

Classics

Dana Burgess, *Chair* Elizabeth Vandiver
Melinda Burgess

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 programs in classics and in classical studies draw on the offerings of the departments of classics, history, philosophy, politics, and rhetoric. The major in classics places the greatest emphasis upon mastery of the ancient languages. The major in classical studies emphasizes a broad familiarity with Greek and Roman cultures.

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. That same student will have to complete 44 credits to fulfill the requirements for the classical studies major. Courses taken in the department of classics 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 36 credits as follows:

- a) Latin 205, 206 (or equivalent) **and** Greek 205, 206 (or equivalent);
- b) four credits of Classics 390, *Advanced Seminar in Classical Languages*;
- c) twelve credits to be drawn from course work in Classics or from Greek 391, 392, *Independent Study in Greek or Latin* 391, 392, *Independent Study in Latin*. No more than four of these credits may be drawn from Greek 391, 392, Latin 391, 392;
- d) four credits of coursework in Greek and/or Roman History from courses approved by the department of Classics;
- e) 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 Classical Studies major: A minimum of 36 credits as follows:

- a) Latin 205, 206 (or equivalent) **or** Greek 205, 206 (or equivalent);
- b) four credits of Classics 390, *Advanced Seminar in Classical Languages*;
- c) sixteen credits to be drawn from course work in Classics or from Greek 391, 392, *Independent Study in Greek or Latin* 391, 392, *Independent Study in Latin*. No more than four of these credits may be drawn from Greek 391, 392, Latin 391, 392;
- d) eight credits of coursework in Greek and/or Roman History from courses approved by the department of Classics.

The senior assessment in Classical Studies consists of a three-hour written comprehensive examination and a one-hour oral examination, both of which address materials encountered in coursework and materials from a departmental reading list for the comprehensive examination.

Note: Students who major in Classical Studies may not receive credit for the completion of a Classics minor.

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 12 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 4; not offered 2008-09

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, x

Vandiver

Through analysis of primary literary sources students will study the structures and functions of myth in ancient Greek and Roman cultures. Some comparative material from Mesopotamia will be considered. We also will examine modern theories of myth, especially as they apply to specific categories of ancient myths. Open to all students. Offered in alternate years.

140 Women in Antiquity 4; not offered 2008-09

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: Concepts of Nature in Greek and Roman Thought

4, x

D. Burgess

The Greek term “physis” and the Latin word “natura” refer to coming into being and birth. In both cultures Nature is what has come to be, as well as the process of coming into being. This course will consider a broad range of ancient (and some early modern) texts which develop important concepts of Nature. On the one hand, we will read philosophic

texts, pre-Socratics, Stoics and Lucretius, which treat the above categories with great rigor. On the other, we will read highly literary and artificial poetic authors, Theocritus, Virgil and Horace, who give rise to later European pastoral poetry. In addition, we will encounter other texts in various genres which contribute some of the ideas which inform the complex and changing concepts of Nature. This course may be used by environmental studies-humanities students toward their critical thinking requirements in the major. All other environmental studies students may use this course to fulfill humanities requirements for their combined majors.

201 Ancient Philosophy 4, 4

Fall: T. Davis, Spring: Carey

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

King

This course introduces students to the history of European political theory through an investigation of classical Greek and premodern 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, x

Vandiver

An exploration of the arts of ancient Greece and Rome, including sculpture, painting, and architecture. Each iteration of the course will focus primarily on one particular theme or type of art (for instance, public monuments; portraiture; narrative art). This course pays special attention to the cultural contexts from which the art arises. May be elected as Art History 224. Open to all students. Offered in alternate years.

227 Greek and Roman Epic 4; not offered 2008-09

Epic was one of the most important poetic genres of the ancient Greco-Roman world. This course introduces students to the origin and development of ancient epic through a close reading in English translation of works by Homer, Virgil, and other ancient epic poets.

We also will consider modern critical responses to ancient epic and modern theories about epic's origins.

239 Greek and Roman Intellectual History
x, 4 **D. Burgess**

Literature, Philosophy, Art, Politics, History, and Rhetoric were richly intertwined systems of thought in the ancient world. This course will consider materials which illuminate the ways in which ancient peoples thought. Greek culture was not Roman culture, so this course will give careful attention to the inter-cultural relations between Greece and Rome and to the ways in which ideas were exchanged and transmuted between the two cultures.

371 Rhetoric in Early Western Culture
4; not offered 2008-09

Focuses on the principal 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
x, 4 **D. Burgess**

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 **Vandiver**

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, 4 **D. Burgess**

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; not offered 2008-09

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; not offered 2008-09

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 **M. Burgess**

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; not offered 2008-09

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

x, 4

Staff

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

4, x

Staff

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.