

Classics

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Classics is the study of Greek and Roman antiquity through the ancient languages, literatures, histories, arts, cultures, and thought of those periods. This is an area study which seeks to employ a variety of analytic tools in understanding the cultures which lie at the heart of the western tradition. The major program in classics draws on the offerings of the departments of classics, history, philosophy, politics, and rhetoric.

A student who enters Whitman without any prior college-level preparation in classics will have to complete 54 credits to fulfill the requirements for the classics major. Courses taken for the classics major will principally fulfill the distribution area of humanities. Note that some classics courses may also fulfill distribution in social sciences and fine art.

The Classics major: A minimum of thirty-six credits as follows:

- a) Latin 205, 206 (or equivalent) **and** Greek 205, 206 (or equivalent);
- b) four credits of Clas 390, Advanced Seminar in Classical Languages;
- c) four credits from among the following courses: Classics 120 *English Grammar via Latin and Greek*, Classics 130 *Ancient Mythology*, Classics 140 *Women in Antiquity*, Classics 200 *Topics in Classical Studies*, Classics 221 *Ancient and Medieval European Political Theory*, Classics 224 *Greek and Roman Art*;
- d) eight credits from among the following courses: Classics 201 *Ancient Philosophy*, Classics 371 *Rhetoric in Early Western Culture*, Classics 377 *Ancient Theatre*, Classics 390 *Advanced Seminar in Classical Languages*, Greek 391, 392 *Independent Study in Greek*, Latin 391, 392 *Independent Study in Latin*;
- e) four credits from among the following courses: History 326 *The Hellenistic*

World and the Roman Empire, History 327 *The History of Ancient Greece*;

- f) all classics majors must also complete either Classics 497 *Senior Thesis* (2 credits) or Classics 498 *Honors Thesis* (2 credits).

The senior assessment in classics consists of a three-hour written comprehensive examination, a senior thesis and a one-hour oral examination consisting of a defense of the thesis and, when appropriate, further response to questions from the written examination.

The Classics minor: Either Latin 205, 206 (or equivalent) or Greek 205, 206 (or equivalent) plus a minimum of 12 additional credits. Eight of those additional credits may be drawn from a full year of a second ancient language. Thus the student who completes Greek 205, 206 may count Latin 105, 106 toward the minor and the student who completes Latin 205, 206 may count Greek 105, 106. All or part of the twelve additional credits may be drawn from the following courses: Classics 120, 130, 140, 200, 201, 209, 221, 224, 367, 371, 377, 390, Greek 391, 392, Latin 391, 392, History 226, 326, 327.

Note: A course cannot be used to satisfy both major and minor requirements, e.g., History 226 cannot be used to apply toward the 36 credit requirement for the history major and the classics minor requirement.

Note: Courses taken P-D-F prior to the declaration of a language major or minor will satisfy course and credit requirements for the major or minor. Courses taken P-D-F may not be used to satisfy course and credit requirements for the major or minor after the major or minor has been declared.

Classics

120 English Grammar via Latin and Greek

x, 4

Burgess

Students will learn the structures of English grammar. The grammars of Ancient Greek and Latin will be introduced as tools for the understanding of contemporary English grammar. The history of the Indo-European language family will demonstrate the relations between ancient and modern grammars. Techniques of sentence diagramming will show the parts of speech and their syntactic relations. Types of clauses and the relations between clauses will dominate the more advanced sections of the course. *Open*

to all students.

130 Ancient Mythology
4; not offered 2007-08

Through analysis of primary literary sources students will study the structures and functions of myth in ancient cultures, Greek, Roman and Mesopotamian. Modern theories of myth will also be examined critically, especially as they apply to specific categories of ancient myths. *Open* to all students. *Offered* in alternate years.

140 Women in Antiquity

4, x **Vandiver**

The role of women in public and private life in ancient Greece and Rome. Students will examine literary, documentary, archaeological, and visual sources as evidence for the lives of women in these ancient cultures. Students will explore modern theories of gender in conjunction with ancient evidence. This course is interdisciplinary and *open* to all students. *Offered* in alternate years.

200 Special Topics in Classical Studies

4

200 ST: Going to Hell

x, 4 **Burgess and Walters**

Voyages to the land of the dead appear in the literatures of many cultures ancient and modern. This course concentrates upon the literatures of Indian and Greco-Roman cultures but also includes forays into Mesopotamian, European and East Asian civilizations. Much of the literature concerning these journeys is of a religious nature, and this course is grounded in techniques of comparative mythology which will facilitate a consideration of the intersections of religion and literary narrative. Team-taught by a professor of Classics and a professor of Religion this course will explore the ways in which tales of a journey to the land of the dead reveal what a culture values and fears. May be elected as Religion 200.

201 Ancient Philosophy

4, x **T. Davis**

A close reading of selected texts from Plato and Aristotle. May be elected as Philosophy 201.

221 Ancient and Medieval European

Political Theory

4, x **Voorhees**

This course introduces students to the history of European political theory through an investigation of classical Greek and pre-modern Christian writings. Texts to be explored include Aeschylus's *Oresteia*, Thucydides's *Peloponnesian War*, Plato's *Republic*, Aristotle's *Politics*, St. Augustine's *City of God*, and St. Thomas Aquinas's *Summa Theologica*. May be elected as Politics 221.

224 Greek and Roman Art

4; not offered 2007-08

An exploration of the arts of ancient Greece and Rome, from the Bronze Age of Greece to the end of the Roman Empire. Particular emphasis will be placed on sculpture, painting, and architecture. We will also investigate the cultural contexts from which the art forms arise. May be elected as Arth 224. *Open* to all students. *Offered* in alternate years.

371 Rhetoric in Early Western Culture

x, 4 **Withycombe**

Focuses on the principle rhetorical developments that occurred during the great periods of Western thought, beginning with the classical conflict between the Sophists and Platonists in Greece, to the emphasis on the liberally educated person in the Roman Empire, the rhetoric of the church in the Middle Ages, and concluding with the study of logic and argument during the Scottish Enlightenment. May be elected as Rhetoric and Film Studies 371.

377 Ancient Theatre

4; not offered 2007-08

The origin and development of ancient theatre, especially of Greek tragedy, through a close reading of ancient plays in English translation. In addition to ancient plays, we will read modern critical responses to those plays. May be elected as Theatre 377 or World Literature 377. *Open* to all students. *Offered* in alternate years.

390 Advanced Seminar in Classical

Languages

1-4, x **Burgess**

Using primary materials in Greek or Latin or both, according to prior work, each student will pursue advanced reading in a variety of authors and genres and will learn the techniques of Classical scholarship common to work in either ancient language. For a student enrolled for four credits, one of the three meetings per week concentrates on matters of Classical scholarship common to the two languages. Students familiar with only one of the Classical languages will pursue supervised advanced independent work in that language in place of a class meeting which would be inappropriate to their preparation. *Prerequisite*: Either Greek 206 or Latin 206 or the equivalent of either. *May be repeated for credit*.

497 Senior Thesis**2, 2** **Staff**

The student will prepare a thesis using primary materials in either Greek, Latin, or both languages. A senior thesis is required of all classics majors. *Prerequisite:* consent of instructor.

498 Honors Thesis**2, 2** **Staff**

The student will prepare a thesis using primary materials in either Greek, Latin, or both languages. A senior thesis is required of all classics majors. This honors thesis is open only to senior honors candidates in classics. *Prerequisite:* admission to honors candidacy.

Greek**105, 106 Elementary Ancient Greek****4; not offered 2007-08**

An introduction to the language of classical Athens, Attic Greek. The class is devoted to giving the students the ability to read ancient texts as soon as possible. Along with a systematic presentation of Ancient Greek grammar, this course offers opportunities to read selections from Greek literature in their original language. *Offered* in alternate years.

205, 206 Intermediate Ancient Greek**4, 4** **Fall: Vandiver; Spring: Burgess**

Substantial readings from ancient authors in conjunction with a thorough review of all aspects of ancient Greek grammar. Readings will focus on two authors each semester, with a balance between prose and verse. *Prerequisite:* Greek 106 or consent of instructor. *Offered* in alternate years.

391, 392 Independent Study**1-4, 1-4** **Staff**

An introduction to the tools of Classical scholarship through a reading of an ancient Greek text chosen by the student and instructor in consultation. *Prerequisite:* Greek 206 or consent of instructor.

Latin**105, 106 Elementary Latin****4, 4** **Fall: Burgess; Spring: Vandiver**

An introduction to the language of ancient Rome. The class is devoted to giving the students the ability to read ancient texts as soon as possible. Along with a systematic presentation of Latin grammar, this course offers opportunities to read selections from Roman literature in their original language. *Offered* in alternate years.

205, 206 Intermediate Latin**4, 4** **Fall: Burgess; Spring: Vandiver**

Substantial readings from ancient authors in conjunction with a thorough review of all aspects of

Latin grammar. Readings will focus on two authors each semester, with a balance between prose and verse. *Prerequisite:* Latin 106 or consent of instructor. *Offered* in alternate years.

391, 392 Independent Study**1-4, 1-4** **Staff**

An introduction to the tools of Classical scholarship through a reading of a Latin text chosen by the student and instructor in consultation. *Prerequisite:* Latin 206 or consent of instructor.

History**226 The Ancient Near East: Age of Empires****4, x** **Jones**

This course examines the system of kingdoms and empires that evolved in the late Bronze Age world of the Near East and Eastern Mediterranean. Giving particular attention to the dynamics of trade, diplomacy, conflict and cultural interaction between New Kingdom Egypt, the Hittite Empire, Mesopotamia, and the Aegean, the class will seek to determine what led to the dramatic collapse of this world, then assess the reconfiguration of the Ancient Near East and the new empires that emerged in light of this catastrophic episode. Throughout the course, students will be introduced to the archaeological discoveries so critical to our reconstruction of societies and events.

326 The Roman Empire**4, x** **Jones**

By the middle of the first century A.D., Rome's empire reached from Britain to Egypt. Roman legions guarded the frontiers and Roman roads brought everything, from wild animals to exotic gods, into the largest city the ancient world had ever seen. Even to those who witnessed it, Rome was a marvel, both in terms of its success and its longevity. This course will explore the transformation of this small town on the Tiber, its evolution from city-state and republic to capital of an empire ruled by Caesars. We'll give particular attention to Roman methods for uniting under its rule the disparate cultures of the Mediterranean, and assess the impact these subjugated cultures had on the development of Roman society and the empire at large.

327 History of Ancient Greece**x, 4** **Jones**

This course will focus on some of the problems and questions which emerge from a close study of Greek history. How does the Mycenaean period fit into the rest of the Greek experience? Was there a Trojan War? What were the causes and consequences of the intellectual, social and political revolutions which characterize the Archaic period? How much were the Greeks influenced by the more ancient civilizations of the Near East? In what ways are Athens and Sparta similar? In what ways different? What were the causes and consequences of Athenian imperialism? Why do

the Greeks seem to “run out of energy” at the end of the fifth century? How have subsequent cultures been influenced by the Greeks? *Offered* in alternate years.