

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. Many peoples around and beyond the Mediterranean basin contributed to these cultures, and the lasting impact of Ancient Greek and Roman cultures has similarly been felt by other cultures around the world. The major programs in classics and 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 52 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 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.

Distribution: Courses completed in classics apply to the humanities and cultural pluralism (selected courses) distribution areas.

Learning Goals of Classics major: Upon graduation, a student will be able to:

- **Major-Specific Areas of Knowledge**
 - Graduating Classics majors will be able to use original language materials in both Latin and Greek in their development of arguments and analyses.
 - Though a student may have greater familiarity with either the Greek or the Roman culture, all graduating Classics majors will be able to use materials from the other of the two cultures in developing an argument about the classical world.
- **Communication**
 - Graduating Classics majors will be able to develop a sustained written argument.
 - Graduating Classics majors will be able to compose mechanically acceptable English prose and to use a formal academic writing style.
- **Critical Thinking**
 - Graduating Classics majors will be able to draw upon a breadth of knowledge of the classical world in formulating responses to individual texts.

The Classics major: A minimum of 36 credits including:

- I. Greek 205 (or equivalent) **and** Latin 205 (or equivalent);
- II. eight credits of the following: Latin 355; Greek 365; Latin 375; Greek 375 and/or Classics 410. A minimum of two of these credits must be taken in each language.
- III. Classics 490;
- IV. Classics 139;
- V. eight credits to be drawn from other coursework in Classics;
- VI. four credits of coursework in Greek and/or Roman history from either History 160, 225, 226, 227, 330, 331 or other courses approved by the department of Classics;
- VII. all classics majors must also complete either Classics 497 or Classics 498.

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.

Learning Goals of Classical Studies major: Upon graduation, a student will be able to:

- **Major-Specific Areas of Knowledge**

- Graduating Classical Studies majors will be able to use original language materials from one of the ancient languages in their development of arguments and analyses.
- Graduating Classical Studies majors will be able to place their arguments and analyses of specific questions into the broad historical context of both ancient cultures.
- **Communication**
 - Graduating Classics Studies majors will be able to compose mechanically acceptable English prose and to use a formal academic writing style.
- **Critical Thinking**
 - Graduating Classical Studies majors will be able to draw upon a breadth of knowledge of the classical world in formulating responses to individual texts.
 - Graduating Classical Studies majors will be able to address the relations between Greek culture and Roman culture.

The Classical Studies Latin major: A minimum of 36 credits including:

- I. Latin 205 (or equivalent);
- II. At least 6 credits from Latin 355 and/or Latin 375 and/or Classics 410;
- III. Classics 490;
- IV. Classics 139;
- V. twelve credits to be drawn from any course in Classics; four of these credits may be drawn from any course in Greek.
- VI. eight credits of coursework in Greek and/or Roman history from either History 160, 215, 225, 226, 227, 330, 331 or other courses approved by the department of Classics.

The Classical Studies Greek major: A minimum of 36 credits as follows:

- I. Greek 205 (or equivalent);
- II. At least 6 credits from Greek 365 and/or Greek 375 and/or Classics 410;
- III. Classics 490;
- IV. Classics 139;
- V. twelve credits to be drawn from any course in Classics; four of these credits may be drawn from any course in Latin.
- VI. eight credits of coursework in Greek and/or Roman history from either History 160, 215, 225, 226, 227, 330, 331 or other 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.

The Classical Studies minor: A minimum of 20 credits, including Classics 139; plus 16 additional credits, which may be drawn from any course in Latin or Greek or from any of the following courses: Art History and Visual Culture Studies 224, 226; Classics 130, 140, 200, 201, 217, 221, 224, 226, 309, 311, 312, 319, 377, 410; Environmental Studies 217, 226, 309, 319, 368; History 160, 215, 225, 226, 227, 330, 331.

Note: Students who major in classical studies may not receive credit for the completion of a classics minor.

130 Ancient Mythology

Fall

Burgess

4 credits

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.

139 Greek and Roman Intellectual History

Spring

Burgess

4 credits

Literature, philosophy, art, politics, history, and rhetoric were richly intertwined systems of thought in the ancient world. This course will consider materials that illuminate the ways in which ancient peoples thought. Greek culture was not Roman culture, so this course will give careful attention to the intercultural relations between Greece and Rome, and to the

309 Women and Nature in the Ancient World**Spring****Shea****4 credits**

As mothers, witches, nymphs, and virgin-huntresses of the wild, women in the ancient world were depicted in roles that denoted a special relationship with nature. Likewise, the natural world was articulated through gendered imagery. In this course we will explore the association of gender and nature in the ancient Greco-Roman world. We will give particular focus to the status of women as intermediaries to nature. We will examine a range of representations of the feminine in literature and art, as well as in ritual and social practice, studying the female role in negotiating society's interactions with nature. Works that we will read and discuss may include the *Homeric Hymns*, plays by Aeschylus and Euripides, and the novel, *The Golden Ass*, by Apuleius. May be elected as Environmental Studies 309. May be taken for credit toward the Gender Studies major.

311 Variable Topics in Plato**4 credits**

Students will engage in an in-depth examination of one or more of Plato's dialogues. This examination may center on a particular dialogue, a particular question or set of questions, or a particular theme as it develops throughout the Platonic corpus. Students are encouraged to contact the professor for more information about the particular topic of the current iteration of the course. May be elected as Philosophy 311. Any current offerings follow.

311 VT: Plato's Republic**Spring****Jenkins****4 credits**

The *Republic* is one of Plato's most famous and influential dialogues. Standing near the heart of the Platonic corpus, the *Republic* is wide-ranging, addressing questions of ethics, moral psychology, education, political philosophy, literary theory, metaphysics, and epistemology. In this seminar, we will engage in a sustained and careful reading of the *Republic* and associated scholarship about the *Republic* with the aim of understanding Plato's arguments and the vision of the just and happy life that he presents within the text. Fulfills the Ethics requirement for the major. May be elected as Philosophy 311. Distribution area: humanities.

312 Variable Topics in Aristotle**4 credits**

Students will engage in an in-depth examination of one or more of Aristotle's texts. This examination may center on a particular dialogue, a particular question or set of questions, or a particular theme as it develops throughout the Aristotelian corpus. Students are encouraged to contact the professor for more information about the particular topic of the current iteration of the course. May be elected as Philosophy 312. Any current offerings follow.

319 Landscape and Cityscape in Ancient Rome**Summer 2018****Shea****4 credits**

Despite Rome being one of the greatest cities in the ancient world, its identity was fundamentally rooted in its natural landscape. In this intensive 4-week course in Italy, we will study the ancient city of Rome and its supporting landscape, both through the lens of ancient literary accounts and directly through field trips to major archeological sites and museums. We will explore how the realms of urban, rural, and wild were articulated in Roman culture, conceptually and materially. We will investigate both how the Romans conceived of the relationship between the built environment of urban space and the natural environment that supported and surrounded it and how they dealt with the real ecological problems of urban life. Students will also actively participate in archeological excavation at a Roman coastal settlement. May be elected as Art History 226 or Environmental Studies 319. Prerequisite: Acceptance into the Crossroads Rome Summer 2018 course. *Course fee and international airfare estimate will be announced in Fall 2017.*

377 Ancient Theatre**Spring****Burgess****4 credits**

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. Open to all students. Offered in alternate years.

410 Advanced Ancient Language**Not offered 2018-19****1-2 credits**

Students enrolled in either Greek 365 or Latin 355 may, with the approval of the instructor, enroll in this course, which provides students an opportunity for additional work in the ancient languages and cultures. Each student's work will be individually supervised to best meet that student's needs. May be elected for one or two credits, with the approval of the instructor. *Prerequisite:* Greek 106 or Latin 106 or equivalent. *Corequisite:* Greek 365 or Latin 355.

490 Senior Seminar

Fall **Shea** **1 credit**

A one-hour seminar required of all Classics and Classical Studies majors in their senior year. The course meets once a week and covers techniques of classical scholarship and closely related disciplines. *Prerequisite:* Greek 375 or Latin 375. *Corequisite:* Greek 365 or Latin 355.

497 Senior Thesis

Fall, Spring **Staff** **2 credits**

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

Fall, Spring **Staff** **2 credits**

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 to senior honors candidates in classics or classical studies. *Prerequisite:* admission to honors candidacy.

Greek

105, 106 Elementary Ancient Greek

Fall, Spring **Burgess** **4 credits**

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. *Prerequisite for 106:* Greek 105 or consent of instructor.

205 Intermediate Ancient Greek

Not offered 2018-19 **4 credits**

Substantial readings from ancient authors in the original ancient Greek in conjunction with a review of important aspects of Greek grammar. *Prerequisite:* Greek 106 or consent of instructor. Offered in alternate years.

365 Seminar in Classical Greek

Fall **Shea** **2 credits**

A reading of selected authors in classical Greek. May be repeated for credit when authors change. *Prerequisites:* Greek 205 or equivalent with consent of instructor.

375 Advanced Classical Greek

Spring **Vandiver** **4 credits**

A reading of selected authors in classical Greek. May be repeated for credit when authors change. *Prerequisites:* Greek 205 or equivalent with consent of instructor.

391, 392 Independent Study

Fall, Spring **Staff** **1-4 credits**

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:* consent of instructor.

Latin**105, 106 Elementary Latin****Fall, Spring****Vandiver****4 credits**

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. *Prerequisite for 106:* Latin 105 or consent of instructor.

205 Intermediate Latin**Fall****Shea****4 credits**

Substantial readings from ancient authors in the original Latin in conjunction with a review of important aspects of Latin grammar. *Prerequisite:* Latin 106 or consent of instructor.

355 Seminar in Classical Latin**Fall****Shea****2 credits**

A reading of selected authors in classical Latin. May be repeated for credit when authors change. Latin 205 or equivalent with consent of the instructor.

375 Advanced Classical Latin**Spring****Vandiver****4 credits**

A reading of selected authors in classical Latin. May be repeated for credit when authors change. Latin 205 or equivalent with consent of the instructor.

391, 392 Independent Study**Fall, Spring****Staff****1-4 credits**

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