

CLASSICS (Div I)

GREEK

Chair: Professor Amanda Wilcox

- Nicole G. Brown, Associate Professor of Classics; on leave Spring 2024
- Edan Dekel, Garfield Professor of Ancient Languages, Chair of Jewish Studies Program; affiliated with: Classics, Religion
- Marissa A. Henry, Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics
- Sarah E. Olsen, Associate Professor of Classics
- Felipe Soza, Assistant Professor of Classics
- Amanda R. Wilcox, Chair and Professor of Classics

The course offerings in Classics enable students to explore the ancient Greek, Roman, and Mediterranean worlds from various perspectives, including literature, history, art, archaeology, philosophy, and religion. Courses are of two types: language (Greek and Latin) and courses in which all the readings are in English translation (Classical Studies). The 100-level language courses are intensive introductions to Greek and Latin grammar and reading skills; the 200-level language courses combine grammar review with primary readings from Greek or Latin texts of key 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. Classical Studies courses offer introductions to and more specialized study of the literature, visual and material culture, history, and other aspects of the Greek and Roman worlds.

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 in ancient history is 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 advanced 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: Route A emphasizes more coursework in Greek and Latin, while Route B emphasizes more Classical Studies courses.

Route A: (1) Six courses in Greek and/or Latin, with at least two 400-level courses in one language. (2) Three additional courses from the offerings in Greek, Latin, or Classical Studies or from approved courses in other departments and programs.

Route B: (1) One course each from any two of the following categories: literature (CLAS 101 or CLAS 102); visual and material culture (CLAS 209 or CLAS 210); history (CLAS 222 or CLAS 223). (2) Four courses in Greek or Latin with at least one at the 400-level, or the four-course sequence CLLA 101, 102, 201, and 302. (3) Three additional courses from the offerings in Classical Studies or from approved courses in other departments and programs.

Classics Colloquium: All Classics majors in residence are expected to participate fully in the life of the department through attendance at lectures and other departmental events.

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. 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 Greek and Latin literature. Students may enter the rotation at 100-level, 200-level, or 300-level, depending on

previous experience.

Classical Studies Courses: The numbering of these courses does not reflect a strict sequence, and most of them do not assume prior experience in Classics or a cross-listed field. The following pairs of courses offer excellent introductions to key areas of study within Classics: CLAS 101 and 102 (literature), CLAS 209, 210 (visual and material culture), CLAS 222, 223 (history).

STUDY AWAY

We strongly encourage Classics majors to study away 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 Mediterranean 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. Majors who are considering studying away should especially consult with faculty members about the implications for language study.

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?

No.

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, but students should consult with the department about language sequences.

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.

CLGR 101 (F) Introduction to Greek

This course is the first half of a full-year sequence designed to introduce students to the exciting and rewarding process of reading ancient Greek texts in their original language. We will focus on Attic Greek, the dialect of the Greek language that was spoken in Athens during the Classical period (5th and 4th centuries BCE) and in which some of the most famous works of Greek literature (e.g., the tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides and the dialogues of Plato) were composed. But this course will provide a solid foundation in Greek grammar and syntax for students interested in studying other dialects (e.g., the distinctive Greek of the Homeric epics, or the *koine* of the New Testament) as well. For the fall semester, we will work on developing a firm grasp of Greek nouns, verbs, and adjectives, as well as learning some of the most common ways of constructing complex sentences. From the very beginning, students will have opportunities to apply their knowledge by translating brief excerpts from original Greek sources.

Requirements/Evaluation: frequent quizzes, tests, and a final exam

Prerequisites: none; designed for students who are beginning Greek or have studied less than two years of Greek in secondary school; students with some previous experience in Greek may want to enroll in CLGR 102 only (consult the department)

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Classics majors or intended Classics majors, first years and sophomores

Expected Class Size: 8-10

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

Unit Notes: credit granted only if both semesters (CLGR 101 and 102) are taken

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2024

LEC Section: 01 MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Sarah E. Olsen

CLGR 102 (S) Introduction to Greek

This course is the second half of a full-year sequence designed to introduce students to the exciting and rewarding process of reading ancient Greek texts in their original language. We will focus on Attic Greek, the dialect of the Greek language that was spoken in Athens during the Classical period (5th and 4th centuries BCE) and in which some of the most famous works of Greek literature (e.g., the tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides and the dialogues of Plato) were composed. But this course will provide a solid foundation in Greek grammar and syntax for students interested in studying other dialects (e.g., the distinctive Greek of the Homeric epics, or the *koine* of the New Testament) as well. In the spring semester, we will continue our study of the Greek language as we begin translating longer stretches of Greek poetry, historiography, oratory, and/or narrative fiction. By the end of the year, students are prepared to move on to intermediate-level Greek reading courses.

Requirements/Evaluation: frequent quizzes, tests, and a final exam

Prerequisites: CLGR 101 or permission of department

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Classics majors or intended Classics majors, first years and sophomores

Expected Class Size: 8-10

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

Unit Notes: credit granted only if both semesters (CLGR 101 and 102) are taken

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2025

LEC Section: 01 MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Felipe Soza

CLGR 201 (F) Intermediate Greek

This course will be based on readings from Plato's *Crito* and Hesiod's *Theogony* in their original Greek. These texts will give you a taste of both Classical prose and Archaic poetry and enable you to improve your ability to read, comprehend, and translate ancient Greek literature. Plato and Hesiod also offer important and influential perspectives on the origins, connections, effects, and value of justice and religion. Students who successfully complete this course will be well-prepared for advanced study of Greek language and literature.

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on classroom participation, quizzes and exams, and take-home assignments (including, e.g., essays and brief prose composition tasks).

Prerequisites: CLGR 101-102 or two years of Greek in secondary school

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Classics majors and intended Classics majors

Expected Class Size: 5-10

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

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2024

SEM Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Felipe Soza

CLGR 401 (S) Homer

The Homeric epics (*Iliad* and *Odyssey*) are foundational works of ancient Greek literature. They offer valuable insight into early Greek society, religion, and culture, and constitute some of our earliest representations of the most famous Greek gods and heroes. The narratives about the Trojan War and its aftermath attributed to Homer also shape much of later Greek literature, both poetry and prose. In this course, we will read extensive selections from Homeric poetry in its original Greek, along with additional readings (primary and/or secondary) in English.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, short written exercises and/or oral reports, midterm and final exams, and a final paper

Prerequisites: CLGR 201 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: majors in Classics, Comparative Literature, English and other literatures

Expected Class Size: 5-6

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

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2025

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

CLGR 403 (F) Poetry and Revolution in Archaic Greece

Taken together, the historian Herodotus and the Greek lyric poets (Alcaeus, Solon, Pindar, and others) offer a fascinating window into the tumultuous world of archaic Greece: a period of colonial expansion, political experimentation, and artistic innovation. In this course, we will read selections from both Herodotus' *Histories* and archaic Greek lyric, in order to understand how these two genres can work together to illuminate Greek cultural discourse during this pivotal era. Students will improve their ability to read Greek poetry and prose in multiple dialects, and deepen their understanding of Greek history and literary style.

Class Format: recitation/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: midterm and final exam, class participation, final paper

Prerequisites: CLGR 201 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Classics majors and intending majors

Expected Class Size: 5-6

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

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2024

LEC Section: 01 TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Sarah E. Olsen

CLGR 404 (S) Tragedy

This course will focus on reading, in Greek, a complete tragedy by Sophocles or Euripides. It will thus improve your ability to read and analyze Greek poetry in a variety of styles and meters. While focusing on questions of particular importance for the play we are reading in Greek, we will also situate that play in a larger context by exploring, for instance: aspects of the social and political situations in and for which fifth-century tragedies were first produced; the several performance genres out of which tragedy was created; developments in the physical characteristics of the theater and in elements of staging and performance; problems of representation particularly relevant to theatrical production and performance.

Requirements/Evaluation: contributions to class, exams, and a final paper

Prerequisites: CLGR 201 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Classics majors, students continuing the Greek sequence

Expected Class Size: 13

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

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

CLGR 406 (F) Aristophanes and Plato

This course explores Aristophanes' comedy *Clouds* and Plato's dramatic dialogue *Apology of Socrates* through close reading, commentary, translation, and analysis. Together, these texts provide a point of entry for grasping the political and social processes that culminated in the trial, conviction, and execution of Socrates in 399 BCE because "he corrupts the youth and does not recognize the gods the city recognizes (*Apology* 28b-c)." More broadly, these texts open up perspectives on how scientific inquiry, Socratic conversation, and rhetorical education were viewed in fifth-century Athens and prime us to reconsider core questions ranging from the proper methods, purpose, and stakes of scientific and rhetorical education to the proper role of tradition in familial and civic life and the costs of nonconformity.

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on class participation, several short written assignments, a midterm and final exam, and a longer final paper.

Prerequisites: CLGR 201 or instructor permission

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: intending or declared Classics majors

Expected Class Size: 5-6

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

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

CLGR 412 (F) Herodotus

This course will focus on the reading in Greek of Herodotus' *Histories*, his multivalent and deeply human account of how and why several hundred years of contact and conflict between the Greek city-states and non-Greek peoples to the east culminated in the Persian invasion of Greece. We will explore the ways in which his rich narrative style and intellectual landscape reflect the influence of Greek and near-eastern oral traditions, Ionian philosophical thought, Greek tragedy, and contemporary Athenian rhetoric and philosophy. We will also study his use of anthropological methods, ethnography, and geography in explaining human events. Among the many themes that permeate his work, we will pay special attention to the working of divine versus human justice, the mutability of human affairs, the nature of authority, the role of family, and the quest for wisdom.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, two short written assignments, a midterm exam, a final paper, and a final exam

Prerequisites: CLGR 201 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Classics majors

Expected Class Size: 8

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

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

CLGR 422 (S) Crete in the Ancient Greek Imagination

The island of Crete appears across ancient Greek literature as a place of mythic origins, monstrosity, and technological marvels. It plays a paradoxical role as an origin point for quintessentially-Greek practices, such as the paeon (hymn to Apollo), as well as a site of difference and even perversion. The god Zeus and the half-human, half-bull Minotaur were both, after all, born on Crete. In this course, we will explore the representation of Crete and Cretans in Greek poetry, including hexameter epic (Homer, the *Homeric Hymns*), lyric (Bacchylides), and tragedy (Euripides' *Hippolytus*). The range of reading selections will improve students' understanding of ancient Greek grammar and syntax, and deepen their appreciation of different metrical patterns, dialects, and genres. They will also enable us to consider how the representation of Crete functioned as a way for poets to articulate various elements of Greek identity. In addition to advancing their understanding of Greek language and literature, students in this course will learn about the

history, geography, and culture of Crete in the Archaic and Classical periods as it relates to our literary sources, and complete research projects on significant Cretan sites in Greek art, literature, and culture. All students enrolled in this course will have the option of participating in a short-term travel course to Crete in May, conducted in collaboration with CLLA 422.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, translation exams, seminar paper and presentation

Prerequisites: CLGR 201

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Classics majors and intending majors

Expected Class Size: 4

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

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

Winter Study -----

CLGR 99 (W) Independent Study: Greek

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

Not offered current academic year