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 major. 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.

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

Winter 2020

IND Section: 01 TBA Edan Dekel

CLGR 101 (F) Introduction to Greek

This full-year, intensive course presents the fundamentals of Greek grammar, syntax, and vocabulary and introduces students, in the second semester, to works of the classical period (usually Xenophon and Euripides).
Class Format: recitation/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on frequent quizzes, tests, and a final exam

Extra Info: credit granted only if both semesters (CLGR 101 and 102) are taken

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

Expected Class Size: 8-10

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

Distributions: (D1)

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

CLGR 102  (S)  Introduction to Greek
This full-year, intensive course presents the fundamentals of Greek grammar, syntax, and vocabulary and introduces students, in the second semester, to works of the classical period (usually Xenophon and Euripides).

Class Format: recitation/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on frequent quizzes, tests, and a final exam

Extra Info: credit granted only if both semesters (CLGR 101 and 102) are taken

Prerequisites: CLGR 101 or permission of department

Enrollment Limit: 15

Expected Class Size: 8-10

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

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2020
LEC Section: 01    MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm     Kerry A. Christensen

CLGR 201  (F)  Intermediate Greek
Reading of selections from Hesiod and from Plato, combined with grammar review. The primary goal of this course is to develop fluency in reading Greek. We will also read the texts closely to explore important continuities and changes in Greek culture between the archaic and classical periods. The emphasis will vary from year to year, but possible subjects to be explored include: the education and socialization of the community's children and young adults; religion and cult practices; the performative aspects of epic (and choral) poetry and of prose genres like oratory and the philosophical dialogue; traditional oral poetry and storytelling and the growth of literacy; the construction of woman, of man; the development of the classical polis.

Class Format: recitation/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on classroom participation, quizzes, tests, and a final exam

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

Enrollment Limit: 12

Expected Class Size: 5-10

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

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2019
LEC Section: 01    MWF 8:30 am - 9:45 am     Kerry A. Christensen
CLGR 401  (S)  Homer: The Iliad
From the early archaic era through the classical and beyond, Homer's Iliad and Odyssey remained foundational in Greek discourse about community, leadership, war, heroism, family, friendship, loyalty, the gods, justice, and much more. Nearly all of subsequent Greek literature, both poetry and prose, developed out of a dialogue with these epics. In this course, we will read extensive selections from the Iliad in Greek and the entire epic in translation.

Class Format: seminar
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 2020
SEM Section: 01  MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm  Sarah E. Olsen

CLGR 402  (S)  Homer: The Odyssey
From the early archaic era through the classical and beyond, Homer's Iliad and Odyssey remained foundational in Greek discourse about community, leadership, war, heroism, family, friendship, loyalty, the gods, justice, and much more. Nearly all of subsequent Greek literature, both poetry and prose, developed out of a dialogue with these epics. In this course, we will read extensive selections from the Odyssey in Greek and the entire epic in translation.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, short written assignments and/or oral reports, a 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)

Not offered current academic year

CLGR 404  (S)  Tragedy
Tragedy was a hybrid genre invented in sixth-fifth century Athens, where tragic performances in the city's festival of the Greater Dionysia played a vital role in the democratic polis. This course will focus on reading in Greek a complete tragedy of Sophokles or Euripides; we will also read in translation several other tragedies, a satyr-play, and a comedy of Aristophanes. 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.

Class Format: seminar/recitation/discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on contributions to class, several 1- to 2-page papers involving close textual analysis, perhaps a midterm exam, a final exam, and a final paper
Prerequisites: CLGR 201 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 12
Expected Class Size: 4-5
CLGR 405 (F) Greek Lyric Poetry

This course will explore the development of Greek lyric poetry from the eighth to the fifth centuries BCE. Beginning with Archilochus, Sappho, and Alcaeus, and proceeding through such poets as Solon, Anacreon, Ibycus, and Theognis, we will examine the formal, social, and performative contexts of lyric, the influence of epic and choral poetry on the evolution of the genre, and the difficulties of evaluating a fragmentary corpus. Finally, we will explore the influence of political and economic changes in the early fifth century on the work of Simonides. The goal throughout is to investigate the structures, innovations, and problems of poetic self-expression in early Greek poetry.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation, a midterm exam, a final paper, and a final exam
Prerequisites: CLGR 201 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 12
Expected Class Size: 5
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
Not offered current academic year

CLGR 409 (F) Plato

Plato’s writing has exercised an incalculable influence on the development of subsequent philosophy and literature, but his dialogues are equally compelling when they are read independently of the works they have inspired. In this course we will read substantial selections from one or more of the so-called middle dialogues (Symposium, Phaedo, Republic, Phaedrus), in which a variety of speakers, including Socrates, ask and provisionally answer questions such as what are love, beauty, and justice, and how does the human soul in possession of these goods participate in the divine?

Class Format: seminar
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 permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: if oversubscribed, preference given to majors in Classics, Philosophy, Comparative Literature, English or another literature
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.

Class Format: seminar
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 414  (F)  Thucydides
This course will focus on Thucydides' powerful history of the Peloponnesian War. It is a rich text with much to say about human nature, human motivation, power, morality, the fragility of civilized life, the nature of democracy, leadership, causality in human affairs, and the impact on the Greek city-states of thirty years of nearly continuous war.
Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: class preparation and participation, a midterm exam, a final paper, and a final translation exam
Prerequisites: CLGR 201 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Classics majors
Expected Class Size: 6
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2019
SEM Section: 01  MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm  Kerry A. Christensen