

CLASSICS & ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES (CLAS)

Faculty

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The curriculum of the Department of Classics & Ancient Mediterranean Studies provides students multidisciplinary opportunities to study the Mediterranean world of the ancient Greeks and Romans, and to a more limited extent, the ancient societies of the Near East and Egypt. Some courses also stress the classical tradition and the inheritance of Greco-Roman ideas and art forms. The department offers varied kinds of courses through which students may approach the study of the ancient world, including courses in Greek and Latin.

The classics & ancient Mediterranean studies curriculum rests on an expansive interdisciplinary approach to classical studies and therefore prepares students well for a wide range of careers. Broad liberal arts education and training in critical thinking, language analysis, oral presentation and writing gives our students the tools necessary to succeed in such varied careers as law, teaching, journalism and management, and to adapt well to the rapid pace of change that is characteristic of contemporary life.

To facilitate students' exploration of the diversity and complexity of the ancient world and the contemporary disciplines that study it, the department groups its courses into five categories:

1. Ancient History & Society
2. Archaeology & Material Culture
3. Myth & Text
4. Greek
5. Latin

Ancient History & Society

Courses in this category focus on the study of the cultures and societies of ancient Greece, Rome and the Near East, including religion, politics, law, sexuality, economics, education, patterns of thought and behavior, as well as the approaches and methodologies of ancient historians.

CLAS 131	Greek Civilization	1
CLAS 132	Roman Civilization	1
CLAS 217	Greek History	1
CLAS 218	Roman History	1
CLAS 220	Preindustrial Environment	1
CLAS 229	Ancient Biography	1
CLAS 233	The Age of Alexander the Great	1
CLAS 236	The Age of Augustus	1
CLAS 252	New Testament and Christian Origins	1
CLAS 332	Classical Athens	1
CLAS 333	After Alexander: Hellenistic Cultural Landscape	1
CLAS 334	Women in Antiquity	1
CLAS 337	Use and Abuse of the Past: Adaptation and Revision	1

Archaeology & Material Culture

Courses in this category focus on the study of physical evidence, including the processes by which material objects from the ancient world are uncovered and analyzed; evolution of urban forms; expressions of architecture and art; theories and practices of ancient technology; and the relationships that ancient cultures had with their environments and ecosystems.

CLAS 141	Ancient Cities	1
CLAS 241	Archaeology of Egypt	1
CLAS 242	Archaeology of Greece	1
CLAS 243	Archaeology of Rome	1
CLAS 247	Ancient Technology	1

CLAS 253	Ancient Ships and Seafaring	1
CLAS 262	Life in Ancient Pompeii	1

Myth, Text & the History of Language

Courses in this category focus on the study of the traditions of ancient mythology, the major Greek and Roman literary works and authors in translation, and the ways in which images and ideas from ancient myths and texts took shape in later literary traditions. Students interested in these topics also may want to consider the language and literature courses in Greek and Latin (see below).

CLAS 120	The Secret History of Words: The Greek and Latin Origins of English and Bio-Scientific Vocabulary	1
CLAS 215	Classical Myth	1
CLAS 221	Heroic Epic	1
CLAS 222	Greek Tragedy	1
CLAS 225	The Classical Tradition	1
CLAS 331	War and the Iliad	1
CLAS 336	The Ancient Novel	1

Classical Languages: Greek

Our courses in classical languages are grouped into Greek and Latin and involve the study of the language and reading of primary authors. Although Latin and ancient Greek are no longer spoken, we encourage students to study these languages knowing that working with them encourages logical thought; a sophisticated grasp of the possibilities of language, including English; skills in close reading and literary analysis; a deeper and more complete understanding of these ancient cultures; and opportunities to study firsthand many foundational works of human production.

Beginning, intermediate and advanced sequences GREK 101, GREK 102, GREK 200, GREK 300 and GREK 301 are offered each year. Students with previous Greek experience should consult a member of the department when choosing where to start in the sequence. The sequence begins with GREK 101 in the fall semester.

GREK 101	Introductory Ancient Greek	1
GREK 102	Introductory Ancient Greek	1
GREK 200	Intermediate Greek	1
GREK 300	Studies in Greek Literary Prose	1
GREK 301	Studies in Greek Literary Poetry	1

Classical Languages: Latin

Our courses in classical languages are grouped into Greek and Latin and involve the study of the language and reading of primary authors. Although Latin and ancient Greek are no longer spoken, we encourage students to study these languages knowing such study encourages logical thought; a sophisticated grasp of the possibilities of language, including English; skills in close reading and literary analysis; a deeper and more complete understanding of these ancient cultures; and opportunities to study firsthand many foundational works of human production.

Beginning, intermediate and advanced sequences LATN 101, LATN 102, LATN 200, LATN 300 and LATN 301 are offered each year. Students with two or fewer years of secondary school Latin should enroll in LATN 101 or LATN 102; consultation with a member of the department is advised.

LATN 101	Introductory Latin	1
LATN 102	Introductory Latin	1
LATN 200	Intermediate Latin ¹	1
LATN 300	Studies in Latin Literary Prose	1
LATN 301	Studies in Latin Literary Poetry	1

¹ Intended for students with at least two semesters of college Latin or three or more years of secondary school Latin.

Major in Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies

The department recommends that a student choosing a major or minor in classics develop a focus in one of the categories within the department, as described in the Overview. Students who are interested in pursuing graduate studies in classics are strongly recommended to include several years of concentrated language study of both Greek and Latin in their curriculum.

A **major** in classics and ancient Mediterranean studies consists of a minimum of eight courses, with the following requirements:

At least two courses in Greek or Latin

At least two courses in classics and ancient Mediterranean studies ¹

Culminating Experience

Select one of the following: (during or after the second semester of junior year)

One 300-level classics and ancient Mediterranean studies seminar

A credit-bearing classics experience outside Bucknell ²

Writing an honors thesis (a one-year sequence reserved for GPA of 3.5 or higher)

¹ Additional courses that relate to classics offered by other departments (e.g., ARTH 101 World Art I: Caves to Cathedrals) may be applied to the major in classics with the adviser's approval. No more than two such courses at the 100 level may count toward the major.

² Such as: archaeological field experience in Greece, Italy, or other ancient sites in the Mediterranean area. This option must be cleared by both the student's academic adviser and the chair of the classics and ancient Mediterranean studies department in order to count for the Culminating Experience.

In these and other experiences within the classics and ancient Mediterranean studies major, professors will also emphasize the following main areas of competence: written and oral communication skills and information literacy.

Students are encouraged to choose an honors program in classics, Greek or Latin. Candidates for honors must take CLAS 321 Honors Tutorial and Thesis-CLAS 322 and pass with distinction the oral examination on the thesis.

The department strongly encourages its majors to study abroad in a Mediterranean setting, in Italy or Greece especially. Several options for a semester, a year, or a summer, are available, including a classics-based Bucknell study abroad semester in Athens, Greece, offered every spring.

Minors in Classics & Ancient Mediterranean Studies

Three **minors** are offered by the department of classics & ancient Mediterranean studies.

Greek Minor

The Greek minor consists of four full-credit courses in Greek at any level taken at Bucknell.

Latin Minor

The Latin minor consists of four full-credit courses in Latin at any level taken at Bucknell.

Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies Minor

The minor in classics and ancient Mediterranean studies consists of five courses in classics (CLAS), including no more than two courses in Greek and/or Latin. The minor in classics may include up to two courses offered by other departments or programs, chosen from a list that is periodically updated. This list includes:

ARTH 101	World Art I: Caves to Cathedrals	1
PHIL 205	Greek Philosophy	1
RESC 098	Foundation Seminar in Residential Colleges (Myth, Reason, & Faith)	1

Learning Goal: Competence/proficiency in language.

- Students in introductory Greek and Latin language courses will demonstrate competence in language by being able to a) analyze grammatical structure and b) read (translate) and understand appropriate Latin and Greek passages.
- Majors in advanced language courses will demonstrate proficiency by being able to a) do all of the above including being able to generate a translation of a selection of a work read that accurately reflects the structure of the original language while at the same time demonstrating the ambiguity the language possesses and b) be able to recognize and to comment meaningfully on aspects of style, word choice, overall structure, basic textual problems, context and current scholarly approaches to the work

Learning Goal: Knowledge of historical/cultural contexts in the ancient world.

- Classics majors will be able to comment meaningfully on major ancient historical events and cultural developments, setting them within the context of Greek and Roman history.
- Classics majors demonstrate an ability to recognize the ways in which the interpretation of texts and artifacts is influenced by literary, philosophical, social, and cultural developments.

Learning Goal: Research and presentation methods and skills.

- Students graduating with a major in classics will demonstrate facility with discipline-specific research and presentation methods.

Classics Courses

CLAS 120. The Secret History of Words: The Greek and Latin Origins of English and Bio-Scientific Vocabulary. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

This course explores the Greek and Latin origins of many English words and the specialized vocabulary in fields such as the biosciences and law. We will primarily analyze words in order to improve your comprehension of English, but will simultaneously learn about the languages and cultures of the ancient Mediterranean.

CLAS 131. Greek Civilization. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

Introduction to the study of ancient Greek civilization through its art, literature, history, religion, etc. Emphasis on the classical period.

CLAS 132. Roman Civilization. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

Introduction to Roman Civilization from Romulus to Constantine. Emphasis on social and cultural history, including literature, art, architecture, religion, and historiography in their cultural context.

CLAS 141. Ancient Cities. 1 Credit.

Offered Alternating Fall Semester; Lecture hours:3

Introduction to Near Eastern and Greco-Roman civilization through study of major urban centers. Seniors by permission of the instructor.

CLAS 150. Modern Greek Language. 1 Credit.

Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3

Introduction to the basics of the Modern Greek language and culture; taught on site in Athens during the semester study abroad program in Athens.

CLAS 215. Classical Myth. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

Study of the traditional tales of Greece and, to a lesser extent, the Near East and Rome; consideration and application of myth theory. Seniors by permission of the instructor.

CLAS 216. Athenian and Theban Traditions. 1 Credit.

Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3, Other:3

Theban and Athenian myth traditions studied in their historical context and as cultural constructions expressing identity, religion, and regional opposition through literature, vase painting, and architecture.

CLAS 217. Greek History. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

Greek history from the heroic Bronze age down through the Persian invasion, the flourishing of Classical Athens, and the Peloponnesian wars to the death of Socrates, focusing on political, social, and economic developments. Crosslisted as HIST 240.

CLAS 218. Roman History. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

Roman history from Rome's foundations as a backwater village ca. 753 BCE, through its rise as a world-power to its fall in the fourth century CE, focusing on economic and political issues. Crosslisted as HIST 241.

CLAS 220. Preindustrial Environment. 1 Credit.

Offered Alternate Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

An introduction to global environmental history of the preindustrial world through three thematic lenses: how the natural environment shaped patterns of human life, how ideologies toward nature shifted over time, and how human activities and ideologies reshaped the ancient landscape. Crosslisted as ENST 216.

CLAS 221. Heroic Epic. 1 Credit.

Offered Alternate Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

Interpretive study of Homer's Iliad and Odyssey and other epics chosen by the instructor (e.g., the Argonautica and Aeneid). Study may include epic works of later traditions.

CLAS 222. Greek Tragedy. 1 Credit.

Offered Alternate Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

Interpretive study of the works of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides.

CLAS 225. The Classical Tradition. 1 Credit.

Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3

This course will investigate (ab)uses of ancient Greco-Roman material in various modern cultures, such as 19th-20th century Germany and modern China. We will consider the power of Greco-Roman Classics in global and Asian contexts and how to prevent abuses of that power.

CLAS 226. Ancient Conflict and Competition. 1 Credit.

Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3

The ancients had numerous settings for conflict and competition: battlefields, stadia, and artistic patronage. This course explores the origin, content, and meaning of agonistic display.

CLAS 229. Ancient Biography. 1 Credit.**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

This course explores the emergence and development of ancient biographical writing.

CLAS 230. Herodotus and His World. 1 Credit.**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3,Other:3**

Study of the historian's work alongside major cultural moments of the 5th century BCE, including the Persian and Peloponnesian wars, the Sophistic movement, the Athenian Empire, and the Aegean Sea as a cultural conduit.

CLAS 231. Religion of the Ancient Mediterranean. 1 Credit.**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

Study of the various religions of the ancient Mediterranean, especially Greek and Roman pagan practices as well as Near Eastern influences and early Christianity.

CLAS 233. The Age of Alexander the Great. 1 Credit.**Offered Alternating Fall Semester; Lecture hours:3**

Study of the transformation of classical Greek culture into a civilization dominating the Mediterranean world and its Eastern neighbors. Topics may include art, urban culture, politics, intellectual expressions, and religious innovation.

CLAS 235. Dying for God: Martyrdom from Antigone to ISIS. 1 Credit.**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

Early Christians were attracted to dramatic narratives of suffering—whether about spectacular deaths in the arena or extreme self-denial in the desert. This course explores the world of martyrs and monks and considers how ancient ideals about pain, gender, and sexuality continue to influence Christian thinking about holiness and sainthood. Crosslisted as RELI 253 and WMST 245.

CLAS 236. The Age of Augustus. 1 Credit.**Offered Alternating Fall Semester; Lecture hours:3**

Study of late republican - early empire Rome, emphasizing the transition from the republic to empire, the role played by Augustus in this transition, the tension between East and West, and the crisis of morals.

CLAS 240. Roman and Byzantine Greece. 1 Credit.**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:4**

History and archaeology of Roman and Byzantine Greece; focus on culture through art, architecture, religion, politics, and regional studies. Taught on site and in Athens during the semester study abroad program in Athens.

CLAS 241. Archaeology of Egypt. 1 Credit.**Offered Alternate Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

Survey of the material culture, with emphasis on major architectural and artistic developments and their legacy to modern Western civilization. Crosslisted as ARTH 241.

CLAS 242. Archaeology of Greece. 1 Credit.**Offered Alternating Fall Semester; Lecture hours:3**

Survey of the material culture of the Greek world from the Bronze Age through the Hellenistic period. Crosslisted as ARTH 242.

CLAS 243. Archaeology of Rome. 1 Credit.**Offered Alternate Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

Survey of the material culture of the Roman world from the Etruscans through the late Empire. Crosslisted as ARTH 243.

CLAS 244. Magic and Mystery of the Ancient Mediterranean World. 1 Credit.**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

This course examines the literary and material culture of ancient Greece and Rome to understand their mystical and magical practices, from civic rituals to personal spells and curse tablets. Through study of these practices we will gain a unique perspective on ancient social culture.

CLAS 247. Ancient Technology. 1 Credit.**Offered Alternate Fall and Spring; Lecture hours:3**

A detailed survey of the state of ancient technology by the time of the early Roman empire in its economic and social context. Topics include sources of power, mining and metallurgy, quarrying, land and sea transport, and the urban infrastructure.

CLAS 250. Topic in Classics. 1 Credit.**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3; Repeatable**

Study of a topic relating to the classical world and its tradition. Examples, slavery, women, religions, a historical period. May be repeated for credit when topic varies.

CLAS 252. New Testament and Christian Origins. 1 Credit.**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

An exploration of the earliest Christians through the writings that later became the New Testament. We will examine these sources in the context of their specific social and historical concerns and consider the complex process in which some writings were included in Christian scripture while others were rejected. Crosslisted as RELI 252.

CLAS 253. Ancient Ships and Seafaring. 1 Credit.**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

This course will introduce you to the ships, sailors, and navies of the ancient Mediterranean and of Greece and Rome in particular. We will analyze the evidence in ancient texts, shipwreck archaeology, and artistic representations.

CLAS 255. Archaeology of Food. 1 Credit.**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

This course examines a range of archaeological methods and materials used to study diet, the economics of food, the politics of food distribution and consumption, feasting and religion, and the social significance of food in questions of gender, ethnicity and status in and around the ancient Mediterranean.

CLAS 262. Life in Ancient Pompeii. 1 Credit.**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

This course explores the history, literature and material culture of Pompeii with the goal of better understanding daily life for all levels of society in the early Roman Empire. Crosslisted as ARTH 262.

CLAS 311. Independent Study in Classics. .5-1 Credits.**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:Varies; Repeatable**

Topics in classical civilization, to be chosen by the student. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

CLAS 321. Honors Tutorial and Thesis. .5-1 Credits.**Offered Both Fall and Spring; Lecture hours:Varies**

Independent study and research leading to the writing of a thesis. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

CLAS 322. Honors Tutorial and Thesis. .5-1 Credits.**Offered Both Fall and Spring; Lecture hours:Varies**

Independent study and research leading to the writing of a thesis. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

CLAS 331. War and the Iliad. 1 Credit.**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

This course explores the Iliad and its influence at great depth. Students will read the entire Iliad (in English) as well as related texts from Greece and Rome. Homer's depiction of war and its consequences will be compared to modern and ancient descriptions of warfare. Prerequisite: permission of instructor.

CLAS 332. Classical Athens. 1 Credit.**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

An in-depth integrative study of Athens from the 6th - 4th centuries including its literature, arts, architecture, religion, philosophy, politics. Some background required.

CLAS 333. After Alexander: Hellenistic Cultural Landscape. 1 Credit.**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

An interdisciplinary examination of the Hellenistic cultural landscape as a cultural, historic, ecological, and symbolic system. Includes discussion of the eastern Mediterranean and central Asia as a focus of confrontation between east and west over time. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

CLAS 334. Women in Antiquity. 1 Credit.**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

Seminar-style examination of the lives of women in antiquity both real and imagined, as attested in a variety of ancient media. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor. Crosslisted as WMST 334.

CLAS 336. The Ancient Novel. 1 Credit.**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

Study of Graeco-Roman prose fiction, such as Apuleius' "Golden Ass", and Longus' "Daphnis and Chloe", together with current scholarly literature. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

CLAS 337. Use and Abuse of the Past: Adaptation and Revision. 1 Credit.**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

This course examines the positive and negative ways that Greco-Roman history and culture are continually evoked in modern discourses by those who attempt to shape society, our concepts of culture, and our relationships with one another. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

CLAS 350. Seminar on a Classical Topic. 1 Credit.**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3; Repeatable**

Study of a topic of importance in classics. Examples: a current problem, an important figure, a historical period. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

Greek Courses

GREK 101. Introductory Ancient Greek. 1 Credit.**Offered Fall Semester Only; Lecture hours:3**

An introduction to the classical and koine forms of the language. Emphasis upon forms and grammar, and rapid development of facility in reading.

GREK 102. Introductory Ancient Greek. 1 Credit.**Offered Spring Semester Only; Lecture hours:3**

An introduction to the classical and koine forms of the language. Emphasis upon forms and grammar, and rapid development of facility in reading. Selections chosen from a range of Greek periods. Prerequisite: GREK 101 or equivalent.

GREK 200. Intermediate Greek. 1 Credit.**Offered Fall Semester Only; Lecture hours:3**

Study of selected works in Greek, including such authors as Homer, Euripides, Herodotus, Lysias, Plato, Xenophon. Review of forms and grammar. Prerequisite: GREK 102 or equivalent.

GREK 300. Studies in Greek Literary Prose. 1 Credit.**Offered Fall Semester Only; Lecture hours:3; Repeatable**

Study of a topic or author focusing on original Greek texts in prose (e.g., Herodotus, Demosthenes, Thucydides, Plato, New Testament). Highly recommended for students anticipating application to graduate programs in classics or divinity. Prerequisite: GREK 151 or GREK 200 or equivalent.

GREK 301. Studies in Greek Literary Poetry. 1 Credit.**Offered Spring Semester Only; Lecture hours:3; Repeatable**

Study of a topic or author focusing on original Greek texts in poetry (e.g., Homer, Sophocles, Apollonius of Rhodes). Highly recommended for students anticipating application to graduate programs in classics or divinity. Prerequisite: GREK 200 or equivalent or permission of the instructor.

GREK 311. Independent Study in Greek. 1 Credit.**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3; Repeatable**

Independent study of Greek texts with concomitant study of secondary sources. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

Latin Courses

LATN 101. Introductory Latin. 1 Credit.**Offered Fall Semester Only; Lecture hours:4**

Introduction to the language. Emphasis upon forms and grammar, and rapid development of facility in reading.

LATN 102. Introductory Latin. 1 Credit.**Offered Spring Semester Only; Lecture hours:4**

Continuing study of Latin grammar with review of basic material, including the introduction to Latin reading. Prerequisite: LATN 101 or equivalent.

LATN 200. Intermediate Latin. 1 Credit.**Offered Fall Semester Only; Lecture hours:3**

Review of the grammar necessary for the introductory reading of selected Roman authors. Authors may include Plautus, Cicero, Catullus, and Vergil. Prerequisite: LATN 102 or equivalent.

LATN 300. Studies in Latin Literary Prose. 1 Credit.**Offered Fall Semester Only; Lecture hours:3; Repeatable**

Study of a topic or author focusing on original Latin texts in prose (e.g., Caesar, Tacitus, Livy). Highly recommended for students anticipating application to graduate programs in classics or divinity. Prerequisite: LATN 151 or LATN 200 or equivalent.

LATN 301. Studies in Latin Literary Poetry. 1 Credit.**Offered Spring Semester Only; Lecture hours:3; Repeatable**

Study of a topic or author focusing on original Latin texts in poetry (e.g., Virgil, Horace, Ovid, Martial). Highly recommended for students anticipating application to graduate programs in classics or divinity. Prerequisite: LATN 200 or equivalent or permission of the instructor.

LATN 311. Independent Study in Latin. 1 Credit.**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:Varies,Other:3; Repeatable**

Independent study of Roman authors, with concomitant study of secondary sources. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.