

Classical Studies BA Catalog, 2025-26

MAJOR/MINORS

- **PROFESSOR:** George Fredric Franko
- **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR:** Katelin McCullough

Classical studies is the multidisciplinary study of the language, literature, art, and history of ancient Greece, Rome, and their Mediterranean neighbors. Courses in Greek and Latin provide the skills to appreciate and evaluate literary masterpieces without the intermediary of a translator. Courses in Greek and Roman art, history, and literature in translation teach the responsible use of primary evidence to form sound critical judgments about the ancient world. The survey courses in Ancient Art provide a multicultural view of the ancient world, integrating a synchronous study of ancient Egypt and the ancient Near East into the student's work on Greece and Rome. The classical studies program guides a student through these paths of inquiry by strengthening critical thinking, writing, and oral communication skills and by developing an understanding of the premodern perspective. Students who major in classical studies have gone on to graduate studies in ancient art, archaeology, and languages and have been well prepared for careers in law, museum work, library science, and publishing.

The department offers a major in classical studies with two different concentrations, as well as minors in Latin and Greek. The concentration in classical philology emphasizes competence in the reading of Latin and/or Greek and the critical analysis of ancient literature. The concentration in ancient studies, under the direction of the student's advisor, focuses on a particular aspect of ancient art, history, philosophy, religion, or literature and provides basic training in Latin and/or Greek.

All classical studies majors are strongly encouraged to pursue abroad programs (College Year in Athens, Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome, travel/study in Short Term), archaeological excavations, and internships with museums.

Students who have passed Greek or Latin at the 200 level or above may receive their Hollins diploma written in Latin.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN CLASSICAL STUDIES WITH A CONCENTRATION IN ANCIENT STUDIES:

9 courses (34 credit hours)

- At least 16 credit hours of Latin and/or Greek
- At least 8 credit hours in 300-level courses in classical studies, Latin, or Greek
- CLAS 480: Senior Thesis (2 or 4)
- The remaining credit hours will be chosen from among courses in classical studies, Latin, Greek, HIST 135: Introduction to Ancient History, PHIL 201: Ancient Philosophy, REL 201: Introduction to the Hebrew Bible, and REL 202: Introduction to the New Testament

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN CLASSICAL STUDIES WITH A CONCENTRATION IN CLASSICAL PHILOLOGY:

9 courses (36 credit hours)

- 32 credit hours in Latin and/or Greek, with at least 8 credit hours at the 300 level
- At least 4 credit hours chosen from among classical studies courses

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN LATIN:

5+ courses (20 credit hours)

- At least 16 credit hours in Latin at the level of 111 or higher
- 4 credit hours chosen from among:
 - CLAS 138: Classical Mythology (4)
 - CLAS 140: Narrating an Empire: Roman Literature and Ideology (4)
 - CLAS/HIST 241: Roman History (4)
 - ARTH/CLAS 270: Art and Archaeology of the Roman Mediterranean (4)
 - CLAS 314: Roman History & Shakespeare (4)
 - ARTH/CLAS/GWS 350: Roman Women: Methodologies and Evidence (4)
 - ARTH/CLAS 355: Advanced Topics in Ancient Art - Pompeii and Herculaneum (4)

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN GREEK:

5+ courses (20 credit hours)

- At least 16 credit hours in Greek
- 4 credit hours chosen from among:
 - CLAS 130: Literature and Thought in Ancient Greece (4)
 - CLAS 138: Classical Mythology (4)
 - CLAS/HIST 240: Greek History (4)
 - ARTH/CLAS 245: Myth and Ancient Art (4)

- ARTH/CLAS 274: Hellenistic Art and Culture (4)

COURSES IN CLASSICAL STUDIES:

CLAS 130: LITERATURE AND THOUGHT IN ANCIENT GREECE (4)

We shall read and discuss outstanding and influential works from archaic, classical, and Hellenistic Greece, including selections from such authors as Homer, Sappho, Sophocles, Aristophanes, Herodotus, and Plato. We shall examine the defining qualities of different genres (epic, lyric, tragedy, comedy, history, philosophy, biography) and the social context to which the authors responded. Open to first-year students.. (f, w, x, PRE, SMN)

CLAS 138: CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY (4)

An introduction to the nature and function of myth in Greece and Rome. Readings and discussions will give an understanding of the role of myth in religion, history, politics, and social organization. The course will also introduce the various methodologies for studying myth, such as comparative, historical, psychoanalytic, structuralist, folkloric, and feminist approaches. Open to first-year students. (PRE)

CLAS 140: NARRATING AN EMPIRE: ROMAN LITERATURE AND IDEOLOGY (4)

This course offers a survey of significant literary works from the Roman republic and empire. Our main goal is to gain some familiarity with the authors, works, and genres (including epic, lyric, satire, comic drama, history, oratory, biography, and the novel) that have helped shape world literary traditions. The secondary goal of this course is to develop our sensitivity to how literature can create and reflect ideology. To accomplish these goals, we shall read works in translation, discuss them together as a seminar, and write short papers. Open to first-year students. (SMN)

CLAS 240: GREEK HISTORY (4)

A history of the Greeks from the Bronze Age to the Roman conquest. Special emphasis is given to the golden age of Athens, focusing on the democratic system, the interplay between foreign and domestic politics, social and economic developments, and outstanding cultural achievements. Other topics include The Trojan War, the Spartan state, women in Greek society, the origins of historiography, the empire of Alexander the Great, and the diffusion of Greek ideas. Also listed and described as HIST 240. Open to first-year students. (PRE)

CLAS 241: ROMAN HISTORY (4)

A survey of Roman history from the foundation of the city to the fall of the Roman Empire. Special emphasis will be placed on the social and political changes leading to the collapse of the Republic; on the growth and development of Christianity in the Roman Empire; and on the transition from the ancient world to medieval Europe. Most readings will be taken from Roman sources, which will also provide an opportunity to investigate some of the vivid personalities of Roman history. Also listed and described as HIST 241. Open to first-year students. (PRE)

CLAS 245: MYTH AND ANCIENT ART (4)

Myths from the near-eastern, Egyptian, and classical worlds are not only preserved in textual sources but also in vase paintings, architectural sculpture, carved reliefs, frescoes, and other painted media. We'll compare the artistic representations with literary sources for the mythological stories of several ancient civilizations, discuss myths known only from visual sources, learn the elements of iconography, and examine the interplay of text and image in many works of art. Also listed and described as ARTH 245. Open to first-year students. (f, w, x, AES, PRE)

CLAS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: ARCGIS AND THINKING SPATIALLY (4)

Students will focus on skills and concepts necessary to analyze and manipulate data using ArcGIS. By completing three units centered in environmental studies, sociology, and the study of the ancient world, students will examine the concepts, behaviors, and values that can be used to address issues where study of the natural world intersects with the social sciences. (TLAS)

CLAS 261: ANCIENT ART (4)

Also listed and described as ARTH 261. (AES, PRE)

CLAS 270: ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE ROMAN MEDITERRANEAN (4)

The Roman empire encompassed large and varied landscapes from the Atlantic to Arabia. This course is an introduction to the sculpture, architecture, and other objects found in Italy and the Roman provinces. Material will be presented topically and chronologically so that we can see and evaluate in light of their local contexts and broader cultural connections. Also listed and described as ARTH 270. (AES, PRE)

CLAS 274: HELLENISTIC ART AND CULTURE (4)

The conquests of Alexander the Great undoubtedly brought about dramatic changes. Students will consider a wide variety of aspects: the stories that art can illuminate, the

history which informs the creation of such documents, and the ability of art to shape or reflect political realities. Students will examine continuity and innovation in the Hellenistic kingdoms through a variety of media. (SMN, PRE, AES)

CLAS 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 OR 4)

Independent study conducted below the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

CLAS 314: ROMAN HISTORY & SHAKESPEARE (4)

Historians both establish facts about the past and interpret those facts by constructing narratives that reveal causes and effects tied to individual personalities and collective social factors. Shakespeare is one of the most sensitive and perceptive interpreters of Roman history, and Rome provided him with some of his best material. We will read, view, and discuss three of Shakespeare's Roman plays (Coriolanus, Julius Caesar, Antony & Cleopatra). Our study of the ancient sources will extend beyond the texts of Plutarch, Livy, and other authors to include the contextual epigraphic, archaeological, and numismatic records. Our dual goals are to understand modern study of ancient history and to evaluate Shakespeare as an early modern interpreter of Roman history for the page and stage. (PRE)

CLAS 342: GREEK & SHAKESPEAREAN TRAGEDY (4)

Intensive study of exemplary tragedies from Aeschylus (Oresteia trilogy), Sophocles (Oedipus plays), Euripides (Medea, Hecuba, Electra), and Shakespeare (Hamlet, Macbeth, Lear). Topics will include justice, revenge, and murder; the development of tragedy in classical Athens and early modern England; the effects of ancient and premodern staging conditions and practices; the role of tragedy as reflector and generator of social tensions; the portrayal of gender in tragedy; the place of Aristotle's Poetics as a touchstone for the evaluation of the tragic genre; ideas of tradition, reception, and confluence among authors and audiences. Videos and live performances will enhance our exploration beyond the scripts.. (AES, PRE)

CLAS 355: ADVANCED TOPICS IN ANCIENT ART (4)

Also listed and described as ARTH 355. Prerequisite: ARTH/CLAS 261 or permission. (AES, PRE)

CLAS 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 OR 4)

Independent study conducted at the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

CLAS 399: INTERNSHIP (4)

Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. May be proposed in any term.

CLAS 480: SENIOR THESIS (2 OR 4)

Students write a major research paper using primary and secondary sources. Prerequisite: senior standing. Required of senior majors. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered both terms.

COURSES IN GREEK:

GREK 101, 102: ELEMENTARY ANCIENT GREEK (4, 4)

This year-long course introduces the elements of classical Attic Greek to attain a knowledge of Greek grammar and vocabulary to enhance reading ability. The readings of simple prose and poetry will introduce the cultures of Archaic, Classical, and Hellenistic Greece. Fulfills the language requirement for those students who have not previously studied Greek. Open to first-year students. 101 offered fall term in odd years; 102 offered in spring term in even years. (WL, LAN)

GREK 210: PLATO (4)

In this second-year Greek course, we will translate one or more of the dialogues of Plato. The class will complete a thorough review of Greek grammar and syntax, expand into more advanced structures of the language, and increase vocabulary. We will also discuss Plato's philosophy and philosophical language, the problems of translation, and the intellectual atmosphere of the fifth century BCE. Prerequisite: GREK 102 or equivalent.. (WL, LAN: if taken with second 200-level GREK course; PRE)

GREK 220: HOMER (4)

This second-year Greek course will translate selections from the Iliad and/or Odyssey. The class will learn the dialect, rhetorical devices, and meter of Homer's epic poems. Additional readings of Homer's epics in English translation will provide fodder for discussions on epic form and style, heroic values, religion and divinity in the Homeric world, and Greek mythology. Prerequisite: GREK 102 or equivalent. (WL, LAN: if taken with second 200-level GREK course; PRE)

GREK 230: NEW TESTAMENT (4)

This second-year Greek course will translate selections from the New Testament. The class will review Greek grammar and syntax and increase the fluency with which the student reads Greek prose. Additional readings of the New Testament in English will focus on

historical problems of the text and difficulties in translation. Prerequisite: GREK 102 or equivalent. (WL, LAN: if taken with second 200-level GREK course; PRE)

GREK 240: GREEK TRAGEDY (4)

This second-year Greek course will translate selections from the 5th-century BCE tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, or Euripides. The class will learn the literary structure of ancient tragedy as well as the poetic meters and rhetorical devices of the genre. Additional readings of tragedies in English translation will cover tragic themes, performance on stage, as well as societal and religious functions of the plays. Prerequisite: GREK 102 or equivalent (WL, LAN: if taken with second 200-level GREK course; PRE)

GREK 250: SAPPHO (2)

Intensive study of the fragments of Sappho's poetry, in Greek, supplemented by examination of modern scholarship on the poems. Requires instructor permission for students who have previously passed or are currently enrolled in Greek 102; no permission required for those who have passed Greek at the 200 or 300 level.

GREK 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 OR 4)

Independent study conducted below the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

GREK 310: PLATO (4)

In this third-year Greek course, we'll translate one or more of the dialogues of Plato. The course meets in conjunction with GREK 210. Prerequisite: GREK 210, GREK 220, GREK 230, GREK 240, or equivalent. Course may be repeated if different works are studied. (WL, PRE)

GREK 320: HOMER (4)

In this third-year Greek course, we'll translate selections from the Iliad and/or Odyssey. The course meets in conjunction with GREK 220. Prerequisite: GREK 210, GREK 220, GREK 230, or GREK 240, or equivalent. Course may be repeated if different works are studied. (WL, PRE)

GREK 330: NEW TESTAMENT (4)

In this third-year Greek course, we'll translate selections from the New Testament. The course meets in conjunction with GREK 230. Prerequisite: GREK 210, GREK 220, GREK 230, or GREK 240, or equivalent. Course may be repeated if different works are studied. (WL, PRE)

GREK 340: GREEK TRAGEDY (4)

This third-year Greek course will translate selections from the 5th-century BCE tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, or Euripides. This course meets in conjunction with GREK 240.

Prerequisite: GREK 210, 220, 230, or 240 or equivalent. Course may be repeated if different works are studied. (WL, PRE, LAN)

GREK 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 OR 4)

Independent study at the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

GREK 399: INTERNSHIP (4)

Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. May be proposed any term.

COURSES IN LATIN:

LAT 101, 102: ELEMENTARY LATIN (4, 4)

This year-long course introduces the elements of the classical Latin language. Skills in grammar and syntax will lead to an ability to read continuous Latin prose as well as illuminate the workings of English vocabulary and grammar. The readings of simple prose and poetry will introduce Roman culture of the late Republican and early Imperial periods. Fulfills the language requirement for those students who have not previously studied Latin. Open to first-year students. 101 offered every fall term; 102 offered every spring term. (LAN, WL)

LAT 111: INTERMEDIATE LATIN (4)

This course completes a survey of advanced grammatical and syntactical issues while reviewing the basics and increasing vocabulary. The class will read unaltered Latin prose selections from such works as Petronius' *Satyricon*, Apuleius' *The Golden Ass*, Pliny's *Letters*, or the Vulgate that will lead to discussions of prose style, genre, and Roman cultural norms. Prerequisite: LAT 102 or equivalent. Open to first-year students. Offered every fall term. (WL, LAN: if taken with LAT 210, 220, 227, or 280)

LAT 210: ROMAN EPIC (4)

In this second-year course, students will read, analyze, and discuss selections from Vergil's *Aeneid*, Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, or Lucretius' *de Rerum Naturae* (depending on semester).. The class will complete advanced study in the scansion and rhetorical devices of Latin poetry, as well as expand vocabulary and grammatical understanding. The course will also set the poems in the context of the historical and social events in Rome that inspired them

as well as explore the Greek precedents for the genre of epic poetry. May be retaken as long as selected work changes. Prerequisite: LAT 111 or equivalent. (WL, LAN, PRE)

LAT 220: ROMAN LYRIC POETRY (4)

In this second-year course, students will read, analyze, and discuss the poetry of Catullus and Horace. The class will complete advanced study in the scansion and rhetorical devices of Latin poetry, as well as expand vocabulary and grammatical understanding. The course will also set the poems in the context of the historical and social events in Rome that inspired them as well as explore the Greek precedents for the genre of lyric poetry.

Prerequisite: LAT 111 or equivalent. (LAN, WL, PRE)

LAT 227: EPISTOLARY LATIN (4)

If the surviving correspondence of Pliny or Cicero is a reliable witness, the Romans were prodigious letter writers. This course will read and analyze the published letters of the more illustrious Romans named above and letters that survive on papyri and wooden tablets, such as the famed Vindolanda letters. The study of the epistolary genre reveals details of daily life, personal relationships, and political bickering, as well as colloquialisms and unusual language. Letters will be studied as a mode of communication, historical documents, and literary vehicles. Prerequisite: LAT 111 or equivalent. (WL, LAN, PRE)

LAT 280: ROMAN NOVEL (4)

Petronius' *Satyricon* and Apuleius' *Metamorphoses* or *The Golden Ass* are the main representatives of the Roman novel. In this second-year course, students will read significant portions of both texts in Latin and study the stylistic and syntactical distinctions of each author. The class will also track the evolution of the genre from the Greek period into the late Roman empire with selected readings in translation. Prerequisite: LAT 111 or equivalent. (WL, LAN, PRE)

LAT 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 OR 4)

Independent study conducted below the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

LAT 310: ROMAN EPIC (4)

Students will read, analyze, and discuss selections from Vergil's *Aeneid*, Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, or Lucretius' *de Rerum Naturae*. The class will complete advanced study in the scansion and rhetorical devices of Latin poetry, as well as expand vocabulary and grammatical understanding. The course will also set the poems in the context of the historical and social events in Rome that inspired them as well as explore the Greek

precedents for the genre of epic poetry. This course meets in conjunction with LAT 210.

Prerequisite: LAT 210, LAT 220, LAT 227, LAT 280, or equivalent. Course may be repeated if a different author is studied. (WL, PRE)

LAT 320: ROMAN LYRIC POETRY (4)

Students will read, analyze, and discuss the poetry of Catullus and Horace. The class will complete advanced study in the scansion and rhetorical devices of Latin poetry, as well as expand vocabulary and grammatical understanding. The course will also set the poems in the context of the historical and social events in Rome that inspired them as well as explore the Greek precedents for the genre of lyric poetry. This course meets in conjunction with LAT 220. Prerequisite LAT 210, LAT 220, LAT 227, LAT 280, or equivalent. (WL, PRE)

LAT 327: EPISTOLARY LATIN (4)

This course will read and analyze the published letters of illustrious Romans such as Cicero, Pliny, and Seneca, and letters that survive on papyri and wooden tablets, such as the famed Vindolanda letters. Letters will be studied as a mode of communication, historical documents and literary vehicles. The course meets in conjunction with LAT 227. Prerequisite: LAT 210, LAT 220, LAT 227, LAT 280, or equivalent. Course may be repeated if different authors are studied. (WL, PRE).

LAT 330: ROMAN HISTORIANS (4)

A study of ancient historiography based upon the translation and thoughtful analysis of readings in English from four major Roman historians: Sallust, Livy, Suetonius, or Tacitus. To enhance our understanding of the genre and the history of the era, we shall also read selections from other ancient historians, orators, and biographers, as well as works of modern scholarship. Prerequisite: LAT 210, LAT 220, LAT 227, LAT 280, or equivalent. Course may be repeated if a different author is studied. (WL, PRE)

LAT 340: MEDIEVAL LATIN (4)

This course surveys Latin literature from late antiquity to the Renaissance. Readings will be chosen according to the needs and interests of students; possible subjects include: the Vulgate, Augustine's Confessions, Einhard's Life of Charlemagne, the letters of Abelard and Heloise, and poems from the Carmina Burana. The class will also study linguistic changes and teach the rudiments of paleography (the reading of ancient and medieval manuscripts). Prerequisite: LAT 210, LAT 220, LAT 227, LAT 280, or equivalent. Course may be repeated if different authors are studied. (WL, PRE)

LAT 360: ROMAN COMEDY (4)

A study of the comic art of Plautus and Terence based on translation and analysis of at least two of their plays. We shall also read (in English) and discuss several more of their plays, as well as those of their Greek ancestors (Aristophanes, Menander) and modern descendants (Shakespeare, Moliere). We shall also watch several videos and examine important works of modern scholarship. Prerequisite: LAT 210, LAT 220, LAT 227, LAT 280, or equivalent. (WL, PRE)

LAT 370: CICERO (4)

A study of the various works of the great Roman orator, statesman, and philosopher. We shall translate and analyze at least one oration plus either a philosophical work or selections from his personal letters. We shall also discuss some of his most famous works (read in English), as well as the intellectual and political climate of the later Roman Republic. Prerequisite: LAT 210, LAT 220, LAT 227, LAT 280, or equivalent. Course may be repeated if different works are studied. (o, WL, PRE)

LAT 380: THE ROMAN NOVEL (4)

Petronius' *Satyricon* and Apuleius' *Metamorphoses* or *The Golden Ass* are the main representatives of the Roman novel. Students will read significant portions of both texts in Latin and study the stylistic and syntactical distinctions of each author. The class will also track the evolution of the genre from the Greek period into the late Roman empire with selected readings in translation. This course meets in conjunction with LAT 280. Prerequisite: LAT 210, LAT 220, LAT 227, LAT 280, or equivalent. Open to first-year students. Course may be repeated if a different author is studied. (WL, PRE)

LAT 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 OR 4)

Independent study conducted at the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

LAT 399: INTERNSHIP (4)

Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. May be proposed in any term.