

CLASSICS (Div I)

LATIN

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.

CLLA 101 (F) Introduction to Latin

This is a full-year course on the fundamentals of the Latin language. We focus throughout on learning grammar and vocabulary, and we regularly incorporate selections from literature, inscriptions, and other sources. Over time, we gradually increase the emphasis on reading selections from Latin poetry (e.g., Ovid's *Metamorphoses*) and prose (e.g., Piny's *Letters*).

Requirements/Evaluation: frequent quizzes, classroom exercises, two midterms, a final project

Prerequisites: none; this course is designed for the student with no previous preparation in Latin or with only a little Latin who wishes a refresher; students with some previous experience in Latin may want to enroll in CLLA 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: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

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

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2024

LEC Section: 01 MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Marissa A. Henry

CLLA 102 (S) Introduction to Latin

This is a full-year course on the fundamentals of the Latin language. We focus throughout on learning grammar and vocabulary, and we regularly incorporate selections from literature, inscriptions, and other sources. Over time, we gradually increase the emphasis on reading selections from Latin poetry (e.g., Ovid's *Metamorphoses*) and prose (e.g., Piny's *Letters*).

Class Format: recitation/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, frequent quizzes, tests, classroom exercises, and a final exam

Prerequisites: CLLA 101 or permission of department

Enrollment Limit: 18

Enrollment Preferences: Students who have completed CLLA 101

Expected Class Size: 10-12

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

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

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2025

LEC Section: 01 MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Nicole G. Brown

CLLA 201 (F) Intermediate Latin: The Late Republic

This course aims to strengthen skills gained in previous study. In order to develop greater fluency and familiarity with classical Latin, we will read, translate, and analyze Cicero's *Pro Caelio* and selected short poems of Catullus. Both authors are brilliant stylists, though each writes in a very different mode. Taken together, these texts offer an excellent introduction to the expressive capacity of Latin in prose and verse. They also open up intriguing overlapping perspectives on the social, sexual, and political mores of late Republican Rome. We will consider the cultural context and implications of these texts as time permits.

Requirements/Evaluation: Engaged participation in class, occasional quizzes and short written assignments, a midterm and final exam

Prerequisites: CLLA 101-102 or 3-4 years of Latin in secondary school; consult the department

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Classics majors and prospective majors

Expected Class Size: 10

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

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2024

SEM Section: 01 MWF 10:00 am - 10:50 am Marissa A. Henry

CLLA 302 (S) Vergil's Aeneid

This course is a comprehensive introduction to Vergil's *Aeneid*. Students will develop their ability to read and translate the Latin text of the poem, while at the same time exploring the major interpretive issues surrounding the definitive Roman epic. Through a combination of close reading and large-scale analysis, we will investigate the poem's literary, social, and political dimensions with special attention to Vergil's consummate poetic craftsmanship.

Requirements/Evaluation: Class participation, a midterm exam, a final paper, and a final exam.

Prerequisites: CLLA 201 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: If the course is overenrolled, preference will be given to Classics majors and prospective majors.

Expected Class Size: 10

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

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2025

SEM Section: 01 TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Edan Dekel

CLLA 405 (S) Livy and Tacitus: Myth, History and Morality in Ancient Rome

We will begin the semester in mythical Rome by reading selections from Book 1 of Livy's history in which Roman values, practices and institutions are given their origin stories, and the mythical figures of Rome's past are established as moral exempla for Rome's present. We will examine how Livy deploys the storyteller's art to excite his readers' pathos, indignation and sympathy; we will examine as well how he constructs Rome's past through the filter of his own Augustan present. Writing more than a century after Livy, Tacitus offers a different and jaded view of Augustus and his legacy, one conditioned by his own experiences living through the terrors of the reign of Domitian. His compressed and fastidious prose is the vehicle for complex and gripping accounts of imperial scandals and tragedies as well as of individual acts of heroism and nobility. We will read primarily selections from Tacitus' Annals as well as selections from either his Germania or Agricola.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on class preparation and participation, an 8- to 10-page paper, a midterm, and a final exam

Prerequisites: CLLA 302 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Classics majors

Expected Class Size: 6-8

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

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

CLLA 406 (F) Horace's Odes

This course will explore the poetic delights of Horace's extraordinary experiment in crafting Latin personal verse using Greek lyric forms. We will immerse ourselves in the poems' intricate construction and examine how they engage such themes as love and friendship, landscape and memory, youth and old age, politics, and morality. At the same time, we will consider the variety of voices and perspectives within the poems and their complex relationship both to Greek and Latin poetic traditions and to Horace's own contemporary world. The goal throughout is to investigate the literary, social, political, and philosophical dimensions of the odes, as well as their consummate poetic artistry.

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

Prerequisites: CLLA 302 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Classics majors

Expected Class Size: 10

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

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

CLLA 409 (F) Seneca and the Self

This course considers ethical and literary dimensions of self-fashioning, self-examination, and the conception of selfhood in the Stoic philosophy of the younger Seneca through close reading of extensive selections from his philosophical works and tragedies. The focus of this course lies squarely in the first century CE and on the analysis of Seneca's own texts. We begin, however, with an introduction to the ethics of Roman Stoicism through the personae theory of Panaetius as transmitted by Cicero's *De Officiis*. Moreover, we will read and discuss reflections on selfhood from some of Seneca's most famous philosophical and literary heirs, including Montaigne, Emerson, and Foucault, both to enrich our understanding of his work and to gain an appreciation of his considerable influence on later writing about the self.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, several short written and oral assignments, midterm and final exams, and a final paper

Prerequisites: CLLA 302 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Expected Class Size: 5-10

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

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

CLLA 411 (S) Advanced Latin: Apuleius

In this class, we will study Apuleius' hilarious and disturbing Latin novel, *Metamorphoses* or *The Golden Ass*. This work explores the themes of curiosity, witchcraft, transformation, animality, and religious conversion through the figure of Lucius, a man who accidentally turns himself into a donkey and remains trapped in this body through various trials and adventures. We will translate the famous inset narrative of "Cupid and Psyche," as well as reading the entire work in English. Our time in class will be spent translating together and discussing readings, which will also include selections from contemporary scholarship and a modern novel inspired by this narrative, C.S. Lewis' *Till We Have Faces*. As the final component, students will complete a creative project consisting of their own creative work in any medium inspired by the novel and a commentary that engages closely with the Latin text.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation; periodic translation quizzes; two short writing assignments; final creative project

Prerequisites: CLLA 302 or instructor permission

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Classics majors

Expected Class Size: 10

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

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2025

SEM Section: 01 TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Marissa A. Henry

CLLA 414 (F) Vergil's Eclogues and Georgics

This course will explore the two major works of Vergil that precede the *Aeneid*: the *Eclogues*, a series of ten pastoral poems that range widely across personal, political, and mythological themes; and the *Georgics*, a longer didactic poem in four books that uses an agricultural framework to examine issues of life, death, power, suffering, and love. The goal throughout is to investigate the literary, political, and social dimensions of the poems with special attention to their relationship to earlier models, as well as their exquisite poetic craftsmanship.

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

Prerequisites: CLLA 302 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Classics majors

Expected Class Size: 10

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

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2024

SEM Section: 01 TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Edan Dekel

CLLA 422 (S) Crete in the Ancient Roman Imagination

Appeals to origins "long ago" and "far away" occur as a basis for positive cultural claims in ancient literature, but also function to banish or contain taboo desires and practices by placing them safely beyond the limits of civilized time and place. For the Romans, the island of Crete fulfilled both these roles. In this course, we will explore the representation of Crete and Cretans in several authors and genres, with special attention to Catullus 64 and Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. We will consider how representations of Crete helped our authors navigate perennial tensions at Rome between philhellenism and xenophobia and attend to the complex play of poetic intertextuality among Roman texts as well as their intimate engagement with Greek predecessors. Moreover, to complement our literary investigation, students will gain familiarity with the history of Roman rule on the island from its establishment as a province in 67 BCE through late antiquity, and will consider vestiges of the Roman imperial presence that endured much longer. Students will research Roman activity on Crete with an emphasis on material culture as well as written sources. 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 CLGR 422.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, translation quizzes and exams, occasional short writing assignments, seminar paper and presentation

Prerequisites: CLLA 302

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Classics majors and intending majors

Expected Class Size: 6

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

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

Winter Study -----

CLLA 99 (W) Independent Study: Latin

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