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 100. 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 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 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. Identical to His 253. Offered alternate years during Spring Term.

Cla 260. Special Topics.

Cla 307. Directed Study. .50 unit.

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.

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 465. Capstone Seminar. Course content will reflect the topic for the annual Capstone. Open
to all juniors and seniors and may be repeated once for credit. Students may enroll in only one
Capstone seminar in a given term.

Cla 471. Independent Study.