’s Odes, and the Eclogues of Virgil. Prerequisite: Lat 217. Offered every third year.

**Lat 322. Roman Drama.** Study of the theater at Rome and its importance to Roman culture. Latin readings will include the comedies of Plautus and Terence, and the tragedies of Seneca. Prerequisite: Lat 217. Offered every third year.

**Lat 325. Roman Philosophy and Religion.** Study of the philosophical and religious thought of the Romans. Latin readings will be drawn primarily from Lucretius, Seneca, Apuleius, and the philosophical work of Cicero. Prerequisite: Lat 217. Offered every third year.

**Lat 326. Roman Social History.** Topical survey of the social history of ancient Rome. Latin texts will be drawn primarily from the Satires of Juvenal, the Satyricon of Petronius, and the collections of letters of Seneca, Pliny, and Cicero. Prerequisite: Lat 217. Offered every third year.

**Lat 327. Latin Historians and Roman History.** Survey of the history of ancient Rome, paying particular attention to the territorial, political, and military development of Rome from an isolated city-state into a world empire. Latin readings will be drawn primarily from Roman historians and orators, including the histories of Sallust, Livy, Tacitus, and the speeches of Cicero. Prerequisite: Lat 217. Offered every third year.

**Lat 360. Special Topics.**

**Lat 370. Directed Study.** One unit.