

CLASSICS

Department Overview

The mission of the Classics Department is to help shape the future of our students through the study of the past. By using interdisciplinary methodologies, students examine and develop expertise in the languages, literatures, histories, religions, cultures, art, and artifacts of the peoples of the ancient Mediterranean.

Students apply multi- and cross-cultural perspectives to gender, ethnic, and social issues in order to gain insight into the cultures of the classical world. In reading Greek and Latin prose and poetry, both in the original languages and in translation, students contextualize works of literature in their larger cultural and historical settings and recognize their significance in the past and their relevance for the present and future. Students conduct research by traditional and digital methods in order to present oral and written arguments supported by primary sources, theoretical constructs, and established scholarship. In acquiring these critical and analytical skills, classics majors prepare themselves for life beyond college both on the personal and professional level. Professional opportunities can include careers in education, communication, arts, law and government, and library sciences.

Both a major and a minor are available in classics. Skidmore is a member of the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome, which offers juniors the opportunity to study classical antiquity in Italy. Other semester and summer study programs in Italy, Greece, and other countries may be arranged with the help of the chair of Classics. Students may fulfill the Language Study requirement by successfully completing any course in Greek or Latin.

Chair of the Classics Department: Dan Curley

Professor: Dan Curley

Assistant Professor: Amy Oh

Visiting Assistant Professor: Janelle Sadarananda

Associate Professor Emeritus: Michael Arnush

Lecturer Emerita: Leslie Mechem

Affiliated Faculty

Philosophy: Silvia Carli

Religious Studies: Gregory Spinner

Classics B.A.

31 credit hours, including a minimum of:

Code	Title	Hours
Reading Proficiency of Greek or Latin at the 300-Level		
Complete one of the following sequences to demonstrate proficiency: ¹		8
CL 310 & CL 311	Seminar in Latin Poetry and Seminar in Latin Prose Literature	
CG 310 & CG 311	Seminar in Greek Poetry and Seminar in Greek Prose Literature	
Gateway Course		
CC 200	The Classical World	4

Literature, History, and Archaeology Clusters

Select one course from each of the following clusters: 9

Literature Cluster

CC 220	Classical Mythology
CC 222	Greek Tragedy
CC 223	Society on the Stage: Greek and Roman Comedy
CC 224	The Hero(ine)'s Tale: Traditions of Greek and Roman Epic
CC 225	The Ancient Novel

History Cluster

HI 203	Rise of Athens
HI 204	Athens, Alexander the Great, and Cleopatra
HI 205	Rise of Rome
HI 206	Fall of Rome
CC 226	Greek and Roman Historians

Archaeology Cluster

AH 222	Greek Art and Archaeology
AH 223	Roman Art and Archaeology

Additional Requirements

CC 365	Advanced Topics in Classical Civilization (when applicable)	1-4
or HI 351	Topics in History	

Transition Course

CC 395	The Classics Major and Beyond	1
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Capstone Project

Select one of the following to complete a capstone project:		4
Expanded research paper ²		
Senior thesis		
Independent study that results in a research paper or other advanced project		

Total Hours 27-30

¹ Students may enroll in CL 310 Seminar in Latin Poetry and CL 311 Seminar in Latin Prose Literature courses more than once with permission.

² In any 300-level Greek or Latin course

Students may count toward the major any course listed above plus:

Code	Title	Hours
CC 227	Race and Ethnicity in Ancient Greece and Beyond	3
CC 228	Ancient Rhetoric, Modern Politics	4
CC 230	Romans in Their Environment	3
CC 265	Topics in Classical Civilization	3
CC 291	Writing in Classics	1
CC 292	Semester Project in Classics	1
CG 110	Elementary Greek	4
CG 210	Intermediate Greek	4
CL 110	Elementary Latin	4
CL 210	Intermediate Latin	4
PL 204	Classical Political Thought	3
PH 203	Ancient Greek Philosophy	4

PH 327	Great Philosophers (when applicable)	4
RE 330	Advanced Topics in Religion (when applicable)	3

CC 100 English Vocabulary From Greek and Latin and CC 399 Professional Internship in Classics may not count toward the major.

Writing Requirement in the Major

Majors will meet the writing requirement in Classics through CC 200 The Classical World and any 300-level Greek or Latin course, ideally taken toward the beginning and end, respectively, of their studies at Skidmore.

Classics Minor

20 credit hours, including a minimum of:

Code	Title	Hours
Reading Proficiency of Greek or Latin at the 200 Level		
Complete the following to demonstrate proficiency:		4
CG 210	Intermediate Greek	
or CL 210	Intermediate Latin	
Gateway Course		
CC 200	The Classical World	
Literature, History, and Archaeology Clusters		
Select two courses of the following, each from a different cluster:		6
<i>Literature Cluster</i>		
CC 220	Classical Mythology	
CC 222	Greek Tragedy	
CC 223	Society on the Stage: Greek and Roman Comedy	
CC 224	The Hero(ine)'s Tale: Traditions of Greek and Roman Epic	
CC 225	The Ancient Novel	
<i>History Cluster</i>		
HI 203	Rise of Athens	
HI 204	Athens, Alexander the Great, and Cleopatra	
HI 205	Rise of Rome	
HI 206	Fall of Rome	
CC 226	Greek and Roman Historians	
<i>Archaeology Cluster</i>		
AH 222	Greek Art and Archaeology	
AH 223	Roman Art and Archaeology	
Additional Requirements		
Select one course from the following: ¹		1-4
CG 310	Seminar in Greek Poetry	
or CG 311	Seminar in Greek Prose Literature	
CL 310	Seminar in Latin Poetry	
or CL 311	Seminar in Latin Prose Literature	
CC 365	Advanced Topics in Classical Civilization	
HI 351	Topics in History (when applicable)	
PH 327	Great Philosophers (when applicable)	
RE 330	Advanced Topics in Religion (when applicable)	
Students may count toward the minor any course listed above, plus:		
CC 227	Race and Ethnicity in Ancient Greece and Beyond	
CC 228	Ancient Rhetoric, Modern Politics	
CC 230	Romans in Their Environment	

CC 265	Topics in Classical Civilization
CC 291	Writing in Classics
CC 292	Semester Project in Classics
CG 110	Elementary Greek
CL 110	Elementary Latin
PH 203	Ancient Greek Philosophy
PL 204	Classical Political Thought
Total Hours	11-14

¹ Minors are encouraged to take one 300-level seminar in either Greek or Latin (CG 310 Seminar in Greek Poetry, CG 311 Seminar in Greek Prose Literature; CL 310 Seminar in Latin Poetry, CL 311 Seminar in Latin Prose Literature).

CC 100 English Vocabulary From Greek and Latin and CC 399 Professional Internship in Classics may not count toward the major.

Honors

To be considered for honors in classics, a student must, in addition to fulfilling college requirements for departmental honors, receive a grade of at least A- on the senior capstone project. Specific requirements for the project are established by the department.

Eta Sigma Phi, New York Iota Nu Chapter

Incorporated in 1927, Eta Sigma Phi is a national honorary society that seeks to develop and promote interest in classical study, and in the history, art, and literature of ancient Greece and Rome, among students of colleges and universities. Undergraduate students are eligible for membership as of their junior year if they have achieved a grade point average of at least 3.0 in the Classics major and a grade of not less than "B" in one Latin or Greek course.

Course Listing

Archaeology

AH 222 - Greek Art and Archaeology

Credits: 3

An exploration of the major developments in architecture, sculpture, and painting from Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations through the Hellenistic period. Attention is given to the influences on Greek art from the East and to the influence of Greek art on other cultures.

Note(s): Fulfills Humanities requirement; fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement.

AH 223 - Roman Art and Archaeology

Credits: 3

An examination of architecture, sculpture, and painting beginning with the Villanovan and Etruscan cultures and continuing through the Republic and Empire (fourth century AD). Topics covered include wall painting, narrative sculpture, and city planning.

Note(s): Fulfills Humanities requirement; fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement.

Classics

CC 100 - English Vocabulary from Greek and Latin

Credits: 1

An exploration of the heritage of Greek and Latin in the English language, with particular emphasis on technical terminology from a variety of disciplines. Students will learn how to break down English words into their Greek and Latin components, and to generate English words from these same elements. This course is of interest to all students in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences, who wish not only to expand their vocabularies but also to understand the ongoing evolution of English.

CC 200 - The Classical World

Credits: 4

An introduction to classical antiquity for students interested in ancient Greece and Rome, the impact of antiquity on Medieval and Renaissance Europe, and a general background in the Western tradition. This interdisciplinary course taught by a team of faculty members from several departments and programs includes studies in literature (epic, dramatic, and lyric poetry, and rhetoric), history and historiography, art and architecture, and philosophy. Students will hone their writing skills in Classics by composing and revising essays related to the three sub-disciplines addressed in the course: literary, historical, and art historical/archaeological analysis.

Note(s): Partially fulfills the writing requirement for the major. Fulfills Humanities requirement; fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement.

CC 220 - Classical Mythology

Credits: 3

A study of the important myths in Greek and Roman culture, with attention to their religious, psychological, and historical origins. Comparative mythology, structural analysis, modern psychological interpretations and the development of classical myths in Western literature and art receive attention.

Note(s): Fulfills Humanities requirement; fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement.

CC 222 - Greek Tragedy

Credits: 3

Readings in translation of some of the tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides in the context of Athenian society in the fifth century BC. Students will have the opportunity to write, produce, and perform an original tragedy based on Greek myth.

Note(s): Fulfills Humanities requirement; fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement.

CC 223 - Society on the Stage: Greek and Roman Comedy

Credits: 3

Readings in translation of the plays of Aristophanes, Menander, Plautus, and Terence. Students explore both the origins and the fate of ancient comedy within the context of Greek and Roman society. Furthermore, students will have the opportunity to produce and perform one of the plays on the course reading list.

Note(s): Fulfills Humanities requirement; fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement.

CC 224 - The Hero(ine)'s Tale: Traditions of Greek and Roman Epic

Credits: 3

Readings in translation of the great epic poets of the Greek and Roman worlds, focusing on a comparative study of the works of Homer and Vergil.

Note(s): Fulfills Humanities requirement; fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement.

CC 225 - The Ancient Novel

Credits: 3

A study of ancient prose fiction with a focus on its multicultural scope, the use of literature as entertainment and the interplay of fictionality and historicity. Students will read the most important examples of ancient Greek and Roman prose fiction in translation while developing skills in literary analysis and interpretation. These include tales of extraordinary adventures, travel to distant lands, romance and fantasy. Reading will include works by Lucian, Longus, Achilles Tatius, Apuleius, and Petronius.

Note(s): Fulfills Humanities requirement; fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement.

CC 226 - Greek and Roman Historians

Credits: 3

Readings in translation of the great chroniclers of history from the Greek and Roman worlds: Greek, the works of Herodotus (the father of history), Thucydides, and Xenophon; Roman, the works of Livy, Polybius, and Tacitus. The course will focus on the methodology of writing history, comparative studies, and modern interpretations.

Note(s): Counts toward the history major. Fulfills humanities requirement; fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement.

CC 227 - Race and Ethnicity in Ancient Greece and Beyond

Credits: 3

How did the ancient Greeks construct their "racial" and ethnic identity and why should "Ancient Greekness" matter to us living in America today? Students will study the dynamics of race and ethnicity in antiquity by comparing constructions of Greekness and Romanness with constructions of ethnic identities in ancient non-Western cultures, including the ancient Persian Empire (Iran and Iraq) as well as cultures of ancient Africa, specifically the Egyptians, Ethiopians, Nubians, and Libyans. Students consider ancient Greek evidence as well as historical and archaeological data shedding light on non-Western perspectives. Students will learn contemporary race theory and the difficulties and benefits of applying it to the study of ancient societies. Students will also examine the role of ancestry, language, religion, mythology, and literature (including historiography) in the discursive formation of racial and ethnic identities among the ancient Greeks and nearby non-Western cultures. Although centered in Ancient Greece, students will move beyond its geographical boundaries through examination of the Mediterranean culturally and its link to twentieth-century conceptualizations of race and ethnicity.

Note(s): Fulfills Cultural Diversity and Humanities requirements; fulfills Humanistic Inquiry and Global Cultural Perspectives requirements. Usually offered spring semester.

CC 228 - Ancient Rhetoric, Modern Politics

Credits: 4

Build Back Better. LAW AND ORDER! Whether it's a Tweet, a speech, or a campaign slogan, everything that we read, see, and hear from our politicians is an example of rhetoric. But what are the features of persuasive political speech and how do our current and future representatives use them? In this course, students will learn and apply ancient theories to the rhetoric of contemporary political campaigns in order to think critically about the aim of political rhetoric, who has access to which types of rhetoric, and how modern politics has helped shape our political and civic identities.

Prerequisites: SSP 100.

Note(s): Fulfills Humanities requirement; fulfills Bridge Experience requirement.

CC 230 - Romans in Their Environment

Credits: 3

1 block = 1 square meter. But what did the Romans do with blocks of land? How did the Romans use, honor, or exploit the resources available to them? What impact did man have on nature and nature on man? In an attempt to answer these questions, students will begin by reading primary and secondary sources to learn about literary and philosophical depictions of nature. In the second part of the course, students will adopt a Roman identity and meet in the virtual world of Minecraft. In this game, students will learn block by block what went into developing and building a Roman town, and they will experience firsthand how individuals engaged both with each other and their environment.

CC 265 - Topics in Classical Civilization

Credits: 3

Selected aspects of classical antiquity that embrace both the Greek and Roman worlds. Topics will vary from year to year based upon the instructor's specialization and interests. Students work on basic research, analytical, and writing skills. Courses may include Greek and/or Roman religion, lyric poetry, and early Christianity.

Note(s): The course in a different subject area may be repeated for credit. Fulfills Humanities requirement; fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement.

CC 291 - Writing in Classics

Credits: 1

Students will begin to learn effective writing and will fulfill the all-college Expository Writing requirement.

Note(s): This one-credit course must be taken jointly with a 200-level civilization course to fulfill the Expository Writing requirement.

CC 292 - Semester Project in Classics

Credits: 1

Students will complete a semester-length project on an aspect of Classical civilization. The project will be collaborative and may involve visual or performing arts.

Note(s): This one-credit course must be taken jointly with a 200-level civilization course.

CC 365 - Advanced Topics in Classical Civilization

Credits: 4

Selected aspects of classical antiquity that embrace both the Greek and Roman worlds. Topics will vary from year to year based upon the instructor's specialization and interests. Building upon the skills acquired in 200-level courses, students analyze primary and secondary evidence and conduct independent research in major writing projects. Courses may include such topics as women in antiquity, sex in the ancient world, classical poetics, and ancient historiography.

Note(s): The course in a different subject area may be repeated for credit. Partially fulfills writing requirement in the major.

CC 371 - Independent Study in Classics

Credits: 1-4

Individual research in any aspect of classics not available in existing course offerings, which results in a written work. Supervised by a member of the classics faculty.

Prerequisites: *Approval of the chair.*

CC 390 - Thesis

Credits: 3

The senior student will undertake a substantial advanced research project in any aspect of classics, which will result in a written thesis of approximately fifty pages. Supervised by a member of the classics faculty.

Prerequisites: *Approval of the chair.*

CC 395 - The Classics Major and Beyond

Credits: 1

A transitional course in which senior majors reflect on their work in the Classics curriculum and look ahead to life as Skidmore graduates. Working both individually and collaboratively, students will examine the relevance of classical studies to continuing intellectual, cultural, and civic engagement; explore options for future work and study; compile a portfolio documenting and evaluate coursework in the Classics major; and strengthen the presentation and communication skills essential to professional success. In combination with completing a senior capstone experience, counts as the Senior Coda in Classics.

Prerequisites: *Senior standing as a Classics major. Open to senior Classics minors.*

Note(s): Partially fulfills Senior Coda Experience. Must be taken fall semester of the senior year. Must be taken S/U.

CC 399 - Professional Internship in Classics

Credits: 1-4

Professional experience at an advanced level for juniors and seniors with substantial academic and cocurricular experience in the major field. With faculty sponsorship and departmental approval, students may extend their educational experience into such areas as education, communication, the arts, libraries, and law and government.

Note(s): Does not count toward the major. Must be taken S/U.

CG 110 - Elementary Greek

Credits: 4

An introductory course in the essentials of the Greek language, with emphasis upon mastery of grammar, syntax, and vocabulary.

Note(s): Fulfills Foreign Language requirement; fulfills Language Study requirement.

CG 210 - Intermediate Greek

Credits: 4

A review of Greek syntax, complemented by reading selected works by such authors as Xenophon, Plato, or Lysias.

Prerequisites: *CG 110 or permission of the chair.*

Note(s): Fulfills the Foreign Language requirement; fulfills Language Study requirement.

CG 310 - Seminar in Greek Poetry

Credits: 4

Advanced reading and critical examination in Greek of the works of one of the following Greek poets or dramatists: Aeschylus, Aristophanes, Bacchylides, Euripides, Hesiod, Homer, Pindar, Sophocles, or Theocritus.

Prerequisites: *CG 210 or permission of the chair.*

Note(s): This course may be taken more than once. Fulfills the Foreign Language requirement; fulfills Language Study requirement.

CG 311 - Seminar in Greek Prose Literature

Credits: 4

Advanced reading and critical examination in Greek of the works of one of the following Greek prose authors: Aristotle, Demosthenes, Herodotus, Lysias, Plato, Thucydides, or selections from the New Testament.

Prerequisites: *CG 210 or permission of the chair.*

Note(s): This course may be taken more than once. Fulfills the Foreign Language requirement; fulfills Language Study requirement.

CL 110 - Elementary Latin

Credits: 4

An introductory course in the essentials of the Latin language with emphasis upon mastery of grammar, syntax, and vocabulary.

Note(s): Fulfills the Foreign Language requirement; fulfills Language Study requirement.

CL 210 - Intermediate Latin

Credits: 4

A review of Latin syntax, complemented by reading selected works by such authors as Caesar, Cicero, or Livy.

Prerequisites: *CL 110 or permission of the chair.*

Note(s): Fulfills the Foreign Language requirement; fulfills Language Study requirement.

CL 310 - Seminar in Latin Poetry

Credits: 4

Advanced reading and critical examination in Latin of the works of one of the following Latin poets or dramatists: Catullus, Horace, Juvenal, Lucretius, Plautus, Ovid, Terence, or Virgil.

Prerequisites: *CL 210 or permission of the chair.*

Note(s): This course may be taken more than once. Fulfills the Foreign Language requirement; fulfills Language Study requirement.

CL 311 - Seminar in Latin Prose Literature

Credits: 4

Advanced reading and critical examination in Latin of the works of one of the following Latin prose authors: Caesar, Cicero, Livy, Petronius, Pliny, Suetonius, or Tacitus.

Prerequisites: *CL 210 or permission of the chair. This course may be taken more than once. (Fulfills the foreign language requirement; fulfills language study.)* Advanced reading and critical examination in Latin of the works of one of the following Latin prose authors: Caesar, Cicero, Livy, Petronius, Pliny, Suetonius, or Tacitus.

Note(s): This course may be taken more than once. Fulfills the Foreign Language requirement; fulfills Language Study requirement.

History**HI 203 - Rise of Athens**

Credits: 3

A study of Greece with a focus on Athens from the Mycenaean age to the outbreak of the Peloponnesian War. Students examine the heroic age, the development of the city-state, the origins of democracy, the nature of imperialism, intellectual and cultural achievements, economic conditions, and family life. Special emphasis is given to the study of the ancient sources: literary, historiographic, archaeological, and numismatic.

Note(s): Fulfills Social Sciences requirement; fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement.

HI 204 - Athens, Alexander the Great, and Cleopatra

Credits: 3

A study of Greece from the Peloponnesian War to the end of Greek independence. Students examine the war between Athens and Sparta and its aftermath, the struggle for preeminence among Greek city-states, the rise of Macedonia, the monarchies of Philip and his son Alexander the Great, the Hellenistic kingdoms, the development of scientific thought, and the last "Greek" monarch, Cleopatra of Egypt. Special emphasis is given to the study of the ancient sources: literary, historiographic, archaeological, and numismatic.

Note(s): Fulfills Social Sciences requirement; fulfills Humanistic Inquiry and Global Cultural Perspectives requirements.

HI 205 - Rise of Rome

Credits: 3

A study of Rome from its foundation by Romulus to the end of the Republic and onset of the Roman empire. Students examine the Etruscan world, the rise of Rome in Italy, the impact of Hellenism, social and political institutions in the Republic, the evolution of Roman culture and the end of the Senatorial aristocracy. Special emphasis is given to the study of the ancient sources: literary, historiographic, archaeological, and numismatic.

Note(s): Fulfills Social Sciences requirement; fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement.

HI 206 - Fall of Rome

Credits: 3

A study of Rome from the foundation of the empire by Augustus until the sack of the city of Rome and the empire's demise. Students examine the Julio-Claudian and succeeding emperors, political intrigue in the imperial court, the development of an imperial mindset and responses to it in the provinces, the multiculturalism of the empire, social and political institutions, the evolution of Roman culture, the rise of Christianity and the end of the empire. Special emphasis is given to the study of the ancient sources: literary, historiographic, archaeological, and numismatic.

Note(s): Fulfills Social Sciences requirement; fulfills Humanistic Inquiry and Global Cultural Perspectives requirements.