CLASSES (Div I)
Chair: Professor Edan Dekel

- Nicole G. Brown, Assistant Professor of Classics
- Kerry A. Christensen, Garfield Professor of Ancient Languages
- Edan Dekel, Chair and Professor of Classics, Chair of Jewish Studies Program; affiliated with: Religion Department
- Sarah E. Olsen, Assistant Professor of Classics
- Amanda R. Wilcox, Professor of Classics

The course offerings in Classics enable students to explore the ancient Greek, Roman, and Greco-Roman worlds from various perspectives, including literature, history, archaeology, art, philosophy, and religion. Courses are of two types: language (Greek and Latin) and translation (Classical civilization). The 100-level language courses are intensive introductions to Greek and Latin grammar; the 200-level language courses combine comprehensive grammar review with readings from Greek or Latin texts of pivotal historical periods; Latin 302 and the 400-level language courses are seminars that explore in depth selected authors or topics and the methods of analysis appropriate to each of them. Courses in which texts are read in translation provide both surveys and more specialized study of the classical world from earliest historical times through late antiquity.

MAJOR

Majors and prospective majors are encouraged to consult with the department’s faculty to ensure a well-balanced and comprehensive selection of Classics courses appropriate to their individual interests. A course or courses in ancient history are strongly recommended. Majors may also benefit from advice on courses offered in other departments that would complement their particular interests in Classics. A reading knowledge of French, German, and Italian is useful for any study in Classics and is required in at least two of these modern languages by graduate programs in classics, ancient history, classical art and archaeology, and medieval studies.

The department offers two routes to the major: Classics and Classical Civilization

Classics: (1) Six courses in Greek and/or Latin, with at least two 400-level courses in one language; (2) Three additional courses, elected from the offerings in Greek, Latin, or Classical Civilization or from approved courses in other departments; 3) Participation in the Senior Colloquium.

Classical Civilization: (1) Either Classics 101 or 102 and one of Classics 222, 223, or 224; (2) Three additional courses from the offerings in Classical civilization or from approved courses in other departments (3) Three courses in Greek or Latin with at least one at the 400 level, or four courses in Latin at any level; (4) A senior independent study is normally required to complete the Classical Civilization route. Several of the courses elected, including the independent study, should relate to each other in such a way as to reflect a concentration on a particular genre, period, or problem of Greek and Roman civilization, including topics in ancient art and archaeology, religion in the Greco-Roman world, and ancient philosophy; 4) Participation in the Senior Colloquium.

A number of courses from other departments are cross-listed with Classics and may be elected for the major, for instance, Art History 213 Greek Art and Myth, Philosophy 201 Greek Philosophy, and Religion 210 Reading Jesus, Writing Gospels. Appropriate courses that are not cross-listed may also count toward the major with the approval of the chair of Classics. Examples of such courses, which vary from year to year, are Art History 105 Picturing God in the Middle Ages, Religion/Jewish Studies 201 The Hebrew Bible, Religion 212 The Development of Christianity, and Political Science 231 Ancient Political Thought.

Senior Colloquium: Senior majors are required to enroll in CLAS 499 in both semesters. The topics and activities of this colloquium, which normally meets every other week for an hour, vary according to the interests of the participants. Junior majors are also encouraged to participate.

THE DEGREE WITH HONORS IN CLASSICS

Students who wish to be considered for the degree with honors will normally prepare a thesis or pursue appropriate independent study in one semester and winter study of their senior year. The thesis or independent study offers students the opportunity to work in depth on a topic of their choosing and to apply and develop the techniques and critical methods with which they have become acquainted during their regular course work. It may also include relevant work with members of other departments. In order to write a thesis, students normally must have a minimum GPA of 3.3 in their major courses and must submit a thesis proposal that earns departmental approval before the end of the spring semester of their junior year. To be awarded the degree with honors in Classics, the student is required to have taken a minimum of ten semester courses in the department (not including the thesis or independent study) and to have demonstrated original or superior ability in studies in the field both through course work and through the thesis or equivalent independent study.

COURSE NUMBERING SYSTEM

Language Courses: The numbering of courses through the 300 level reflects the prerequisites involved. The only prerequisite for any 400-level
course is Greek 201 or Latin 302, or equivalent language preparation. The rotation of 400-level courses is arranged to permit exposure, in a three- to four-year period, to most of the important periods and genres of classical studies. Students may enter the rotation at any point.

Classical Civilization Courses: The numbering of these courses often suggests a recommended but rarely necessary sequence of study within a given area of classical studies. Most of these courses do not assume prior experience in Classics or a cross-listed field.

STUDY ABROAD

We strongly encourage Classics majors to study abroad in their junior year, at programs in Italy (especially the semester-length program at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome), at programs in Greece (especially the College Year in Athens, which students need only attend for one semester), and in the Williams at Oxford Program. Our majors have also had excellent Classics experiences in other study-abroad programs in Italy and Greece and at various universities in Europe and the United Kingdom. In addition, we encourage students to take advantage of opportunities available in the summer: study abroad programs in Italy and Greece, archaeological digs, or even carefully planned individual travel to sites in Greece, Italy or other areas of the ancient Greco-Roman world. When the college cannot do so, the department may be able to provide some financial support for summer study abroad. The department’s faculty are always available to advise students, the chair has materials to share, and students can visit the department’s website for information and links to helpful sites.

FAQ

Students MUST contact departments/programs BEFORE assuming study away credit will be granted toward the major or concentration.

Can your department or program typically pre-approve courses for major/concentration credit?

Yes, in some cases, if appropriate course information is available in advance (e.g. syllabi and/or course descriptions), though students should be sure to contact the department.

What criteria will typically be used/required to determine whether a student may receive major/concentration credit for a course taken while on study away?

Complete syllabus and course description, including readings/assignments.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the number of major/concentration credits that a student might earn through study away?

No.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the types of courses that can be awarded credit towards your major?

No.

Are there specific major requirements that cannot be fulfilled while on study away?

Yes. Senior Colloquium.

Are there specific major requirements in your department/program that students should be particularly aware of when weighing study away options? (Some examples might include a required course that is always taught in one semester, laboratory requirements.)

No.

Give examples in which students thought or assumed that courses taken away would count toward the major or concentration and then learned they wouldn’t:

None to date.

CLAS 102  (S)  Roman Literature: Gender, Virtue, Empire

Cross-listings: CLAS 102  COMP 108

Primary Cross-listing

In the first book of Vergil’s Aeneid, the god Jupiter prophesies the foundation and the greatness of Rome: “I place no limits on their fortunes and no time; I grant them empire without end.” Yet elsewhere in this epic account of Rome’s origins, this promise of unlimited power for the descendants of Romulus seems to be seriously abridged. Some readers have seen, not only in the Aeneid but throughout classical Roman literature, a persistent tendency to inscribe the decay and disintegration of Roman power into the very works that proclaim and celebrate Roman preeminence. This course explores the ancient Romans’ own interpretations of their past, their present, and their destiny: the humble beginnings of their city, its rise to supreme world power, and premonitions of its decline. Related topics for our consideration will include Roman constructions of gender, the location and expression of virtue in the public and private spheres, the connections and conflicts between moral probity and political success, the exercise of individual power versus action on behalf of the commonwealth, the absorption of foreign customs and peoples into Rome, the management of literal
and imaginary frontiers, and other anxieties of empire. We will read selections and complete works by a wide variety of Roman authors, including Cicero, Catullus, Caesar, Vergil, Sallust, Horace, Ovid, Seneca, and Tacitus. All readings will be in translation.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: short written assignments, midterm and final exams with essays, and contributions to class discussion

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students and sophomores and majors in Classics and Comparative Literature

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

CLAS 102 (D1) COMP 108 (D1)

Spring 2020

SEM Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Amanda R. Wilcox

CLAS 202 (F) Greek Tragedy

Cross-listings: THEA 220 COMP 220 CLAS 202

Primary Cross-listing

Ancient Greek tragedy was a cultural phenomenon deeply embedded in its 5th-century Athenian context, yet it is also a dramatic form that resonates powerfully with 21st-century artists and audiences. This course examines tragedy on both levels. We will read such plays as Aeschylus' [Agamemnon], Sophocles' [Electra], and Euripides' [Medea] in English translation, considering their literary and dramatic features as well as their relationship to civic, social, and ritual contexts. We will discuss such topics as the construction of gender and identity on the dramatic stage, the engagement between tragedy and other literary genres, and the distinctive styles of the three major Athenian playwrights. We will also survey a set of recent productions and adaptations of these plays, with a particular focus on versions by women, people of color, and non-Western playwrights and producers. We will reflect on how a dramatic form largely produced by and for Athenian citizen men became a creative resource for a remarkably diverse range of 21st-century artists, and explore how modern productions offer fresh perspectives on ancient material.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, several essays, brief oral presentations

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 35

Enrollment Preferences: majors, first-years, sophomores

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

THEA 220 (D1) COMP 220 (D1) CLAS 202 (D1)

Fall 2019

LEC Section: 01 MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Sarah E. Olsen

CLAS 203 (F) History of Ancient Greek Philosophy

Cross-listings: CLAS 203 PHIL 201

Secondary Cross-listing

Very few people believe that everything is water, that we knew everything before birth, that philosophers ought to rule the state, or that some people are natural slaves. Why then should we spend our time studying people who in addition to having these surprising beliefs have been dead for 2500 years? First of all, Greek thinkers, especially Plato and Aristotle, radically shaped the trajectory of western thought in every area of philosophy. No one
can have an adequate understanding of western intellectual history without some familiarity with the Greeks, and we might think that an understanding of our intellectual history can deepen our understanding of our own situation. More importantly, many of the thinkers that we will read in this class are simply excellent philosophers, and it is worthwhile for anyone interested in philosophical problems to read treatments of these problems by excellent philosophers. We will begin the course by looking briefly at some of the Presocratic philosophers active in the Mediterranean world of the seventh through fifth centuries BCE, and some of the sophists active in the fifth century. We will then turn to several of Plato's dialogues, examining Plato's portrayal of Socrates and his development of a new and profoundly powerful philosophical conception. We will then read some of Aristotle's works on metaphysics, epistemology and ethics, considering some of the ways Aristotle's thought responds to that of predecessors.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: short papers, possibly supplemented by one or more exams

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: none

Enrollment Preferences: none

Expected Class Size: 20-40

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Unit Notes: Philosophy majors must take either PHIL 201 or PHIL 202 (and can take both)

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
CLAS 203 (D1) PHIL 201 (D2)

Fall 2019
LEC Section: 01 MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Keith E. McPartland

CLAS 205 (S) Ancient Wisdom Literature

Cross-listings: COMP 217 REL 205 JWST 205 CLAS 205

Secondary Cross-listing

The Biblical books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job are often grouped together under the Hebrew category of hokhmah, 'wisdom.' Although these books are very different in content, they can all be interpreted as meditations on ethical and practical philosophy. In this way, they represent the Hebrew Bible's canonical embrace of a widespread Near Eastern literary phenomenon. From the instructional literature of Egypt and Mesopotamia to Greek didactic poetry and fables, ancient Mediterranean cultures offer a wide range of texts that engage the issues of personal behavior, leadership, and justice. Starting with the central wisdom books of the Hebrew Bible and moving through relevant material from the Apocrypha, New Testament, and the Egyptian and Babylonian traditions, this course will examine the literature of wisdom throughout the ancient world with an eye toward understanding its various social, political, and philosophical contexts. We will then consider the Greek wisdom tradition in such texts as Hesiod's Works and Days, Aesop's fables, and fragments from the pre-Socratic philosophers. Finally, we will explore the influence of these ancient sources on later expressions of wisdom in medieval European literature, as well as more recent examples such as Benjamin Franklin's Poor Richard's Almanack. All readings are in translation.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, short written assignments, and two longer papers

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
COMP 217 (D2) REL 205 (D2) JWST 205 (D2) CLAS 205 (D2)

Attributes: JWST Core Electives

Not offered current academic year

CLAS 207 (F) From Adam to Noah: Literary Imagination and the Primeval History in Genesis
Cross-listings: CLAS 207  COMP 250  REL 207  JWST 207

Secondary Cross-listing

How long did Adam and Eve live in the Garden of Eden? What was the mark of Cain? Why did Enoch not die? Who was Noah's wife? How did Giants survive the Flood? These are only a few of the fascinating questions that ancient readers and interpreters of the Book of Genesis asked and attempted to answer. The first ten chapters of Genesis present a tantalizingly brief narrative account of the earliest history of humankind. The text moves swiftly from the Creation to the Flood and its immediate aftermath, but this masterful economy of style leaves many details unexplained. This course will explore the rich and varied literary traditions associated with the primeval history in the Genesis. Through a close reading of ancient noncanonical sources such as the Book of Enoch, Jubilees, and the Life of Adam and Eve, as well as Jewish traditions represented in Josephus, Philo, and Rabbinic literature and other accounts presented in early Christian and Gnostic texts, we will investigate the ways in which the elliptical style of Genesis generated a massive body of ancient folklore, creative exegesis, and explicit literary re-imagining of the early history of humankind. We will then turn to several continuations of these variant traditions in medieval and early modern literature, with particular attention to the extensive material on the figures of Cain and Noah. All readings are in translation.

Class Format: discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation and several writing assignments
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: students who have already taken a course in Biblical literature
Expected Class Size: 19
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
CLAS 207 (D1) COMP 250 (D2) REL 207 (D2) JWST 207 (D2)
Attributes: JWST Core Electives
Not offered current academic year

CLAS 210 (F) Art and Experience in Ancient Rome

Cross-listings: ARTH 211  CLAS 210  ARTH 210

Primary Cross-listing

To see and be seen--it could be argued that this was the very definition of Roman culture. Much like today, spectacle and the dissemination of images lay at the heart of political and social life. The visual arts were crucial both to how the Romans rehearsed their identity and goals as a community, and to how individual Romans communicated their achievements and values. In this course, lectures on the art and architecture of ancient Rome (ca. 300 B.C.-A.D. 400) will provide the backdrop for an investigation into the role visual culture played in the lives of all Romans, including slaves and former slaves, women and children. Special topics will include the funeral and funerary portraiture; the military triumph and monuments of victory; the house as a site of memory; the use of images on coins; participation in religious celebrations; displays of war booty and prisoners of war; experience and audience at the racetrack and in the amphitheater; the spectacle of food and dining; and the Roman street as both contested space and a place for art. Readings will include a combination of primary and secondary sources. All readings are in translation.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and preparation, a mid-term, a final, and a medium-length paper
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: none
Enrollment Preferences: none
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ARTH 211 (D1) CLAS 210 (D1) ARTH 210 (D1)
Not offered current academic year
CLAS 211  (F) Performing Greece

Cross-listings: CLAS 211  THEA 211  COMP 248

Primary Cross-listing

Modern readers often encounter Homer, Sappho, Sophocles, and the Greek orators as written texts, yet their first ancient audiences experienced the words of these authors not in silence and solitude, but in live performance contexts. This course, therefore, will take up performance as a critical lens for interpreting ancient Greek literature, situating these works within a rich culture of song, dance, speech, and debate. From the Homeric epics and the masterpieces of Greek tragedy and comedy to the speeches and dialogues of Demosthenes, Thucydides, and Plato, we will survey the evidence for the musical, visual, and embodied aspects of Greek literature. At the same time, we will reflect on the rewards and limits of enlivening the ancient world through the reconstruction and re-imagining of its performative dimensions. Our attention to performance will give us a distinct perspective on many important topics within the study of Greek civilization, including the construction of personal and collective identity, the workings of Athenian democracy, and the development of literary genres. In addition to a wide selection from Greek poetry, drama, and prose, our readings will include works by ancient and modern theorists of performance and culture. All readings are in translation.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, two essays (5 pages), midterm, final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 40

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students and sophomores and majors in Classics, Comparative Literature, and Theatre

Expected Class Size: 35

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

CLAS 211 (D1) THEA 211 (D1) COMP 248 (D1)

Not offered current academic year

CLAS 212  (F) The Art of Friendship

Cross-listings: REL 267  COMP 267  COMP 288  CLAS 212

Primary Cross-listing

The idea of friendship has captivated poets, philosophers, and their audiences for over three millennia. The subtle dynamics of this fundamental relationship between humans have been a source of inspiration, consolation, and consternation for countless writers and readers. What are the different types of friendship? How does one make a friend, and what makes a good friend? How does a friend differ from an acquaintance, an ally, an accomplice, an enemy? Can the beloved also be a friend? Ancient Greek and Latin writers took up these and other questions about friendship in philosophical dialogues and treatises, epic and lyric poems, tragic and comic plays, oratory, and correspondence. This course will explore ancient theories and representations of friendship through readings from many of the most important texts and authors of antiquity, including Gilgamesh, the Hebrew Bible, Homer, Sappho, Euripides, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Virgil, Seneca, and the Epistles of Paul. We will also consider the wide-ranging responses to these meditations and depictions in later traditions from the Middle Ages to modernity, in such writers as Heloise and Abelard, Aelred of Rievaulx, Aquinas, Montaigne, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Emily Dickinson, Elizabeth Bishop, Jack Kerouac, and Susan Sontag. All readings are in translation.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, short written assignments, and a final paper/project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

REL 267 (D1) COMP 267 (D1) COMP 288 (D1) CLAS 212 (D1)

Not offered current academic year
From the earliest representations in the third millennium BCE until the end of the Roman period in the fifth century CE the human body remained the foremost choice of subject for artists, patrons, critics, and the public in the ancient Mediterranean world. This course will consider cultural ideas about the body in antiquity, and trace their repercussions in the modern era. Over the course of the semester we will concentrate on 12 case studies, each representing a specific concept from an area of the Mediterranean. Topics include the "shining bodies" of bare-chested potentates in Egypt and the ancient Near East, statues that give the dead voice, the perfection and humanity of the bodies of the gods, ancient Greek science and the nude goddess, the pathos of Hellenistic athletes, and the interpretative challenge of the ambiguous and sensuous marble forms of the Barberini Faun or the Sleeping Hermaphrodithe, both found in Roman contexts. We'll consider the cross-influences of ideas about gender, class, race and the body coded in public and private art. Reading material will include ancient literature in translation as well as contemporary critical essays. Evaluation will be based on participation in discussion and group presentations, in-class writing assignments, short response papers, and a final 8-page research paper. Engaged library research of original paper topics will be supported throughout the semester.

Requirements/Evaluation: participation in discussion and group presentations, in-class writing assignments, short response papers, a final 8-page research paper.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: open to any student, majors and non-majors, with interests in the ancient world; no experience with art history required; first-years and sophomores are encouraged

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ARTH 213 (D1) CLAS 213 (D1)

Attributes: ARTH pre-1800 Courses

Spring 2020

SEM Section: 01  MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm  Elizabeth P. McGowan

The modern Olympic games are one of the most visible traces of ancient Greek influence on contemporary culture. Less well-known, however, are the complex and challenging poems (originally songs) of Pindar and Bacchylides that celebrated the victors of the archaic Greek games. These victory odes are a rich source for the study of Greek culture, from their vivid descriptions of heroic feats to their philosophical claims about human life and divine favor. Athletic competition provides the impetus for these songs and constitutes one of their major themes, yet their significance extends far beyond a single athlete or festival. In this course, we will interrogate the relationship between athletics and literary production in the ancient Greek world. We will use both primary and secondary sources to develop familiarity with major festivals, games, events, and figures, and use that knowledge to contextualize our analysis of Greek literature. Ancient Greek athletic discourse will thus provide an entry point to broader reflections on the literary construction and representation of the body and its movement, as well as the interplay between literature and its cultural contexts.

Requirements/Evaluation: brief writing assignments, essays, class participation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: majors, first-years, sophomores

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 252 (D1) CLAS 214 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Weekly (pass/fail) writing assignments (1-2 pages), five graded essays (two of which will be revisions and expansions of previous work, 4-5 pages each), regular in-class workshops on writing style and essay structure. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Spring 2020
SEM Section: 01   TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm   Sarah E. Olsen


Cross-listings: REL 215 CLAS 215

Secondary Cross-listing

In this course, students will be introduced to the New Testament through an exploration of how the New Testament became a book. We will start by examining the letters of Paul--its earliest texts--in terms of the habits and traditions of ancient letter-writing. We will similarly place the other texts of the New Testament in the context of Greek, Roman, and Jewish literary traditions and conventions. As the semester moves forward, we will examine how the New Testament itself became a material object--a book--and how its changing material status shaped its meaning and functioning. We will see the New Testament transform from a library of separate scrolls and/or codices (a library which was occasionally bound together into a single codex), to a luxury object in the Middle Ages, to a cheap printed object in the wake of the printing revolution of the 19th century, to its modern life as both a highly marketed object and a searchable digital thing in online spaces and mobile apps.

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation and preparation, papers
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: none
Enrollment Preferences: Religion Majors, Then Classics Majors
Expected Class Size: 25
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

REL 215 (D2) CLAS 215 (D1)

Spring 2020
SEM Section: 01   TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm   Phillip J. Webster

CLAS 219 (S) Judaism Under Ancient Greek and Roman Imperialisms

Cross-listings: CLAS 219 REL 219 JWST 219

Secondary Cross-listing

How did ancient Greek and Roman empires shape the beginnings of Judaism? In this course, we will examine how Greek and Roman imperial systems of identity, ethnicity, law, religion, and knowledge affected Judaism as a religious and cultural system. We will pay particular attention to the ways that Jews/Judeaans responded to these imperial pressures, especially as those responses articulated "hybrid" versions of Judaism that were informed both by resistance to imperial centers as well as the sheer hegemony of those cultural systems. The course thus uses (and introduces students to) postcolonial theory to study the history of Judaism under Greek and Roman empires. Readings for this course will include a wide array of ancient Jewish works, such as the books of Maccabees, Flavius Josephus, Philo of Alexandria, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Mishnah. The course will also include select readings from early Christian texts and postcolonial theory.

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation and preparation, papers
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 21
Enrollment Preferences: Religion majors, Jewish Studies concentrators, Classics majors
Expected Class Size: 14
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
CLAS 219 (D1) REL 219 (D2) JWST 219 (D2)

Spring 2020
SEM Section: 01    TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm     Phillip J. Webster

CLAS 221  (F) Technologies of Religion in the Early Christian World
Cross-listings: REL 221 CLAS 221
Secondary Cross-listing
What is the relationship between religion and technology? How do various technologies affect the production and distribution of religious knowledge? Facilitate communication and interaction with the divine? Transform the religious self? In this course, we will look specifically at the uses and effects of technology on religion in the early Christian world. While focused most directly on the influence of technology on the development of early Christianity, the course will also explore the place of technology in coterminous movements: in "pagan" sacrifice, Neoplatonic divination, and Stoic practices of the self. By examining technologies of text production, sacrifice, memory, and the self, the course will shed light on early Christianity and its competing religious and philosophical movements, as well as on the nature of technology's relationship to religion.
Requirements/Evaluation: active preparation and participation, short reading response papers (1 page), and a final exam
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: none
Enrollment Preferences: none
Expected Class Size: 10-12
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
REL 221 (D2) CLAS 221 (D1)
Not offered current academic year

CLAS 222  (S) Greek History
Cross-listings: CLAS 222 HIST 222
Primary Cross-listing
Ancient Greece has been thought to embody the origins of Western civilization in its institutions, values, and thought; it has been seen as the infancy of modern society, with the attributes of innocence, purity, and the infant's staggering capacity for exploration and learning; it has been interpreted as an essentially primitive, violent culture with a thin veneer of rationality; and it has been celebrated as the rational culture par excellence. The study of ancient Greece indeed requires an interpretive framework, yet Greek culture and history have defied most attempts to articulate one. We will make our attempt in this course by investigating ancient Greece as a set of cultures surprisingly foreign to us, as it so often was to its own intellectual elite. But we will also come to appreciate the rich and very real connections between ancient Greek and modern Western civilization. The course will begin with Bronze Age-Greece and the earliest developments in Greek culture, and will conclude with the spread of Greek influence into Asia through the conquests of Alexander the Great. We will explore topics such as the aristocratic heritage of the city-state, the effects of pervasive war on Greek society, the competitive spirit in political and religious life, the confrontations with the East, the relationship of intellectual culture to Greek culture as a whole, Greek dependence on slavery, and the diversity of political and social forms in the Greek world.
Class Format: discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: contributions to class discussions, a midterm, a final exam, and a medium-length paper
Prerequisites: none; open to all
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: Classics, History, and Art History majors
Expected Class Size: 25
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
CLAS 222 (D1) HIST 222 (D2)
Attributes: HIST Group C Electives - Europe and Russia  HIST Group P Electives - Premodern

Spring 2020
LEC Section: 01   MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm   Kerry A. Christensen

CLAS 223 (S) Roman History
Cross-listings: HIST 223  CLAS 223

Primary Cross-listing
The study of Roman history involves questions central to the development of Western institutions, religion, and modes of thought. Scholars have looked to Rome both for actual antecedents of European cultural development and for paradigmatic scenes illustrating what they felt were cultural universals. Yet Roman history also encompasses the most far-reaching experience of diverse cultures, beliefs, and practices known in the Western tradition until perhaps contemporary times. A close analysis of Roman history on its own terms shows the complex and fascinating results of an ambitious, self-confident nation's encounter both with unexpected events and crises at home, and with other peoples. As this course addresses the history of Rome from its mythologized beginnings through the reign of the emperor Constantine, it will place special emphasis on the impressive Roman ability to turn the unexpected into a rich source of cultural development, as well as the complex tendency later to interpret such ad hoc responses as predestined and inevitable. The Romans also provide a vivid portrait of the relationship between power and self-confidence on the one hand, and violence and ultimate disregard for dissent and difference on the other. Readings for this course will concentrate on a wide variety of original sources, and there will be a strong emphasis on the problems of historical interpretation.

Class Format: discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, occasional response papers, one 6- to 8-page paper, a midterm, and a final exam
Prerequisites: none; open to all
Enrollment Limit: 25
Expected Class Size: 25
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
HIST 223 (D2) CLAS 223 (D1)
Attributes: HIST Group C Electives - Europe and Russia  HIST Group P Electives - Premodern
Not offered current academic year

CLAS 226 (S) The Ancient Novel
Cross-listings: COMP 226  CLAS 226

Primary Cross-listing
Pirates, prostitutes, witches, and donkeys: the novels of ancient Greece and Rome often surprise their modern readers with a striking blend of humor, violence, and eroticism. From damsels in distress and daring rescues to impossible journeys and magical transformations, this course will consider these remarkable and varied texts within their own literary and cultural contexts. By reading the works of such authors as Longus, Lucian, Apuleius, and Heliodorus, we will survey the different forms of extended prose fiction that have traditionally been called the ancient "novel." We will confront the challenges of defining the genre itself, and consider both its ancient literary heritage and its later reception and afterlife. We will also explore the ways in which these texts engage with the complex and diverse world of the ancient Mediterranean, paying close attention to the representation of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and cultural identity. All readings are in translation.
CLAS 227 (F) The Examined Life: Ancient Ethical Literature at Rome
Cross-listings: CLAS 227 COMP 277

Primary Cross-listing

The philosophical schools of classical antiquity had in common a commitment to eudaemonia; that is, they considered human flourishing as a chief goal of life. This aim was not limited to professional philosophers, however. Rather, the question of how humans should live was a widespread and deeply felt concern, and ethical considerations pervade ancient texts across many genres. This course will focus on works of literature that consider how to live wisely, happily, and well, whether through seeking pleasure or acting justly, whether through political engagement or by retreating from society. We will analyze a wide variety of texts, but all are animated by an ethical premise most famously enunciated by Socrates, namely, that the unexamined life is not worth living. Readings may include dialogues, speeches, correspondence, plays, and poems, among them the Satires and Epistles of Horace, Seneca's On Leisure and On the Happy Life, and the Meditations of Marcus Aurelius. All readings will be in translation.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, several short written assignments, one or two longer essays (around five pages)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 24

Enrollment Preferences: Classics majors, Comparative Literature majors, or intending Classics and Comparative Literature majors

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

CLAS 227 (D1) COMP 277 (D1)

CLAS 227  (F)  The Examined Life: Ancient Ethical Literature at Rome

CLAS 230 (F) From Alexander to Cleopatra: Remodeling the Mediterranean World

Cross-listings: CLAS 230 ARTH 230

Primary Cross-listing

The period between Alexander the Great (323 B.C.) and Cleopatra (30 B.C.), like our own, was characterized by internationalism, migration, wide-ranging cultural values and religious practices, and ethnically diverse urban populations. Large numbers of non-Greeks came under the control of newly established Hellenistic kingdoms, while in the west Rome's emergence as a superpower offered both new opportunity and danger. The Hellenistic world was a place of vibrant change in the spheres of art, architecture, urban planning, and public spectacle. In this course, we will consider the art and archaeology of this period in their political, social, and religious contexts, focusing on the visual language of power and royalty; developments in painting, sculpture, mosaics, and monumental architecture; interactions between Greeks and non-Greeks; and the impact of Greek culture in Rome.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, quizzes, midterm, final exam, and one medium-length paper
Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 40

Enrollment Preferences: students with an interest in the ancient Mediterranean world and in the history of western art and architecture

Expected Class Size: 35

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
CLAS 230 (D1) ARTH 230 (D1)

Fall 2019

LEC Section: 01 TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Nicole G. Brown

CLAS 235 (S) The Garden in the Ancient World

Cross-listings: CLAS 235 REL 235 ENVI 232 COMP 235

Primary Cross-listing

Drawing on the literature, art, and archaeology of ancient gardens and on real gardens of the present day, this course examines the very nature and experience of the garden and the art of gardening. Using a multi-disciplinary approach, we will explore the garden as a paradise; as a locus for philosophical discussion and religious encounter; as a site of labor, conquest, and resistance; and as a place for solace, inspiration, and desire. This course will be grounded in crucial readings from antiquity, such as the Hebrew Bible, Homer, Sappho, Cicero, Lucretius, Vergil, Horace, Columella, and Augustine, and in the perspectives of more modern writers, from Jane Austen and Tom Stoppard to contemporary cultural historian George McKay. Ultimately, our goal is to analyze conceptions and expressions of beauty, power, and love-in the garden. All readings are in translation.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, short written assignments, and a final project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Classics majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
CLAS 235 (D1) REL 235 (D2) ENVI 232 (D1) COMP 235 (D1)

Not offered current academic year

CLAS 236 (S) Demigods: Nature, Social Theory, and Visual Imagination in Art and Literature, Ancient to Modern

Cross-listings: CLAS 236 ARTH 530

Secondary Cross-listing

Embodied in satyrs, centaurs, nymphs, and other demigods is a vision of an alternative evolutionary and cultural history. In it, humans and animals live together. The distinction between nature and culture is not meaningful. Male and female are equal. The industrial revolution never happens. This course traces the history of demigods from its origins in ancient Greek art and poetry until today. We pay special attention to three points: the relationship between mythology of demigods and ancient political theory about primitive life; evolving conceptions of the environment, and the capacity of the visual arts to create mythology that has a limited literary counterpart. The first half of the course examines the origins and character of the demigods, in works of ancient art, e.g. the François vase and the Parthenon, as well as ancient texts, including Hesiod's Theogony and Ovid's Metamorphoses. We examine relevant cultural practices, intellectual history, and conceptions of nature, in texts such as Euripides and Lucretius. The second half of the course investigates the post-classical survival of demigods. We consider the "rediscovery" of demigods in the work of Renaissance artists such as Botticelli, Michelangelo, Dürer, and Titian. We consider in detail the important role played by demigods in the formation of Modernism in art and literature. Key texts include Schiller, "Naive and sentimental poetry," Nietzsche, Birth of Tragedy, Mallermé, "L'Après midi d'une faun," Aby Warburg, and Stoppard's Arcadia. Problems include the relationship between nymphs and prostitutes in Manet, and the meaning of fauns and the Minotaur in Picasso. We conclude with demigods in popular culture such as the Narnia chronicles or Hunger Games.
CLAS 236 (D1) ARTH 530 (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

CLAS 236 (D1) ARTH 530 (D1)

Attributes: ARTH pre-1800 Courses

Not offered current academic year
**Requirements/Evaluation:** informed participation, two short papers (2-5 pages), final paper (8-10 pages)

**Prerequisites:** none, although prior knowledge of the ancient world will be useful

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Enrollment Preferences:** declared and intending majors in Classics and Environmental Studies

**Expected Class Size:** 20

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

CLAS 242 (D1) ENVI 242 (D1) ANTH 242 (D2)

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Spring 2020

SEM Section: 01 MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Nicole G. Brown

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**CLAS 248 (S) Greek Art and the Gods**

**Cross-listings:** CLAS 248 ARTH 238 REL 216

**Secondary Cross-listing**

In the *Iliad*, when the god Apollo is visualized, it is as a man, angry in his heart, coming down from the peaks of Olympos, bow and quiver on his shoulders, the arrows clanging as the god moves, "like the coming of night," to bring dogs, horses, and men to their deaths. By the end of the Classical period, one statue of the archer god depicted him as a boy teasing a lizard. In this course, we will examine the development of the images the Greek gods and goddesses, from their superhuman engagement in the heroic world of epic, to their sometimes sublime artistic presence, complex religious function, and transformation into metaphors in aesthetic and philosophical thought. The course will cover the basic stylistic, iconographical, narrative, and ritual aspects of the gods and goddesses in ancient Greek culture. The course will address in detail influential artistic monuments, literary forms, and social phenomena, including the sculptures of Olympia and the Parthenon; divine corporeality in poetry; the theology of mortal-immortal relations; the cultural functions of visual representations of gods, and the continued interest in the gods long after the end of antiquity. Readings assignments will include selections from Homer, Hesiod, Sappho, Aischylos, Euripides, Plato, Walter Burkert, Jean-Pierre Vernant, Nikolaus Himmelmann, Erika Simon, and Friedrich Nietzsche.

**Class Format:** discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** short writing assignments, midterm exam, final exam, final paper

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 40

**Enrollment Preferences:** preference will be given to pre-registered Art-History majors needing to fulfill the pre-1800 requirement; otherwise, the course is open to any interested student

**Expected Class Size:** 30

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

CLAS 248 (D1) ARTH 238 (D1) REL 216 (D2)

**Attributes:** ARTH pre-1800 Courses

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Spring 2020

LEC Section: 01 MW 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Friday Org Mtg 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Guy M. Hedreen

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**CLAS 306 (S) The Good Life in Greek and Roman Ethics**

**Cross-listings:** PHIL 306 CLAS 306

**Secondary Cross-listing**

Most thoughtful human beings spend a good deal of time musing about how we ought to live and about what counts as a good life for a human being.
The philosophers of ancient Greece and Rome were among the first thinkers to develop rigorous arguments in response to such musings. Much of the moral philosophy produced in Greece and Rome remains as relevant today as when it was written. In this course, we will examine some central texts in ancient Greek and Roman moral philosophy. We will begin by reading some of Plato's early dialogues and his Republic. We will then turn to Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics. We will then examine writings in the Stoic and Epicurean traditions, as well as Cicero's On the Ends of Good and Evil. As we proceed through the course, we will look at the way in which each thinker characterizes happiness, virtue and the relation between the two. We will also pay close attention to the way in which each of these thinkers takes the practice of philosophy to play a key role in our realization of the good human life. This course is part of the Williams College program at the Berkshire County Jail and House of Corrections and will be held at the jail. Transportation will be provided by the college. The class will be composed equally of Williams students and inmates, and one goal of the course will be to encourage students from different backgrounds to think together about issues of common human concern.

Requirements/Evaluation: several short response pieces; a final paper of 10-15 pages

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 9

Enrollment Preferences: juniors & seniors & students who can demonstrate an interest in the subject matter of the class; there will not be any preference purely on the basis of major; final selection for the course will be made on the basis of an interview with the instructor

Expected Class Size: 9

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PHIL 306 (D2) CLAS 306 (D2)

Attributes: PHIL History Courses

Not offered current academic year
In this course we will study Aristotle's *Metaphysics* concentrating of books gamma-theta. Aristotle sets out to study being qua being, or what is insofar as it is. The thoughts that Aristotle expresses in these books were instrumental in setting an intellectual agenda that dominated western thought through the Middle Ages and provided the backdrop against which the modern philosophical tradition arose. Furthermore, many of the issues that Aristotle takes up in these books remain of central importance in contemporary philosophy. Our main goal in this course is to work our way through Aristotle's text which can be extremely daunting, and to reconstruct his central positions and his arguments for these positions. We will also read selections from the vast secondary literature on Aristotle's *Metaphysics*.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** discussion leadership, weekly short papers, term paper

**Prerequisites:** PHIL 201, CLAS 203

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Enrollment Preferences:** Philosophy and Classics majors

**Expected Class Size:** 8-10

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

CLAS 332 (D1) PHIL 332 (D2)

**Attributes:** PHIL History Courses

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In the wake of Alexander the Great's extension of the borders of the classical world all the way to the banks of the Indus River in the fourth century BCE, the small city-states of the Greek peninsula were replaced by far flung kingdoms as important centers of power and culture. Vastly increased trade and the movement of individuals between Greece, Egypt, and the Near and Middle East encouraged a new internationalism marked by a cross-cultural hybridization of religion, and innovations in philosophy, medicine, literature and art. This cosmopolitan attitude brought about a revolution in artistic ideas and forms centered on the social and ethnic diversity of human experience. Royal patrons, and wealthy private citizens including an increasing number of women, commissioned artworks for cities, sanctuaries, tombs, palaces, and estates on a scale rarely seen before. With the rise of Rome in the west, plundered artworks of earlier periods soon became the desired objects of wealthy collectors, and commissions in the Hellenistic style continued well into the Roman period. In this course we'll look closely at influential works of art in bronze, marble, fresco, and mosaic, and research the broader philosophical, religious, literary and cultural forces that encouraged artistic innovations of the fourth century BCE through first century CE. Reading material includes ancient literature in translation, recent surveys of Hellenistic art, and recent critical essays.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** students will lead discussions based on selected readings; a 5- to 7-page midterm paper and 20 minute oral report will form the basis for an 18- to 20-page research paper

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** Art majors, and then to students of any major interested in art and thought in the ancient Mediterranean world, with permission of instructor

**Expected Class Size:** 14

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Unit Notes: ARTH Seminar Requirement

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ARTH 466 (D1) CLAS 466 (D1)

Attributes: ARTH pre-1800 Courses

Not offered current academic year

CLAS 493 (F) Senior Thesis: Classics
Recommended for all candidates for the degree with honors. This project will normally be of one semester's duration, in addition to a Winter Study.

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2019
HON Section: 01 TBA Edan Dekel

CLAS 494 (S) Senior Thesis: Classics
Recommended for all candidates for the degree with honors. This project will normally be of one semester's duration, in addition to a Winter Study.

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2020
HON Section: 01 TBA Edan Dekel

CLAS 497 (F) Independent Study: Classics
Classics independent study. Students with permission of the department may enroll for independent study on select topics not covered by current course offerings.

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2019
IND Section: 01 TBA Edan Dekel

CLAS 498 (S) Independent Study: Classics
Classics independent study. Students with permission of the department may enroll for independent study on select topics not covered by current course offerings.

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2020
IND Section: 01 TBA Edan Dekel

CLAS 499 (F)(S) Senior Colloquium
This two-semester course is required for all senior Classics majors and usually meets four times each semester. Our activities vary from year to year but normally include presentations by seniors who are taking independent studies or writing Honors theses in Classics, as well as meetings with guest speakers and distinguished visiting professors. Although required for the Classics major, this is a non-credit course and does not count toward the
number of semester courses required for the Classics major or for graduation. Senior majors are expected to attend every colloquium unless excused in advance.

Class Format: colloquium
Grading: non-graded
Distributions: No divisional credit

Fall 2019
LEC Section: 01   TBA   Edan Dekel

Spring 2020
LEC Section: 01   TBA   Edan Dekel

Winter Study

CLAS 25  (W)  Performance and Place in Ancient Greece
Ancient Greek literature displays a keen awareness of the links between performance and place. Whether referring to the locations of their own performance or conjuring up images of other sites and scenes, Greek songs and speeches demand that we pay attention to setting. This course, therefore, takes an experiential and contextual approach to the study of ancient Greek literature and performance culture. The course will include foundational reading in performance theory, as well as select readings from Greek poetry, drama, and oratory. The core work, however, will occur in Greece, as we visit sites like the Athenian Acropolis, the theater and sanctuary at Epidaurus, and the Temple of Aphaia on the island of Aegina. Each student will be responsible for introducing the class to a specific site, using primary and secondary sources to describe the layout of the space and the kinds of performance events (choral dance, athletic competition, religious ritual, forensic oratory) that took place within it. As a group, we will discuss different approaches to the reconstruction of historical performance events and consider how literary texts of various genres navigate the representation of landscape and architecture. While we will primarily focus on Classical Athens, a brief turn to Greek oratory under imperial Roman rule (the "Second Sophistic") will give us an opportunity to reflect on the ways in which the enduring cultural significance of the city of Athens in later antiquity served as a resource for writers and performers who represent themselves already as belated heirs of an earlier, classical period. This course will encourage us to consider the complex significance of studying ancient authors, performers, and audiences across an unbridgeable gap in time, even as we aim to close the gap in space, in order to explore how physical sites function as archives of memory, practice, and performance that can enrich and nuance our understanding of ancient literature and culture.

Requirements/Evaluation: two reports (one on a site, one on a text) to be researched before departure and delivered in Greece, plus an additional reflective assignment upon return
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: preference will be given to Classics majors and intending Classics majors, and to those with demonstrated interest in the ancient world who have not previously travelled abroad
Grading: pass/fail only
Materials/Lab Fee: $400
Attributes: TRVL Winter Study Travel Course

Winter 2020
TVL Section: 01   TBA   Sarah E. Olsen, Amanda R. Wilcox

CLAS 31  (W)  Senior Thesis: Classics
May be taken by students registered for Classics 493-494.
Class Format: independent study
Grading: pass/fail only

Winter 2020
CLAS 99 (W) Independent Study: Classics
Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.

Class Format: independent study
Grading: pass/fail only

Winter 2020