DEPARTMENT: Classical Studies

PROGRAM: M.A. in Ancient Greek and Roman Studies

GRADUATE LEARNING GOALS & OUTCOMES

KNOWLEDGE:

The M.A. program in Ancient Greek and Roman Studies is designed to be flexible, so that individual students can focus their program around a particular interest like art and archaeology, history, literature, or mythology, and fully explore their intellectual creativity through their studies.

- Students successfully completing graduate study culminating in the M.A. demonstrate:
  - foundational mastery of the methodologies, perspectives, and theories implicit in the field of Classical Studies, which are outlined in CLAS 250b, the graduate capstone course, and include ancient languages (Greek and Latin), ancient history, and archaeology.
  - the ability to plan, propose, and execute a major culminating project, which may be a thesis, comprehensive exams, or a major paper or project completed in consultation with a faculty supervisor.
  - the ability to communicate effectively to both lay and academic audiences through oral, written, and visual means.
  - consistently high regard for faculty, staff, and peers by interacting with them at the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct in both teaching and research.

CORE SKILLS:

- Core Skills expected to be attained—in communication, quantitative information, and strong critical thinking skills—include:
  - language acquisition (ancient Greek and/or Latin), textual analysis (of classical texts and modern literature in translation), critical thinking (about complex ideas gleaned from these past civilizations concerning art and/or classical archaeology, history, law, literary genres, mythology, politics, and religion), and excellent communication and writing skills.
  - the ability to pursue and craft professional scholarly research using ancient sources, as well as modern publications from the field of Classical Studies and related interdisciplinary fields.
  - the ability to analyze and evaluate information intensely and critically (both from ancient Greek and Roman texts and from the archaeological and historical record). This means that students learn to question everything in these ancient cultures and everything studied about them so far (motives of the ancient or
modern author, assumptions, and conclusions) through the lens of cultural perspective.

- the ability to express and communicate with precision and clarity all facts, ideas, opinions, and beliefs, which can be a liberating and exhilarating experience when carried out on cultures of so long ago. This means that students learn to design research methodologies, structure careful arguments in their papers or theses, and make well-supported cases for their findings in all written or oral presentations.

SOCIAL JUSTICE:

- M.A. students have exposure to many of the major questions, concepts, theories, ethical issues, and current methodologies of Classical Studies in order to act as informed citizens in a global society, understand diversity, and engage in service.

  - Students understand what it means to be human through the lens of classical antiquity.
  - Students experience the rich diversity of ancient Greece and Rome and how those cultures dealt with that diversity (which inevitably helps us understand our own global culture).
  - Students investigate how inequality (between the sexes, between classes, between and among peoples and nations) affected ancient cultures and helps us understand how it still affects modern societies.
  - Students absorb the geography, mythologies, literatures, political thinking, philosophies, religions, daily life practices, material culture, architectural remains, and art of the civilizations of the ancient Mediterranean and their impact on modern societies.
  - Students learn how to engage scholars across time and geographical space in pursuit of a common scholarly goal. All of these strategies provide specific tools and opportunities to a wide range of Brandeis students who are committed to the concept of social justice or to learning for service.

GRADUATE OUTCOMES:

- Focusing on languages, archaeology, and culture, the department's coursework provides students with ample preparation for further graduate work or career enhancement.
- The program provides excellent placement in top-tier Ph.D. programs and, for those seeking employment, in a variety of positions in (for example) schools, museums, libraries, and cultural heritage organizations.
- Track 1 has no language requirements and is well-suited for students interested in elementary and secondary school education. It also provides excellent preparation for advanced graduate training in areas with flexible language requirements such as Classical Archaeology, Ancient History, and Anthropology.
The master's program can be used as highly emulative preparation for a Ph.D. program in Classical Studies, Ancient History, or Archaeology and a variety of other fields such as medicine or law. The degree can also serve as enrichment for a teacher, librarian, or for any number of other careers such as museum curator, archivist, historian, among others.

Teachers from K-12 in all subjects who pursue a master’s degree have gained better standing in their schools and the program greatly enhances their teaching of art, social studies, English, history, and much more.

We are proud to have bright, energetic teachers among our current students and alumni. Alumni include teachers in a variety of subjects from elementary, middle, and high schools, all who share a love of classical studies. Subject matters include classical art, archaeology, language, and literature, Greek and Roman mythology, ancient science and technology, ancient philosophy, Athenian theater and Greek epic, Greek and Roman history, ancient literature in translation, and the impact of ancient Greek and Latin language on English and American vocabulary and grammar, to name a few of the areas of interest to teachers.

**SOURCES:** Bulletin; Website: http://www.brandeis.edu/gsas/programs/greek_roman.html; http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/classics/masters/requirements.html; http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/classics/masters/