

# CLASSICS

## Overview & Learning Goals

### Overview

The Department of Classics investigates the history, language, literature, and archaeology of the ancient Mediterranean world. We use the perspectives of multiple disciplines to understand and imagine the diversity of Greek and Roman culture, their interactions with their neighbors, and what the past has meant to later eras, and to our own.

Students pursuing a classics major follow one of three different concentrations: one with a focus on Greek and Roman culture and history (classical studies), one with a focus on the material culture of the ancient Mediterranean (ancient Mediterranean archaeology), and one with a focus on Greek and Latin literature (classical languages and literatures). Students pursuing these concentrations are encouraged to study not only the languages and literatures but also the material culture of the ancient Mediterranean world. Our concentrations reflect the varied but interrelated approaches to the study of the ancient Mediterranean.

With that goal in mind, the classics program welcomes students who have not studied classical languages, as well as those who have had some prior training in Latin and/or Greek. In addition, while we strongly recommend coursework in the ancient languages, Greek and Latin are not required of students pursuing the concentrations in classical studies or ancient Mediterranean archaeology.

### Learning Goals

Students will:

1. Explore the foundations of ancient Greek and Roman societies through the study and analysis of language, traditions, and material culture in their historical context.
2. Read texts closely and deliberately.
3. Read artifacts, monuments, and spaces closely and deliberately.
4. Write clearly and persuasively about the archaeological, historical, and literary dimensions of Greece, Rome, and the ancient Mediterranean.
5. Connect Greek and Roman histories and cultures to those of other ancient and modern societies.
6. Engage directly with texts written in Greek and Latin and artifacts produced in the ancient Greek and Roman world.
7. Present or perform thoughtfully and confidently to a diverse audience material pertaining to Greek, Roman, or ancient Mediterranean culture.
8. Complete a research project incorporating both primary and secondary sources.

### Options for Majoring or Minor in the Department

Students may elect to major in classics, the art history and archaeology interdisciplinary major, or to coordinate the major in classics with digital and computational studies, education, or environmental studies. Students pursuing a coordinate or interdisciplinary major may not normally elect a second major. Non-majors may elect to minor in ancient Mediterranean archaeology, classics, classical studies, Greek, or Latin. Art history and archaeology interdisciplinary majors may declare a classics, classical studies, Greek, or Latin minor, but not an ancient Mediterranean archaeology minor.

Department Website (<https://www.bowdoin.edu/classics/>)

## Faculty

Jennifer Clarke Kosak, *Department Chair*  
Sandra Kauffman, *Department Coordinator*

*Professor:* Barbara Weiden Boyd  
*Associate Professors:* James A. Higginbotham, Jennifer Clarke Kosak, Robert B. Sobak  
*Senior Lecturer:* Michael Nerdahl  
*Postdoctoral Fellow:* Maya Chakravorty

Faculty/Staff Website (<https://www.bowdoin.edu/classics/faculty-and-staff/>)

## Requirements

### Classics Major

The classics major consists of nine courses with concentrations in three possible areas: classical studies, ancient Mediterranean archaeology, and classical languages and literatures. Courses taught by faculty in the Classics Department are designated by four different rubrics: ARCH, CLAS, GRK, and LATN. Any course designated by one of these rubrics, including First-Year Writing Seminars, counts as what is termed a “departmental course” in the following major requirements.

### Classical Studies Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
Select at least one departmental course at the 1000 level		1
Select at least three departmental courses at the 2000 level		3
Select at least two departmental courses at the 3000 level		2
Select at least three courses at any level <sup>a</sup>		3

<sup>a</sup> Students may count as one of their required departmental courses any one appropriate course taught in another department, e.g., anthropology, art history, government, philosophy, religion, with the consultation and approval of classics faculty.

### Ancient Mediterranean Archaeology Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
Select at least two archaeology (ARCH) courses at the 1000 level		2
Select at least three archaeology (ARCH) courses at the 2000 level		3
Select at least one archaeology (ARCH) course at the 3000 level		1
Select at least three departmental courses at any level <sup>b</sup>		3

<sup>b</sup> Students may count as one of their required departmental courses any one appropriate course taught in another department, e.g., anthropology, art history, government, philosophy, religion, with the consultation and approval of classics faculty.

### Classical Languages and Literatures Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
Select at least five Greek (GRK) and/or Latin (LATN) courses at any level		5
Select at least one Greek (GRK) and/or Latin (LATN) course at the 3000 level		1
Select at least three departmental courses at any level <sup>c</sup>		3

- c Students may count as one of their required departmental courses any one appropriate course taught in another department, e.g., anthropology, art history, government, philosophy, religion, with the consultation and approval of classics faculty.

Classics Minor

The classics minor consists of five courses, with concentrations in five possible areas: Greek, Latin, classical languages and literatures, ancient Mediterranean archaeology, and classical studies. Courses taught by faculty in the Classics Department are designated by four different rubrics: ARCH, CLAS, GRK, and LATN. Any course designated by one of these rubrics, including First-Year Writing Seminars, counts as what is termed a “departmental course” in the following minor requirements.

Greek

Code	Title	Credits
Select at least four Green (GRK) courses at any level		4
Select at least one departmental course at any level <sup>d</sup>		1

Latin

Code	Title	Credits
Select at least four Latin (LATN) courses at any level		4
Select at least one departmental course at any level <sup>d</sup>		1

Classics

Code	Title	Credits
Select at least four Greek (GRK) and/or Latin (LATN) courses at any level		4
Select at least one Greek (GRK) and/or Latin (LATN) course at the 3000 level or above		1

Ancient Mediterranean Archaeology

Code	Title	Credits
Select at least one archaeology (ARCH) course at the 1000 level		1
Select at least one archaeology course at the 2000 level		1
Select at least one archaeology course at the 3000 level		1
Select at least two departmental courses at any level <sup>d</sup>		2

- d Students may count as one of their required departmental courses any one appropriate course taught in another department, e.g., anthropology, art history, government, philosophy, religion, with the consultation and approval of classics faculty.

Classical Studies

Code	Title	Credits
Select at least two departmental courses at the 2000 level		2
Select at least one departmental course at the 3000 level		1
Select at least two departmental courses at any level <sup>d</sup>		2

- d Students may count as one of their required departmental courses any one appropriate course taught in another department, e.g., anthropology, art history, government, philosophy, religion, with the consultation and approval of classics faculty.

Interdisciplinary Major

The department participates in an interdisciplinary program in archaeology and art history. See the Interdisciplinary Majors ([https://](https://bowdoin-public.courseleaf.com/departments-programs/interdisciplinary-majors/)

[bowdoin-public.courseleaf.com/departments-programs/interdisciplinary-majors/](https://bowdoin-public.courseleaf.com/departments-programs/interdisciplinary-majors/)).

Additional Information  
Additional Information and Department Policies

- Courses that count toward the programs offered by the department must be taken for regular letter grades (not Credit/D/Fail), and students must earn grades of C- or better in these courses.
- One first-year writing seminar may count toward the major and minor.
- Normally, independent studies and honors projects only count toward the major or minor with prior approval of the department.
- Majors and minors may double-count one course with another department or program.

Classics and Archaeology at Bowdoin and Abroad

Archaeology classes regularly use the outstanding collection of ancient art in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art (<https://www.bowdoin.edu/art-museum/>). Of special note are the exceptionally fine holdings in Greek painted pottery and the very full and continuous survey of Greek and Roman coins. In addition, there are numerous opportunities for study or work abroad.

Bowdoin is a participating member of the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome, where students majoring in classics can study in the junior year. It is also possible to receive course credit for field experience on excavations. Interested students should consult members of the department for further information. Students can count up to four courses taken abroad toward the major; up to three in one semester, or four from a full year abroad. Students can count up to two courses taken abroad toward the minor; one per semester spent abroad. Students must consult with departmental faculty prior in order to determine course eligibility.

Students contemplating graduate study in classics or classical archaeology are advised to begin the study of at least one modern language in college, as most graduate programs require competence in French and German as well as in Latin and Greek.

Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate (AP/IB)

Students who received a minimum score of four on the Latin AP exam are eligible to receive a general credit toward the degree if they take a Latin course at the 3000 level and earn a minimum grade of B-. Regardless of AP scores, students should complete the placement questionnaire. No major or minor credit is given. In order to receive credit for advanced placement work, students must have their scores officially reported to the Office of the Registrar by the end of their sophomore year at Bowdoin. Students who took the Latin IB exam should consult the department for credit.

Information for Incoming Students (p. 2)

Classics is the study of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds within the broader context of the ancient Mediterranean and the ancient Near East. Our discipline combines the study of art history, archaeology, history, literature, philosophy, and the languages of Greek and Latin. Our students use these multiple perspectives in order to better understand and better imagine the diversity of peoples who lived thousands of years before us,

to reflect on what this past has meant to later ages, and to learn more about how it continues to shape our own ideas in the present day.

Please note that the department offers many other classes under the archaeology and classics rubrics that are designed for first-year student enrollment, and have spaces set aside especially for first-year students. These classes do not require any knowledge of Latin or Greek, nor do they require any prior study of the Classical World. For fall 2024, this includes a first year writing seminar, CLAS 1017 The Heroic Age: Ancient Supermen and Wonder Women, ARCH 1103 Egyptian Archaeology, CLAS 2103 Then and Now: The Erasure of Indigenous Voices, CLAS 2736 Ancient Greek Medicine, CLAS 2787 Thucydides and the Invention of Political Theory, and CLAS 3310 Imagining Rome.

Students interested in beginning Latin should enroll in LATN 1101 Elementary Latin I which is offered in the fall. Students interested in beginning Greek should enroll in GRK 1101 Elementary Greek I, which is offered in the spring. Because of the sequential nature of language study and the pattern of offerings in the department, students should plan on taking both semesters of Latin over one academic year; students interested in the elementary Greek sequence should plan to take GRK 1101 Elementary Greek I in the spring and GRK 1102 Elementary Greek II the following fall.

Students who have studied Latin or Greek in high school, as well as students interested in beginning Latin or Greek here at Bowdoin, should complete the Latin or Greek placement questionnaire in Blackboard in the summer prior to matriculation. In order to make placement recommendations we take into consideration past study, AP and SAT II scores, and a brief conversation with the student about their interests. Most first-year students who are continuing Latin enroll in either LATN 2203 Intermediate Latin for Reading or LATN 2206 The Roman Novel. Students with exceptionally strong backgrounds, however, may enroll in LATN 3306 The Roman Novel. Most first-year students who are continuing Greek enroll in GRK 1102 Elementary Greek II.

Members of the Classics Department faculty are always happy to talk with students individually in order to discuss placement and sequencing of courses.

## Courses

### Archaeology

#### **ARCH 1012 (c) The Archaeology of Ritual and Myth in the Ancient Mediterranean**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Examines ancient religious traditions and practice through the study of artifacts from the ancient Mediterranean housed in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art. Students actively engage in the analysis of artifacts from Egypt, Assyria, Etruria, Greece, and Italy that represent aspects of ancient religious practice. Student writing assignments draw inspiration from select objects from the collection that include many examples of sculpture, pottery, and coins. Illustrated presentations and assigned reading provide the archaeological contexts for the artifacts under study, as well as explore the cultural narratives recounted in history and myth. Sites such as Giza, Kalhu, Delphi, Olympia, Athens, Pompeii, and Rome are explored as the settings for the rituals and myths that helped define the cultures of the ancient Mediterranean world.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022.

#### **ARCH 1101 (c, VPA) Greek Archaeology**

Every Other Fall. Enrollment limit: 50.

Introduces the techniques and methods of classical archaeology as revealed through an examination of Greek material culture. Emphasis upon the major monuments and artifacts of the Greek world from prehistory to the Hellenistic age. Architecture, sculpture, fresco painting, and other “minor arts” are examined at such sites as Knossos, Mycenae, Athens, Delphi, and Olympia. Considers the nature of this archaeological evidence and the relationship of classical archaeology to other disciplines such as art history, history, and classics. Assigned reading supplements illustrated presentations of the major archaeological finds of the Greek world. (Same as: ARTH 2090)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022.

#### **ARCH 1102 (c, VPA) Roman Archaeology**

Every Other Fall. Enrollment limit: 50.

Surveys the material culture of Roman society, from Italy’s prehistory and the origins of the Roman state through its development into a cosmopolitan empire, and concludes with the fundamental reorganization during the late third and early fourth centuries. Lectures explore ancient sites such as Rome, Pompeii, Athens, Ephesus, and others around the Mediterranean. Emphasis upon the major monuments and artifacts of the Roman era: architecture, sculpture, fresco painting, and other minor arts. Considers the nature of this archaeological evidence and the relationship of classical archaeology to other disciplines such as art history, history, and classics. Assigned reading supplements illustrated presentations of the major archaeological finds of the Roman world. (Same as: ARTH 2100)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2020.

#### **ARCH 1103 (c) Egyptian Archaeology**

Jim Higginbotham.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 50.

Introduces the techniques and methods of archaeology through an examination of Egyptian material culture. Emphasis is placed upon understanding the major monuments and artifacts of ancient Egypt from the prehistoric cultures of the Nile Valley through the period of Roman control. Architecture, sculpture, fresco painting, and other “minor arts” are examined at sites such as Saqqara, Giza, Thebes, Dendera, Tanis, and Alexandria. Considers the nature of this archaeological evidence, its context, and the relationship of archaeology to other disciplines such as africana studies, art history, anthropology, history, and classics. Course themes include the origins and development of complex state systems, funerary symbolism, contacts between Africa and the Mediterranean, and the expression of social, political and religious ideologies in art and architecture. Selected readings supplement illustrated presentations of the major archaeological finds of Egypt. Class meetings include artifact sessions in Bowdoin College Museum of Art. (Same as: AFRS 1105)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

**ARCH 1105 (c) The Archaeology of Building: Architecture in the Ancient Mediterranean World**

Jim Higginbotham.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 50.

Explores the materials, design and construction of ancient buildings and monuments from around the Mediterranean. Explores the connections between form and function using archaeological evidence from select examples of structures drawn from Egyptian, Phoenician, Greek, Etruscan, and Roman traditions. Students trace the origins and evolution of particular architectural styles that are still in use today, including the Greek orders of Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian as well as their antecedents in earlier Egyptian and Near-Eastern traditions. Examines various types of structures including houses, temples, tombs, theaters, aqueducts, and baths while considering architectural planning and design, the manner of construction, and the contexts in which buildings were commissioned, built, and used. Selected readings, including ancient texts in translation, supplement illustrated presentations of the major archaeological finds.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.

**ARCH 2108 (b) Nailed it! Investigating Ancient Technologies**

Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 16.

Adopts a hands-on approach to the study of ancient technologies and craft production to explore how people in the past created, adopted, and used technology to interact with the environment and with one another. Ancient people engaged in ceramic production, flint napping, metallurgy, glassmaking, basketry, and textile production among other technologies. Draws on archaeological and anthropological research to illuminate social, cultural, economic, and functional reasons for the development and adoption of new technologies. Forefronts issues of community, labor, skill development, exploitation of resources, consumption, and waste. Students have opportunities to research and replicate an ancient artifact or technique. (Same as: ANTH 2108)

Prerequisites: ANTH 1050 - 2969 or ANTH 3000 or higher or ARCH 1050 - 2969 or ARCH 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

**ARCH 2202 (c, IP) Augustan Rome**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Upon his ascent to power after a century of war, Rome's first princeps, Augustus, launched a program of cultural reformation and restoration that was to have a profound and enduring effect upon every aspect of life in the empire, from fashions in entertainment, decoration, and art, to religious and political habits and customs. Using the city of Rome as its primary text, this course investigates how the Augustan "renovation" of Rome is manifested first and foremost in the monuments associated with the ruler: the Mausoleum of Augustus, theater of Marcellus, temple of Apollo on the Palatine, Altar of Augustan Peace, and Forum of Augustus as well as many others. Understanding of the material remains themselves is supplemented by historical and literary texts dating to Augustus's reign, as well as by a consideration of contemporary research and controversies in the field. (Same as: CLAS 2202, URBS 2402)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

**ARCH 2204 (c, IP) Buried by Vesuvius: The Archaeology of Roman Daily Life**

Jim Higginbotham.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 35.

Destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79, the archaeological remains of Pompeii, Herculaneum, and the neighboring sites around the Bay of Naples are unparalleled in their range and completeness. The study of this material record reveals a great deal about the domestic, economic, religious, social, and political life in ancient Italy. Examines archaeological, literary, and documentary material ranging from architecture and sculpture to wall painting, graffiti, and the floral remains of ancient gardens, but focuses on interpreting the archaeological record for insight into the everyday life of the Romans. In addition, explores the methods and techniques employed by archaeologists since the sites were "rediscovered" in the sixteenth century. Archaeological materials are introduced through illustrated presentations, supplementary texts, and sessions in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2020.

**ARCH 2206 (c) Hispania Antiqua: The Archaeology of Ancient Spain**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Surveys the early history of the Iberian peninsula through its material culture and highlights the interplay between the geography of Spain and diverse patterns of human settlement. Begins with the study of the indigenous Iberian peoples in Spain during their Late Neolithic and Bronze Ages and then examines the impact made by the arrival of traders and colonists from Phoenicia and the Greek world. Connections to Africa highlight the period of Carthaginian occupation starting in the sixth century B.C.E. and leading up to the Roman conquest in the third century B.C.E. Under Roman control the number and complexity of settlements increased and, as early as the first century B.C.E., the Spanish provincial elite began to play active roles in Roman commercial and political life. Concludes with the decline of Roman control in late antiquity and the changes for the peninsula brought about after the invasion of the Visigoths.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

**ARCH 2207 (c, DPI, IP) Who Owns the Past? Contemporary Controversies and Contested Narratives**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Focuses on the meaning and significance of artifacts, archaeology sites, monuments, and art from a diversity of perspectives. Students learn about disagreements regarding who owns antiquities and ethnographic objects. They consider the ethical, cultural, and legal considerations of where heritage materials are housed, and whether they should be published and exhibited, and if so, by whom. They examine the impact of politics, conflicts, and war on cultural heritage sites and monuments, and learn about the illegal trafficking in antiquities and art. Students wrestle with museums' colonial legacies and consider how decolonizing practices are transforming museums and interpretations of the past. Case studies cover a broad array of museums, cultures, and nations. Readings, class discussions, visits by guest speakers, and hands-on work with objects are augmented by visits to the college's two museums. (Same as: ANTH 2105)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2020.

**ARCH 2209 (c, IP) The Limits of Empire: Archaeology of the Roman Frontier**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

The Roman frontier, or "limites" in Latin, occupied an important place in the history and imagination of the Romans. Dangerous, mysterious, but enticing, the borders of the Roman Empire were active areas of cultural and economic exchange. Examines archaeological evidence to provide a view of what was foreign to the Romans and also how Roman culture was seen by others. Traces the historical development of the Roman frontier and explores important sites from across the ancient world including Hadrian's Wall in the United Kingdom, Palmyra and Dura Europos in Syria, Leptis Magna in Libya, Volubilis in Morocco, and Chersonesos in the Crimea. Selected readings, including ancient texts in translation, supplement illustrated presentations of the major archaeological finds. Class meetings include artifact sessions in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

**ARCH 2211 (c, IP) Archaeology of the Aegean Bronze Age**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Explores the ancient civilizations located around the Aegean Sea during prehistory from the end of the Neolithic period to around 1000 BCE. Study focuses on the Cycladic, Minoan, and Mycenaean cultures within their wider Mediterranean context, including their contacts with the neighboring cultures of Anatolia, the Levant, Egypt, and South Italy. These Bronze Age societies left a rich material record of palaces and funerary complexes, frescoes and vase paintings, and other artifacts that together shed light on the people living around the ancient Aegean. Their culture also inspired the creation of later myths and literature (e.g., the Iliad and the Odyssey). Presentations explore ancient sites such as Thera (Santorini), Knossos, Phaistos, Mycenae, Tiryns, Hattusa, and Troy. Course themes include the origins and development of complex state systems, funerary symbolism, and the expression of social, political, and religious ideologies in art and architecture. Archaeological materials are introduced through illustrated presentations, supplementary texts, and virtual sessions in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2021.

**ARCH 2212 (c, IP) Archaeology of the Etruscans and Early Italy**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Explores the archaeology of ancient Italy from the Neolithic period to the first century BCE, with particular emphasis on Etruscan material culture. Illustrated presentations and class discussions explore the settlement of the Italian peninsula, Sicily, and Sardinia in remote prehistoric times; the development of Iron Age Italic cultures and their contact with the Phoenicians and the Greeks; the emergence of Etruria as a dominant society in Italy; and the Etruscan influence on early Rome. Presentations explore ancient sites such as Caere (Cerveteri), Pyrgi, Tarquinia, Vulci, Orvieto, and Volterra. Artifacts and monuments including architecture, sculpture, pottery, and paintings are studied in their historical and cultural context in order to understand the evolution of early Italic society and the prominent role played by the Etruscans. Class study includes artifacts in the collections of the Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

**ARCH 2214 (c, IP) Insular Archaeology: Islands in the Ancient Mediterranean**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Explores the unique environment of islands in the cultural development of the ancient Mediterranean. Geographically, as sites of settlement, refuge, and trade, islands helped connect the ancient Mediterranean world. Illustrated presentations and class discussions explore how island societies develop and their place in the dissemination of culture in the ancient world. Study begins in prehistory with examinations of the archaeological remains on the islands of Malta, the Cyclades, Crete, and Cyprus and continues through the Roman period to include sites such as Sicily, Sardinia, and Corsica. Along the way, smaller island groups such as the Aeolic islands off Sicily and the Balearic Islands near Spain are explored. Artifacts and monuments including architecture, sculpture, pottery, coins, and paintings are studied in their historical and cultural context to understand the evolution of these insular societies. Study includes artifacts in the collections of the Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023.

**ARCH 3301 (c, IP) The Endangered Past: Archaeology and the Current Threat to Cultural Heritage**

Jim Higginbotham.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 16.

Archaeological exploration has exposed a rich array of sites and artifacts that can be experienced first-hand by an ever-growing number of visitors. This exposure has placed unprecedented pressures on countries to provide access while ensuring the protection of this important cultural heritage. Economic challenges, mass-tourism, and political strife challenge our effort to preserve the past. The heightened visibility of these remains coupled with their connections to ancient traditions has also attracted the ire of forces intent on obliterating the past. Examines the state of cultural heritage focusing on ancient sites in the Mediterranean and the Near East, including sites in Syria, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Egypt, and Libya. Explores the factors that have placed archaeological sites in jeopardy and examines possible solutions to these challenges. Sessions in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art incorporate select examples of the ancient collection that are connected to areas of the ancient world at risk. In this setting, explores the role of museums as custodians of the past and how current events have informed the discussions around cultural patrimony.

Prerequisites: ANTH 1101 or ANTH 1102 or ANTH 1150 or ARCH 1101 (same as ARTH 2090) or ARCH 1102 (same as ARTH 2100) or ARTH 1100.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2021.

**ARCH 3302 (c) Ancient Numismatics**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 15.

Surveys Greek and Roman coinage by examining a series of problems ranging chronologically from the origins of coinage in the seventh century B.C. to the late Roman Empire. How do uses of coinage in Greek and Roman society differ from those of the modern era? How does numismatic evidence inform us about ancient political and social, as well as economic, history? Classes held in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art and course assignments are based on coins in the collection.

Prerequisites: ARCH 1101 (same as ARTH 2090) or ARCH 1102 (same as ARTH 2100) or ARTH 2090 or ARTH 2100.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.

**ARCH 3311 (c) Portraits from Antiquity**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 15.

For ancient cultures the art of portraiture had important religious, political, and social functions. Portraits, whether of gods, rulers, or common folk, were uniquely suited to communicate a variety of messages in a form easily recognizable to the intended audience. The success of the genre is clear from its widespread use and from the ways that it incorporated the accumulated traditions of ancient Mediterranean history. From profiles carved in relief and painted on vases to figures molded in terracotta and portraits sculpted in the round, explores a range of art representing Egyptian, Assyrian, Cypriot, Greek, and Roman cultures. Using artifacts housed in the collections of the Bowdoin College Museum of Art, examines the traditions, styles, and techniques that inform the portrayals of individuals in the ancient world, and what they teach about the societies that produced them.

Prerequisites: ARCH 1101 (same as ARTH 2090)- 1199 or ARTH 1100 or ARTH 2090 or ARTH 2100 or VART 1101 or VART 1301 or VART 1401 or VART 1601.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

## Classics

**CLAS 1011 (c) Shame, Honor, and Responsibility**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

This course examines some of the fundamental problems posed in epic and tragic texts from ancient Greece and Rome: What is our responsibility to ourselves, to our families, and to our society and what is beyond our personal control? How does the society in which we are born shape our identities and our values? How can and do individuals choose to act within the constraints of social norms? We will explore these questions by focusing in particular on three concepts strikingly visible in ancient Greek and Roman epic and tragedy: shame, honor and responsibility. Texts include Homer's epic poems, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*; a selection of tragedies by Sophocles and Euripides; and the Roman poet Vergil's epic, the *Aeneid*.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

**CLAS 1012 (c) Ancient Mediterranean in Modern Media**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Examines works of pop culture in order to address the exciting questions that emerge when ancient and modern worlds meet. For example, by examining *Assassin's Creed Odyssey* and its depiction of Greek philosophy, students engage difficult questions that emerge from the works of Plato, one of the most influential Athenian philosophers. Some of these questions, such as Plato's idea that imitation and simulation lead to moral corruption, can only be answered to their fullest extent in conversation with modern media that offer immersive simulation and multi-sensory interaction. Similar approaches emerge from dialogue between ancient and modern art, which students explore through works like *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* and *Homer*, as well as centuries of scholarship about the ancient world and its legacy. Students hone their writing skills while simultaneously confronting issues important both to the discipline of classics and to critics of modern films, books, and video games.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023.

**CLAS 1017 (c) The Heroic Age: Ancient Supermen and Wonder Women**  
Michael Nerdahl.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 16.

The modern concept of the superhero is an enduring vestige of the ancient concept of the hero, the ancient Greek word used to describe men of exceptional ability. Looks at heroes and heroines in ancient literature and culture, considering a range of sources from ancient Babylon to imperial Rome. Considers the changing definition of hero, the cultural values associated with heroism, the role played by gender and sexuality in the definition of the hero, and analogues to ancient heroes in modern cinema. Examines more nebulous and problematic models for the ancient villain and considers how contrasting definitions of hero and antihero can be used to understand ancient thought concerning human nature.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2020.

**CLAS 1025 (c) Ancient Empires and Ancient Others: Power, Ethnicity, and Identity in the Ancient Mediterranean**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

What was it like to live in the ancient Mediterranean? For hundreds of years (e.g., 200 BCE–600 CE), the answer to this question would depend, at least in part, on where someone lived and how they identified themselves in relationship to the Roman empire and its centers of power. This course examines not only what it may have been like to live within the Roman empire as a person who identified with other ancient communities, but also attempts to understand what contact with the Romans would have been like for people who lived under other ancient political systems. What were encounters with the Roman world like for those far away from Rome, for example, on trade routes that connected Rome to India? What was life like for those oppressed by Roman authority, who lived as colonized subjects or enslaved people? This course approaches these questions by directly examining ancient evidence, such as texts from within and beyond the Roman world, as well as the work of modern scholars.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

**CLAS 1101 (c, IP) Classical Mythology**

Michael Nerdahl; Jennifer Clarke Kosak.

Every Other Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 50.

Focuses on the mythology of the Greeks and the use of myth in classical literature. Other topics considered are recurrent patterns and motifs in Greek myths; a cross-cultural study of ancient creation myths; the relation of mythology to religion; women's roles in myth; and the application of modern anthropological, sociological, and psychological theories to classical myth. Concludes with an examination of Ovid's use of classical mythology in the "Metamorphoses."

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2021, Spring 2021.

**CLAS 1112 (c, IP) History of Ancient Rome: From Romulus to Justinian**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 50.

Surveys the history of Rome from its beginnings to the fourth century A.D. Considers the political, economic, religious, social, and cultural developments of the Romans in the context of Rome's growth from a small settlement in central Italy to the dominant power in the Mediterranean world. Special attention is given to such topics as urbanism, imperialism, the influence of Greek culture and law, and multiculturalism. Introduces different types of sources -- literary, epigraphical, archaeological, etc. -- for use as historical documents. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: Europe. It fulfills the pre-modern requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 1112)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2020.

**CLAS 1113 (c, IP) The World of Late Antiquity**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 50.

The fall of Rome has captured the imagination of students and historians for centuries, perhaps to a fault. When conversations focus on destruction, they neglect the many times that the Roman state avoided catastrophes or recovered from them. Studying late antiquity, Rome's most turbulent and dynamic era, uncovers the story of such near misses and recoveries, revealing a civilization that survived for millennia through a paradoxical combination of conservatism and radical change. Even before late antiquity, Rome had changed dramatically from its origins as a city state, transforming into an imperial republic and, later, a monarchy. In late antiquity, that empire became Christian, and its monarchs became despots. Its citizens sought protection from saints as much as from soldiers, from bishops as often as from emperors. Yet for all these changes, the inhabitants of this world continued to claim, perhaps louder than ever, that they were still Romans.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

**CLAS 1114 (c) Power, Inequality, and Social Conflict in the Ancient Mediterranean**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 50.

The Athenian Democracy and the Roman Republic were formed in a crucible of conflicts over status, wealth, and the distribution of power. Although these different societies took different organizational directions, they faced similar challenges over time. Both also left behind a wealth of literary, legal, and material testimony to these challenges. Primary sources as varied as tragedy and comedy, law-court speeches, insult poetry, painting, sculpture, and philosophical texts provide insights into ancient ideas about freedom, sexuality, property rights, citizenship, individual flourishing, and commitments to a common good. This course takes a comparative approach to social history by exploring how Athenians and Romans tried to solve various kinds of social problems, and how such issues also became opportunities for growth and change. Broad introduction to ancient history, the use of primary sources, and general historical method. First-year students welcome. No prerequisites.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022.

**CLAS 1272 (c, IP, VPA) Performing Epic Women in Global South Asia**

Frank Mauceri; Aruna Kharod.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 50.

Goddesses, murderesses, virtuosi, warrior queens: portrayals and performances of women-identifying characters in South Asian epics resonate across centuries and continents, shaping everyday embodied experience in South Asia and its diasporas. This course examines how epic women's narratives shape aesthetic, domestic, and sociopolitical texts and contexts, from palm leaf manuscripts to pop culture and cinema to sexuality. Texts will be read in translation from a variety of South Asian epic traditions, including Buddhacharita, Mahabharata, Shahnameh. Oral-aural epic traditions from Dalit, Adivasi, and other South Asian ethnic groups will be examined in the course as well. An interdisciplinary approach draws on performance studies, gender and postcolonial theory, diaspora studies, literary study, and embodied practice. The class will collaboratively and critically respond to course texts and themes by developing a multimodal artistic work, culminating in an end-of-semester performance. (Same as: MUS 1272, ASNS 1272, THTR 1307)

**CLAS 2102 (c) Socrates and the Problem of History**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Explores the figure of Socrates as he is represented in various texts and artifacts in order to introduce students to problems of historical method. By closely reading authors such as Plato, Xenophon, Aristophanes, and Aristotle, students learn how to reconstruct a model of Socrates that is less idealized, but more historically accurate, than the Socrates we encounter in the historical imagination and popular culture. This course introduces students to methodological issues regarding evidence and argument that are directly relevant not only to ancient history and ancient philosophy, but to the epistemological contests currently taking place in our present moment.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023.

**CLAS 2103 (c, DPI) Then and Now: The Erasure of Indigenous Voices**  
 Maya Chakravorty.  
 Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 35.

Through comparative study, this course explores the effects of imperialism and colonialism upon Indigenous peoples. Using a variety of ancient Greek and Latin literary sources, translated into English, students examine how ancient Italic peoples, specifically the Sabines and Etruscans, were forcefully assimilated into the rapidly expanding Roman Republic. In comparison, students are introduced to Indigenous communities living along the stretch of British Columbia's Highway 16, known as the "Highway of Tears". We explore the origins of its name, and study how the traumas occurring in this region are representative of the impacts of Canadian settler colonialism. Using ancient and modern cases students examine the impact of colonialism and imperialism upon the cultures of Indigenous peoples, the impacts on their sense of identity, and research what, if any, remaining traces of their voices can be found in the study of both ancient and contemporary history.

**CLAS 2202 (c, IP) Augustan Rome**  
 Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Upon his ascent to power after a century of war, Rome's first princeps, Augustus, launched a program of cultural reformation and restoration that was to have a profound and enduring effect upon every aspect of life in the empire, from fashions in entertainment, decoration, and art, to religious and political habits and customs. Using the city of Rome as its primary text, this course investigates how the Augustan "renovation" of Rome is manifested first and foremost in the monuments associated with the ruler: the Mausoleum of Augustus, theater of Marcellus, temple of Apollo on the Palatine, Altar of Augustan Peace, and Forum of Augustus as well as many others. Understanding of the material remains themselves is supplemented by historical and literary texts dating to Augustus's reign, as well as by a consideration of contemporary research and controversies in the field. (Same as: ARCH 2202, URBS 2402)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

**CLAS 2214 (c, IP) The Republic of Rome and the Evolution of Executive Power**  
 Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Examines in depth the approaches to leadership within the governmental system that enabled a small, Italian city-state to take eventual control of the Mediterranean world and how this state was affected by its unprecedented military, economic, and territorial growth. Investigates and re-imagines the political maneuverings of the most famous pre-Imperial Romans, such as Scipio Africanus, the Gracchi, and Cicero, and how political institutions such as the Roman Senate and assemblies reacted to and dealt with military, economic, and revolutionary crises. Looks at the relationship of the Roman state to class warfare, the nature of electoral politics, and the power of precedent and tradition. While examining whether the ultimate fall precipitated by Caesar's ambition and vision was inevitable, also reveals what lessons, if any, modern politicians can learn about statesmanship from the transformation of the hyper-competitive atmosphere of the Republic into the monarchical principate of Augustus. All sources, such as Livy's history of Rome, Plutarch's "Lives," letters and speeches of Cicero, and Caesar's "Civil War," are in English, and no prior knowledge of Roman antiquity is required. Note: This course fulfills the pre-modern requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2008)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.

**CLAS 2220 (c, DPI) Gorgons to Godzilla: Monsters in Greco-Roman Myth and Beyond**  
 Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

This course explores what makes a monster in the ancient world. Also examines what these monsters reflect about the societies they come from. Since monsters are often not static in meaning and change throughout time, students also investigate how later groups adopt and repurpose monsters as symbols of both disenfranchisement and empowerment. In this course students study monsters from various time periods and cultures within and outside the Ancient Mediterranean. Students encounter these monsters in literary texts, material culture, video games, TV, and film and analyze myths and media through theoretical approaches such as critical race theory, gender studies, queer theory, and postcolonial theory. Students can use this exploration of monsters of the past to reflect on and assess monsters made in contemporary society.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

**CLAS 2238 (c, IP) The Politics of Memory: Commemoration in Ancient Greece and Rome**  
 Jennifer Clarke Kosak.  
 Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 35.

How will we be remembered? How should we be remembered? And how do we decide to honor or sanction events that have occurred or people who have died, whether in the past or in our own lifetimes? This course explores these questions by comparing the commemorative practices of ancient Greece and Rome with those of our own time. Examines public and private memorials to those who have died, including poems, eulogies, mausoleums, statues, and gravestones, along with tributes to those who have triumphed (and sometimes those who have lost), whether on the battlefield or in less deadly contests. Also considers practices such as *damnatio memoriae* (erasure from historical memory) and ancestor worship, literary tropes such as "immortality through song," and the changing interpretation and reuse of commemorative monuments over time. Includes analysis of materials in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art, as well as field trips to local cemeteries and memorials. All readings in English.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2021.

**CLAS 2241 (c, IP) Transformations: Mythical Metamorphoses from Classical Antiquity to the 21st Century**  
 Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

The word "transformations" is a translation of the title of the Latin poet Ovid's most famous work, the *Metamorphoses*, whose theme is mythical transformation. The mythical changes narrated by Ovid have inspired creativity of all sorts in the arts and will serve as the basis for this course. The first half of the semester will be devoted to careful reading and discussion of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. The remainder of the semester will turn its focus outward, to consider Ovid's afterlife in the many poems, novels, and plays his work has inspired. We will also consider Ovid's enduring status as "artist in exile." Readings for the course, in addition to selected works of Ovid, may include works by Shakespeare, Ted Hughes, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Franz Kafka, Mary Zimmerman, David Malouf, Christoph Ransmayr, and Nina MacLaughlin.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022.

**CLAS 2243 (c, IP) When Silent Women Speak: Classical Heroines in Contemporary Literature**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

The truism that the women of classical antiquity are silent plays out all too literally in the historical record: the women of ancient Greece and Rome have left only scarce and fragmentary remains of texts in their own voices. This erasure has provoked a remarkable response in contemporary literature, as writers have taken up the challenge to restore the missing voices of ancient women. In this course, several recent works of fiction will be read against their ancient models in epic and drama, and the cultural and political forces influencing both ancient and modern texts will be examined. Readings may include Madeline Miller, *Circe*; Margaret Atwood, *Penelopiad*; Pat Barker, *The Silence of the Girls*; Colm Toibin, *House of Names*; Christa Wolf, *Medea*; and Ali Smith, *Girl Meets Boy*; other readings may be included to reflect student interest. All readings are in English, and no prior familiarity with classical antiquity is required. (Same as: GSW 2243)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

**CLAS 2736 (c) Ancient Greek Medicine**

Jennifer Clarke Kosak.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 16.

Seminar. Explores the development of scientific thinking in the ancient Greek world by examining the history of Greek medicine. Topics include the development of Greek rationalist thought; concepts of health and disease; notions of the human body, both male and female; the physician's skills (diagnosis, prognosis, remedy); similarities and differences between religious and scientific views of disease; concepts of evidence, proof, and experiment; and Greek medical thinking in the Roman world. All readings in English. This course emphasizes the skills and approaches to writing in the Classics discipline.

**CLAS 2757 (c) Tacitus: On How to be a Good Citizen under a Bad Emperor**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Can one honorably serve, and even flourish under, a leader who is widely understood to be dishonest, incompetent, and corrupt? Before the Roman author Tacitus was a historian, he was a senator who advanced himself politically during the rule of Domitian, who was arguably the very worst of the Roman emperors. As a central focus, a careful reading of the works of Tacitus, with accompanying secondary scholarship, seeks to answer the question of how and when to collaborate with a deplorable regime and what such collaboration might cost. All readings in English. (IRBW)

Prerequisites: CLAS 1112 (same as HIST 1112) or CLAS 2202 (same as ARCH 2202 and URBS 2402) or CLAS 2214 (same as HIST 2008) or ARCH 1102 (same as ARTH 2100).

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

**CLAS 2777 (c) From Tyranny to Democracy: Models of Political Freedom in Ancient Greece**

Robert Sobak.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 16.

Most Greek city-states entered the Archaic Period as aristocracies, but exited the Classical Period as democracies. This transition was marked by the brief but widespread emergence of individual rulers: tyrants. Analyzes how tyranny, surprisingly, was a precursor to democracy. Readings include Herodotus and Plato, as well as drinking songs, inscriptions, and curse poetry. Secondary scholarship includes studies of modern popular resistance to despotic regimes, networks of economic associations as foundations for popular governance, and game-theoretic approaches to collective action problems. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: Europe. It fulfills the pre-modern requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2237)

**CLAS 2787 (c) Thucydides and the Invention of Political Theory**

Robert Sobak.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 16.

Thucydides is arguably the classical author who speaks to our present moment most clearly. He is cited as an authority on US-China relations, on the twin crises of democratic governance and ideology, on the rise of populist politics, and is generally recognized as the founder of the study of international relations. A sustained and focused reading of the *Peloponnesian War* is central to this course of study. Students also read selections from other ancient Athenian authors, such as Euripides, Plato, and Aristotle, as well as modern scholarly interpretations. All readings in English. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: Europe. It fulfills the pre-modern requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2238)

**CLAS 3305 (c) Leisure, Class, and the Liberal Arts in Ancient Greece**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Just as the English words school and scholar derive from the Greek word for leisure, so too do many of our own ideas about what constitute a liberal arts education derive from a particular place and moment in time: ancient Greece. Examines not only a wide variety of idealistic prescriptions for educational practice by writers such as Plato, Xenophon, and Aristotle, but also the historical context within which such ideals were born. Confronts, among other things, questions of time, socio-economic status, political ideology, and intellectualism – issues that have as much importance today as they did 2,500 years ago.

Prerequisites: CLAS 1050 - 1099 or CLAS 2000 - 2969.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

**CLAS 3306 (c) Leadership, Morality, and the Ancients: The Works of Plutarch**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 10.

"One cannot read Plutarch without a tingling of the blood." A prolific author, Plutarch produced dynamic writings on such topics as education, self-improvement, the nature of the soul, the virtues of men and women, music, natural science, vegetarianism, and love. His eclectic philosophical thought culminated in his greatest work, the "Parallel Lives," a collection of biographies on statesmanship designed to present examples from Greco-Roman history—like Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Antony and Cleopatra, not to mention preeminent leaders from Sparta and Athens—to serve as mirrors for ethical self-reflection. Considers the context of Plutarch's philosophy and literary presentation and how they relate to modern leadership, ethical behavior, multi-cultural understanding, and the utility of moral instruction. Readings likely to include works of Plato as well as selections from Plutarch's "Moralia" and "Parallel Lives." All readings in English. Research Seminar.

Prerequisites: CLAS 1100 - 1999 or ARCH 1100 - 1999 or GRK 1100 - 1999 or LATN 1100 - 1999 or CLAS 2000 - 2969 or ARCH 2000 - 2969 or GRK 2000 - 2969 or LATN 2000 - 2969.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022.

**CLAS 3309 (c, IP) Ancient Epic: Tradition, Authority, and Intertextuality**  
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Begins with reading and close analysis of the three foundational epic poems of classical antiquity, Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*, and then moves on to selections from several of the "successor" epics, including Apollonius' *Argonautica*, Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Lucan's *Pharsalia*, and Statius' *Thebaid*. Discussion of the ancient poems complemented by an ongoing examination of central issues in contemporary criticism of classical texts, including the relationship of genre, ideology, and interpretation; the tension between literary tradition and authorial control; and the role of intertextuality in establishing a dialogue between and among these poems and their poets. All readings are in English, and no familiarity with Greek or Latin is required.

Prerequisites: CLAS 1101 - 1102 or CLAS 1111 (same as HIST 1111)-1112 or CLAS 1000 - 1049 or CLAS 2000 - 2969 or GRK 1101 or LATN 1101.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023.

**CLAS 3310 (c, IP) Imagining Rome**

Barbara Weiden Boyd.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 16.

The mythical fate-driven foundation of Rome and the city's subsequent self-fashioning as *caput mundi* (capital of the world) have made the city an idea that transcends history, and that has for millennia drawn historians, poets, artists, and, most recently, filmmakers to attempt to capture Rome's essence. As a result, the city defined by its ruins is continually created anew; this synergy between the ruins of Rome – together with the mutability of empire that they represent – and the city's incessant rebirth through the lives of those who visit and inhabit it offers a model for understanding the changing reception of the classical past. This research seminar explores the cycle of ancient Rome's life and afterlife in the works of writers and filmmakers such as Livy, Virgil, Tacitus, Juvenal, Petrarch, Shakespeare, Keats, Goethe, Gibbon, Hawthorne, Freud, Moravia, Rossellini, Fellini, Bertolucci, and Moretti. All readings in English. (Same as: URBS 3410)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2021.

**CLAS 3314 (c) Ancient Odysseys**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Wily Odysseus, the man of many ways, is famous as a clever strategist, an outstanding archer, and a first-rate fighter; he is also an expert storyteller, whose fantastic tales are embedded within the compelling narrative of Homer's *Odyssey*. Both the figure of Odysseus and the epic poem that tells his story had an enduring power and influence over centuries of Greek and Roman culture. Begins with a careful reading of the *Odyssey*; then turns to other texts that engage with the poem, whether by explicitly exploring Odysseus' character and motivations, or by using the narrative patterns and themes of the epic to construct their original tales of heroes (and heroines) who experience "odysseys" of their own. Texts likely to include Sophocles's *Philoctetes*, Chariton's *Chaereas and Callirhoe*, Lucian's *True Histories*, Petronius's *Satyricon* and Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Considers the importance of storytelling in the construction of human identity and the meaning of a human life. Readings in English.

Prerequisites: CLAS 1000 - 1999 or CLAS 2000 - 2969 or ARCH 1000 - 1999 or ARCH 2000 - 2969 or GRK 1000 - 1999 or GRK 2000 - 2969 or LATN 1000 - 1999 or LATN 2000 - 2969.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.

**CLAS 3325 (c) Deadly Words: Language and Power in the Religions of Antiquity**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

In the ancient Mediterranean world, speech was fraught with danger and uncertainty. Words had enormous power—not just the power to do things but a tangible power as things. Words attached themselves to people as physical objects. They lived inside them and consumed their attention. They set events in motion: war, conversion, marriage, death, and salvation. This course investigates the precarious and deadly presence of oral language in the religious world of late antiquity (150 CE to 600 CE). Focusing on evidence from Christian, Jewish, and pagan sources—rabbinic literature, piyyutim, curse tablets, amulets, monastic sayings, creeds, etc.—students will come to understand the myriad ways in which words were said to influence and infect religious actors. For late ancient writers, words were not fleeting or ethereal, but rather quite tactile objects that could be felt, held, and experienced. It is the physical encounter with speech that orients this course. (Same as: REL 3325)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2022.

## Greek

**GRK 1101 (c) Elementary Greek I**

Robert Sobak.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 18.

Introduces students to basic elements of ancient Greek grammar and syntax; emphasizes the development of reading proficiency and includes readings, both adapted and in the original, of various Greek authors. Focuses on Attic dialect.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

**GRK 1102 (c) Elementary Greek II**

Robert Sobak.

Every Fall. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 18.

A continuation of Greek 1101; introduces students to more complex grammar and syntax, while emphasizing the development of reading proficiency. Includes readings, both adapted and in the original, of Greek authors such as Plato and Euripides. Focuses on Attic dialect.

Prerequisites: GRK 1101 or Placement in GRK 1102.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

**GRK 2203 (c) Intermediate Greek for Reading**

Maya Chakravorty.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 18.

A review of the essentials of Greek grammar and syntax and an introduction to the reading of Greek prose through the study of one of Plato's dialogues. Equivalent of Greek 1102 or two to three years of high school Greek is required.

Prerequisites: GRK 1102 or Placement in GRK 2203.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

**GRK 2204 (c, IP) Homer**

Every Fall. Enrollment limit: 18.

An introduction to the poetry of Homer. Focuses both on reading and on interpreting Homeric epic. All materials and coursework in Greek.

Prerequisites: GRK 2203 or Placement in GRK 2204.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

**GRK 3302 (c) Lyric Poetry**

Barbara Weiden Boyd.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 18.

Introduces students to three major types of early Greek poetry: Choral Lyric (Pindar and Bacchylides), Monodic Lyric (Sappho, Alcaeus, Simonides, and Anacreon), and Elegy (Archilochus, Tyrtaeus, Solon, Xenophanes, Simonides, and Theognis). Research Seminar.

Prerequisites: GRK 2204 or higher or Placement in GRK 3000 level.

**GRK 3303 (c) The Historians**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Focuses on the histories of Herodotus or Thucydides. Course may be repeated for credit if the contents change. Research seminar.

Prerequisites: GRK 2204 or higher or Placement in GRK 3000 level.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022.

**GRK 3304 (c) Greek Comedy**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Examines the genre of ancient Greek comedy through the close reading of one play in Greek and additional plays in translation. Considers the history, structure, language and performance of Greek comic plays, the role of comedy in Athenian society, and definitions of comedy and the comic. Explores issues such as comic critiques of contemporary social and political problems, the connection between humor and violence, and questions of universality and specificity in comic humor.

Prerequisites: GRK 2204 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2021.

**GRK 3305 (c) Greek Tragedy**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 12.

Introduces the genre of tragedy through the reading of Sophocles' play "Philoctetes." Considers the nature of tragedy, the particular style and interests of Sophocles, the place of the play within Sophocles' works, his relationship to other tragedians, and the role of theater in classical Athens. Several other tragedies read in translation. Final portion devoted to a production of a section of the play in Greek.

Prerequisites: GRK 2204 or higher or Placement in GRK 3000 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.

## Latin

### **LATN 1101 (c) Elementary Latin I**

Michael Nerdahl.

Every Fall. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 18.

A thorough presentation of the elements of Latin grammar. Emphasis is placed on achieving a reading proficiency.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

### **LATN 1102 (c) Elementary Latin II**

Michael Nerdahl.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 18.

A continuation of Latin 1101. During this term, readings are based on unaltered passages of classical Latin.

Prerequisites: LATN 1101 or Placement in LATN 1102.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

### **LATN 2203 (c) Intermediate Latin for Reading**

Barbara Weiden Boyd.

Every Fall. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 18.

A review of the essentials of Latin grammar and syntax and an introduction to the reading of Latin prose and poetry. Materials to be read change from year to year, but always include a major prose work. Equivalent of Latin 1102, or two to three years of high school Latin is required.

Prerequisites: LATN 1102 or Placement in LATN 2203 or 2204 or Placement in LATN 2203.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

### **LATN 2204 (c, IP) Studies in Latin Literature**

Michael Nerdahl.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 18.

An introduction to different genres and themes in Latin literature. The subject matter and authors covered may change from year to year (e.g., selections from Virgil's "Aeneid" and Livy's "History," or from Lucretius, Ovid, and Cicero), but attention is always given to the historical and literary context of the authors read. While the primary focus is on reading Latin texts, some readings from Latin literature in translation are also assigned. Equivalent of Latin 2203 or three to four years of high school Latin is required.

Prerequisites: LATN 2203 or Placement in LATN 2204.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

### **LATN 2206 (c) The Roman Novel**

Jennifer Clarke Kosak.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 18.

All that remains of the Roman novel comes from two texts: Petronius's *Satyricon* and the *Metamorphoses* by Apuleius. Petronius's fragmentary, funny, and often bizarre *Satyricon* (probably late first century CE) follows a same-sex love triangle slumming its way around ancient Italy. Apuleius's *Metamorphoses* or *The Golden Ass* (late second century CE) tells the story of a young man who dabbles in magic and accidentally transforms himself into an ass. The ass's quest for salvation is the frame for several sub-narratives illuminating the larger story's themes. Focuses on selections from one or both novels in Latin and complements these with the remainder in translation. Focus is also on a precise understanding of the Latin text and an appreciation of the author's style, but also examines what the novels reveal about the social, historical, economic, religious, linguistic, and literary contexts in which they were produced.

Prerequisites: LATN 1102 or LATN 2203 or LATN 2204 or Placement in LATN 2206 or Placement in LATN 2205-2969.

### **LATN 2208 (c, IP) Roman Elegy**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 08.

Near the end of the first century B.C., a general-poet named Gallus established the conventions of a new poetic form, Roman elegy, perhaps the most Roman of all poetic genres. It employs Greek meter and draws heavily from Greek models, and yet has no true analogue from the Hellenic world. The elegists—charming, playful, and downright funny—were part of a unique literary circle and offer a rare opportunity to see how poets engaged in literary rivalry and one-upmanship. Readings include works of the Augustan elegists, Tibullus, Propertius, and Ovid. Discusses the origins of elegy as well as its relationship to other genres, especially epic and oratory, conceptions of gender in the Augustan age, and Latin elegy's role in challenging Roman cultural and political expectations, as the dalliances portrayed by the elegists are strikingly at odds with the social agenda of the first Roman emperor, Augustus. Taught concurrently with Latin 3308.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2020.

### **LATN 2209 (c, IP) Julius Caesar**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 08.

Few figures altered the course of the Mediterranean World as much as Julius Caesar: warlord, historian, general, statesman, orator, and innovator, his deeds were as horrific as they were transformative, and symbolize the chaotic era of strife that devastated Rome, but also led to the genocide and provincial conquest of Gaul. By reading selections from his own works as well as works of poetry, epistolography, history, and oratory from the late Republic, as well as modern works that examine or re-imagine his legacy, students will come to grips with the grand game Caesar was playing that resulted not only in the demise of the nearly 500 year old Republic of Rome and the subjugation of millions of Gauls, but his own murder at the hands of his fellow senators. Students will also examine the validity of the use of Caesar as a politically evocative model. This is a bilevel course, with students at the 2209 and 3309 levels meeting together but with a different syllabus for each level.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

**LATN 2210 (c, IP) Catullus**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 18.

The intimacy and immediacy of Catullan lyric and elegiac poetry have often been thought to transcend time and history; in his descriptions of a soul tormented by warring emotions, Catullus speaks to all of us who have felt love, desire, hatred, or despair. Yet Catullus is a Roman poet, indeed, the Roman poet par excellence, under whose guidance the poetic tools once wielded by the Greeks were once and for all transformed by the Roman world of the first century BC. Catullus is a product of his time; in turn, he helps to make his time comprehensible to us. Catullus is studied in all his complexity by engaging the entire literary corpus he has left, and so to understand his crucial role in shaping the Roman poetic genius. Taught concurrently with Latin 3310.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022.

**LATN 2216 (c, IP) Roman Comedy**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 18.

Roman comedies are the earliest works from Roman antiquity that have survived in something close to their original forms. Students read one to two plays in Latin and supplement this reading with discussion of scholarship around these plays. There may be additional readings of primary sources in translation. This course examines issues beyond the history, humor, and language of comic plays, and also investigates the serious issues—such as identity, communication, hierarchy, power and oppression—that inhere in any discussion of comedy. Focuses on readings from either or both Plautus or Terence, the two authors of Roman comedy whose work has survived.

Prerequisites: LATN 1102 or Placement in LATN 2203 or 2204.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023.

**LATN 3302 (c) Ovid's Metamorphoses**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 15.

Publius Ovidius Naso (Ovid, 43 B.C.E.–17 C.E.) is a sophisticated and rewarding writer of Latin poetry, whose work was greatly influential on the writers and artists of succeeding eras. His epic-style *Metamorphoses*, in fifteen books, gathers together several hundred episodes of classical myth, organized through an elaborate play with chronology, geography, history, philosophy, and politics; the resulting narrative is at once clever, romantic, bleak, and witty, and repeatedly draws attention to its own self-conscious poetics while carrying the reader along relentlessly. Focuses on a close reading of three books in Latin, against the background of the entire poem read in English, and considers at length the ideological contexts for and implications of Ovid's work. Assignments include several projects intended to train students to conduct research in Classics; this seminar counts as a research seminar.

Prerequisites: LATN 2204 or higher or Placement in LATN 3300 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

**LATN 3303 (c, IP) Postclassical Latin**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 18.

From archaic Rome to the latest tweet of Pope Francis, the Latin language boasts a history of nearly 3,000 years, and unites communities of speakers and readers from every part of the world. These communities look to the ancient period for inspiration, revering authors like Vergil and Cicero—but they also persevere in the creation of new works. In fact, the output of these “postclassical Latinists” represents nearly all of the texts written in Latin. The works that survive from the classical period comprise less than 1 percent of all extant Latin literature and documents. In this course, we will explore the possibilities that lie within this enormous corpus of understudied Latin texts. We will focus on three main areas: a) Late Antique Latin (roughly 200–600), Medieval Latin (roughly 600–1300), and Renaissance and early modern Latin (roughly 1300–1750). The latter will focus particularly on the Americas, especially Latin America.

Prerequisites: LATN 2204 or Placement in LATN 3300 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

**LATN 3306 (c) The Roman Novel**

Jennifer Clarke Kosak.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 16.

All that remains of the Roman novel comes from two texts. Petronius's fragmentary, funny, and often bizarre “*Satyricon*” (probably late first century CE) follows a same-sex love triangle slumming its way around ancient Italy. Apuleius's “*Metamorphoses*” or “*The Golden Ass*” (late second century CE) tells the story of a young man who dabbles in magic and accidentally transforms himself into an ass. The ass quest for salvation is the frame for several sub-narratives illuminating the larger story's themes. Focuses on selections from one or both novels in Latin and complements these with the remainder in translation. Focus is also on a precise understanding of the Latin text and an appreciation of the author's style, but also examines what the novels reveal about the social, historical, economic, religious, linguistic, and literary contexts in which they were produced. Research seminar.

Prerequisites: LATN 2204 or higher or Placement in LATN 3300 level.

**LATN 3308 (c) Roman Elegy**

Barbara Weiden Boyd.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 12.

Near the end of the first century BC, a general-poet named Gallus established the conventions of a new poetic form, Roman Elegy. This genre, in which the devoted lover laments his treatment at the hand of his fickle domina, is perhaps the most Roman of all poetic genres. It employs Greek meter and draws heavily from Greek models, and yet has no true analogue from the Hellenic world. The elegists charming, playful, and downright funny were part of a unique literary circle, and offer a rare opportunity to see how poets engaged in literary rivalry and one-upmanship. Works of the Augustan elegists Tibullus, Propertius, and Ovid are read, and the origins of elegy are discussed as well as its relationship to other genres, especially epic and oratory. Reading this comical and self-aware branch of poetry reveals insightful perspectives on conceptions of gender in the Augustan age. Also questions Latin elegy's role in challenging Roman cultural and political expectations, as the dalliances portrayed by the elegists are strikingly at odds with the social agenda of the first Roman emperor, Augustus. Research seminar.

Prerequisites: LATN 2204 or higher or Placement in LATN 3300 level.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2020.

**LATN 3309 (c, IP) Julius Caesar**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 08.

Few figures altered the course of the Mediterranean World as much as Julius Caesar: warlord, historian, general, statesman, orator, and innovator, his deeds were as horrific as they were transformative, and symbolize the chaotic era of strife that devastated Rome, but also led to the genocide and provincial conquest of Gaul. By reading selections from his own works as well as works of poetry, epistolography, history, and oratory from the late Republic, as well as modern works that examine or re-imagine his legacy, students will come to grips with the grand game Caesar was playing that resulted not only in the demise of the nearly 500 year old Republic of Rome and the subjugation of millions of Gauls, but his own murder at the hands of his fellow senators. Students will also examine the validity of the use of Caesar as a politically evocative model. This is a bilevel course, with students at the 2209 and 3309 levels meeting together but with a different syllabus for each level.

Prerequisites: LATN 2204 or higher or Placement in LATN 3300 level.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

**LATN 3310 (c, IP) Catullus**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

The intimacy and immediacy of Catullan lyric and elegiac poetry have often been thought to transcend time and history; in his descriptions of a soul tormented by warring emotions, Catullus appears to speak to and for all who have felt love, desire, hatred, or despair. But Catullus is a Roman poet – indeed, the Roman poet par excellence, under whose guidance the poetic tools once wielded by the Greeks were once and for all appropriated in and adapted to the literary and social ferment of first century BCE Rome. Close reading of the entire Catullan corpus in Latin complemented by discussion and analysis of contemporary studies of Catullus work, focusing on constructions of gender and sexuality in Roman poetry, the political contexts for Catullus's work, and Catullus in Roman intellectual and cultural history.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022.

**LATN 3316 (c, IP) Roman Comedy**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

An introduction to the earliest complete texts that survive from Latin antiquity, the plays of Plautus and Terence. One or two plays are read in Latin and supplemented by the reading of other plays in English, including ancient Greek models and English comedies inspired by the Latin originals. Explores not only the history, structure, and language of comic plays, but also issues such as the connection between humor and violence, the social context for the plays, and the serious issues— such as human identity, forms of communication, and social hierarchies—that appear amidst the comic world on stage.

Prerequisites: LATN 2204 or higher or Placement in LATN 3300 level.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023.

**LATN 3318 (c) Literature and Culture under Nero**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 12.

During Nero's time as princeps (54-68 CE), despite the unstable and often cruel nature of the ruler himself, Rome experienced a period of literary, artistic, and cultural development unseen since Augustus. Works in Stoic philosophy, Roman tragedy, epic poetry, and a new genre, the satiric novel, thrived under Nero's rule. By reading selections of the works of Seneca, Lucan, and Petronius, and analyzing historical works about Nero, we can see how thinkers and artists function in a world dictated by an eccentric and misguided—but artistically inclined—autocrat. Examines the relationships of the works to the principate and to Roman culture, how the authors were affected by the powers that be, and what their works say about the ever-evolving society of Rome. Research seminar.

Prerequisites: LATN 2204 or higher or Placement in LATN 3300 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2021.

**LATN 3319 (c) Many Persephones: Transformations of Myth from the Augustans to Late Antiquity**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Persephone and her mother, Demeter, represent enduring figures in the mythological imaginary of the ancient Mediterranean. The story of Persephone's abduction and ultimate reunification with her mother became a popular subject for Roman poets as they rivaled their Greek predecessors in creating hexameter epics. The Persephone myth was commemorated in two separate works by the Augustan poet Ovid. Centuries later, in order to assert his own claim to Latin poetic excellence, the Egypto-Greek immigrant Claudius Claudianus crafted his own retelling of the myth. In this course students read both Ovid and Claudian as they study not only the myth itself, but also how diverse Roman audiences related to it in their changing cultural contexts. Students analyze the poem as a case study in literary reception, paying close attention to the ways that these poets seek to differentiate themselves, often quite self-consciously, from their predecessors.

Prerequisites: LATN 2204 or higher or Placement in LATN 3300 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.