

Classics Academic Learning Compact

Classics offers a student the opportunity to study an entire culture, one that is complete, magnificent, and fundamentally important in the evolution of our civilization. Those who wish to gain perspective on the shifting kaleidoscope of modern life and cultural artifacts would do well to focus on the classics, to study the cultures of Greece and Rome comprehensively and in satisfying detail, through their languages, literature, history, art, and philosophy. Classics become "classics" because they set the standard at which artists, thinkers, and statesmen still aim, and by which we measure new work that claims a place beside them.

Study of the classical languages enhances a student's ability to master any foreign language, as well as to control her or his own, through an increased vocabulary and deeper understanding of the mechanism of language itself. Moreover, the art, literature, and philosophy of the ancients not only provide us vital models to inform and clarify our critical perspective, but they also continue to excite our thought and our admiration for their freshness of vision and beauty of form.

Courses regularly offered in classics include the Greek and Latin languages at all levels, Greek and Roman literature surveys, Classical Mythology, Greek and Roman Drama, Ancient Epic, The Ancient Novel, Late Antiquity, and Love and Sex in the Ancient World; other special topics will be offered less frequently.

An Area of Concentration in classics will normally include:

1. A high level of proficiency in ancient Greek or Latin. This will ordinarily be demonstrated by successful completion of six semester courses or the equivalent in either language, and by the equivalent of three semester courses in the other classical language as well.
2. A good general knowledge of classical literature, history, and culture. This will normally be demonstrated by successful completion of advanced language courses in Greek or Latin literature and of at least four courses offered in English on such topics as Greek and Roman history, art, philosophy, mythology, and literature.
3. At least two semesters (or the equivalent) of a modern language.
4. A senior thesis. This might take the form of a critical analysis of a classical author or a study of a cultural problem in history, literature, or thought. In any case, a significant portion of the research should demonstrate the student's capacity to use primary classical texts or artifacts.

Representative senior theses:

- The Creation of the Emperor Nero in Three Ancient Historians
- Martyrs and Murderers: Women of Euripides
- Theories of Justice in Ancient Law Codes
- The *Galli*: Transgendered Priests of Ancient Greece, Rome, and the Near East
- The Idea of Utopia in Plato's *Republic*
- A Photographic Interpretation of Myth from the *Metamorphoses* of Ovid
- Translation and Production of Plautus' *Miles Gloriosus*

Expected Outcomes

Students completing a concentration in Classics will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Read and understand original works in either the Greek or Latin language, and demonstrate good knowledge of the fundamentals of the vocabulary and grammar of the other classical language. This requires content knowledge and communication skills.
2. Demonstrate a broad knowledge of the literature, history, and culture of Ancient Greece and Rome. This requires content knowledge and communication skills.
3. Demonstrate the ability to think critically about and write effectively about selected topics in Classics, using primary sources or artifacts. This requires content knowledge, communication skills, and critical thinking.

Measures to Track Student Progress

The Classics faculty uses a number of methods to assess the progress of students. Students enrolled in Classics courses are evaluated through their performances on examinations, class presentations, and papers. Many students also pursue independent research projects under faculty direction. These projects are evaluated through written work and one-on-one student-faculty conferences. The linguistic abilities of students are continually monitored through faculty conferences, and students are required to take sufficient numbers of classes in Latin and Greek language to insure their mastery of one classical language and good knowledge of the other.

Specific Measures to Demonstrate Each Graduate's Competence

All students with an area of concentration in Classics are also required to research and write a senior thesis or the equivalent under the direct supervision of the Classics faculty, and to defend that thesis in a public oral baccalaureate exam. Theses are judged according to the comprehensiveness of the research, the strength and originality of the interpretation, and the clarity and elegance of the writing style. Performance on the oral exam is judged by how well the student responds to questions, demonstrates knowledge of the field, and defends his or her own interpretation.