Chinese

Faculty

Qun Ao
(German, Russian, and East Asian Languages and Literature)

Yuxiang Liu
(German, Russian, and East Asian Languages and Literature)

Courses of Instruction

[1-99] Primarily for Undergraduate Students

CHIN 10a Beginning Chinese
Mandarin and the “Pin Yin” systems are taught in this intensive training course, intended for students with no previous knowledge of Chinese. Class meets four days per week plus one section of individual conversation. Offers training in basic Chinese grammar, speaking, aural comprehension, reading, and writing. Usually offered every fall.
Staff

CHIN 20b Continuing Chinese
Prerequisite: CHIN 10a. Continuation of CHIN 10a. Usually offered every spring.
Staff

CHIN 29b Pathways for Chinese Literacy
For students who have significant bilingual background in Chinese Mandarin or a non-Mandarin dialect (e.g., Cantonese) namely, listening and speaking abilities, acquired in the home. Reading and writing skills are emphasized, but standard Mandarin pronunciation and grammatical structure are also stressed. Students who successfully complete this course can take an exemption test to fulfill the foreign language requirement. Usually offered every year.
Staff

CHIN 30a Intermediate Chinese
A continuation of CHIN 20b. Development of skills in speaking, reading, and writing, including the writing of short essays. Usually offered every fall.
Staff

CHIN 40b Advanced Intermediate Chinese
Continuation of CHIN 30a. Usually offered every spring.
Staff

CHIN 98a Readings in Modern Chinese
Prerequisite: CHIN 40b or equivalent. A continuation of CHIN 40b. Includes an introduction to readings in modern Chinese literature. Usually offered every year.
Staff

CHIN 98b Readings in Modern Chinese
Prerequisite: CHIN 40b or equivalent. A continuation of CHIN 98a. Usually offered every year.
Staff

[100-199] For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

CHIN 105a Advanced Conversation and Composition I
Prerequisite: CHIN 40b or equivalent. Designed for advanced students who wish to enhance and improve their skills in speaking, reading, and writing through reading and discussions of Chinese texts on various topics. Usually offered every year.
Staff

CHIN 105b Advanced Conversation and Composition II
Prerequisite: CHIN 40b or equivalent. Designed for advanced students who wish to enhance and improve their speaking proficiency and writing skill. Speaking skills will be developed through guided conversation, discussion of texts and films, and oral presentation. Exercises and essays will be used to improve students’ writing skills. Usually offered every year.
Staff
Department of Classical Studies

Objectives

The Department of Classical Studies offers courses in the languages, literatures, history, and archaeology of ancient Greece and ancient Rome, two cultures that are the intellectual, social, political, legal, scientific, and artistic origin of Western civilization. Along with the Hebrew Bible, the scholarly study of these cultures, which goes back to the death of Alexander the Great, is the original subject of university study. Their brilliance and beauty has not ceased to beguile and inform students for more than 2,000 years.

A major in classical studies offers the opportunity to learn about all aspects of life in Greece and Rome. Aside from its aesthetic, spiritual, moral, and intellectual value, that study can have practical use as well: for example, the study of Latin is a proven key to communication skills in English and in the Romance languages; moreover, Latin and Greek have long been and continue to be sources of technical concepts and vocabulary in all fields of study, from cybernetics to political economy by way of astronomy and zoology.

A major in classical studies also enhances preparation for a wide number of professional fields, including law and medicine, as well as for the graduate study of literature, history, fine arts, archaeology, anthropology, philosophy, religion, and classics itself. The requirements for the major are designed to be flexible, so that individual students can focus their program around a particular interest like art and archaeology, history, or literature.

How to Become a Major

Students who have had some background in Greek and Latin are encouraged to resume studying those languages as soon as possible after entering Brandeis, as those skills are more difficult to retrieve after a passage of time. Students who have had no background in these languages should try to begin one of them as soon as possible after entering Brandeis. Often, students find it effective to take Latin or Greek to satisfy their language requirements and in the process can determine whether their interest in the classics is one they wish to pursue further.

Requirements for the Major

Students wishing to major in classical studies may choose one of four options: classics, Greek, Latin, or classical archaeology and ancient history. A major in classics includes the Greek and Latin languages and literatures, whereas a major in Greek language and literature or in Latin language and literature includes only one language. A major in classical archaeology and ancient history places less emphasis upon language and more upon courses in ancient history, ancient art, and archaeology. A student interested in an independent major in classical and English literature or old world archaeology may petition for such through the Office of Academic Affairs. Various archaeological excavation programs (with departmental approval) may be substituted for some required courses.

Major in Classics
A. Eight semester courses in Greek and Latin numbered 30 or higher, with at least two in each language.
B. One semester in Greek, Latin, or allied fields as approved by the student’s advisor.
C. Two ancient history courses, one in Greek history and one in Roman history.

Major in Latin Language and Literature
A. Four semester courses in Latin numbered 30 or higher.
B. One semester course in Roman history.

Major in Greek Language and Literature
A. Four semester courses in Greek numbered 30 or higher.
B. One semester course in Greek history.
C. A combination of five semester courses selected from courses taught in or cross-listed by the Department of Classical Studies, where such courses have a significant classical component, as approved by the student’s departmental advisor.
D. Additional requirements for students seeking honors: GRK 99d.

E. Certification for teaching Latin and classical humanities in high schools in Massachusetts and eight other states, including Connecticut and New York, can be obtained concurrently with the Brandeis bachelor’s degree. For details see item E under “Major in Latin Language and Literature.”

Major in Latin Language and Literature
A. Four semester courses in Latin numbered 30 or higher.
B. One semester course in Roman history.

Faculty

Ann O. Koloski-Ostrow, Chair
Roman and Greek art and archaeology.

Patricia A. Johnston
Latin and Greek language and literature.

Leonard C. Muellner
Greek and Latin language and literature.

Cheryl L. Walker, Undergraduate Advising Head
Roman and Greek history.
C. A combination of five semester courses selected from among courses taught in or cross-listed by the Department of Classical Studies, or from courses offered in other departments having a significant classical component, as approved by the student’s departmental advisor.

D. Additional requirement for students seeking honors: LAT 99d.

E. A major in either classics or Latin language and literature may obtain the Massachusetts Certificate for Teacher of Latin and Classical Humanities at the high school level by additionally completing requirements of the Education Program (q.v.). Interested students should meet with the program director as soon as possible for important further information.

Major in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History
A. Seven semester courses in ancient history, classical archaeology, and classical literature or ancient art, including at least one survey in the history of Greece, one survey in the history of Rome, one topics course in ancient history or classical archaeology, and one introductory course in archaeology.

B. One semester course in Greek or Latin numbered 30 or higher.

C. Additional requirement for students seeking honors: CLAS 99d.

Independent Major
A student interested in an independent major in classical and English literature may petition for such through the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs. Generally, an independent major in classical and English literature requires a minimum of five courses in English, five in Greek and/or Latin at level 30 or higher, and a senior essay.

Minor in Classical Studies
Five courses are required. These may be any combination of ancient language courses at level 30 or higher and any CLAS or cross-listed course. Three of the five courses in the minor must be taught by members of the Department of Classical Studies.

Note: All classical studies courses (CLAS) are taught in English, and assigned reading materials are in English.

Courses of Instruction

CLAS 98a Directed Reading
Usually offered every year.
Staff

CLAS 98b Directed Reading
Usually offered every year.
Staff

CLAS 99d Senior Research
Majors will be guided by their thesis advisor as they write their honors paper. Usually offered every second year.
Ms. Walker

CLAS 100a Survey of Greek History: Bronze Age to 323 B.C.E.
[ hum ]
The political and social development of the Greek city-states from Bronze Age origins to the death of Alexander. Usually offered every second year.
Ms. Walker

CLAS 115b Topics in Greek and Roman History
[ hum wi ]
Topics vary from year to year and the course may be repeated for credit with permission of the instructor; see the Schedule of Classes for the current topic. Usually offered every year.
Ms. Walker

CLAS 133b The Art and Archaeology of Ancient Greece
[ ca hum ]
Surveys the main forms and styles of Greek art and architecture from the Bronze Age through the Hellenistic period in mainland Greece and on the islands of the Aegean. Archaeological remains and ancient literary evidence help explore the relationships between culture, the visual arts, and society. Usually offered every second year.
Ms. Koloski-Ostrow

CLAS 134b The Art and Archaeology of Ancient Rome
[ ca hum ]
Surveys the art and architecture of the ancient Romans from the eighth century B.C.E. to the end of the empire in Sicily, mainland Italy (with focus on Rome, Ostia, Pompeii, and Herculaneum), and in the Roman provinces. Usually offered every second year.
Ms. Koloski-Ostrow

CLAS 145b Topics in Greek and Roman Art and Archaeology
[ ca hum ]
Topics vary from year to year and course may be repeated for credit. Topics include Pompeii, Athens and the Golden Age of Greece; and mythology in Greek and Roman art. See Schedule of Classes for current topic and description. Usually offered every year.
Ms. Koloski-Ostrow

CLAS 150a The Millennium of God, Sex, and Death
[ ca hum ]
A survey of medieval Latin literature in translation, beginning with the fourth century church Fathers and ending with the early Renaissance. Includes Augustine, Ambrose, Jerome, Egeria, Jordanes, Gregory of Tours, Isidore of Seville, Bede, Alcuin, Einhard, Hroswitha, Geoffrey of Monmouth, Hildegard, Anselm, and others. Usually offered every fourth year.
Ms. Walker

CLAS 165a Roman Decadence: Latin Literature in Translation
[ hum ]
Famous Roman texts (200 B.C.E.-200 C.E.) are read from various viewpoints. Usually offered every third year.
Ms. Koloski-Ostrow

CLAS 166a Medieval Literature: A Millennium of God, Sex, and Death
[ hum wi ]
A survey of medieval Latin literature in translation, beginning with the fourth century church Fathers and ending with the early Renaissance. Includes Augustine, Ambrose, Jerome, Egeria, Jordanes, Gregory of Tours, Isidore of Seville, Bede, Alcuin, Einhard, Hroswitha, Geoffrey of Monmouth, Hildegard, Anselm, and others. Usually offered every fourth year.
Ms. Walker

CLAS 170a Classical Mythology
[ hum ]
An introduction to Greek and Roman mythology. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Muellner

CLAS 171a Greek Epic and Athenian Drama
[ hum ]
Surveys Greek epic poetry and the tragic and comic drama produced in the city-state of Athens (Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes). The intention is to convey the place of these works in the social, political, religious, and intellectual life of ancient Greece as well as their enduring universality. Usually offered every fourth year.
Mr. Muellner

HUM 10a The Western Canon
[ hum ]
This course may not be taken for credit by students who have taken ENG 10a.
Foundational texts of the Western canon: Bible, Homer, Vergil, and Dante. Thematic emphases and supplementary texts vary from year to year.
Ms. Quinney

Greek and Latin Courses

All Greek and Latin courses numbered 40 or higher require reading knowledge of the respective language.

GRK 10a Beginning Ancient Greek
The basics of Ancient Greek language and an initiation into the artistic, religious, social, political, and psychological dynamics of Ancient Greece. After taking its sequel, GRK 20b, students can read Homer or Plato in the original. Usually offered every year.
Mr. Muellner

GRK 20b Continuing Ancient Greek
Prerequisite: GRK 10a
Fundamentals of Greek grammar through reading. Usually offered every year.
Mr. Muellner
GRK 30a Intermediate Ancient Greek: Literature
[fl]
Prerequisite: GRK 20b or equivalent (consult instructor).
Readings from Plato's Apology and Herodotus's Histories in Greek. Usually offered every year.
Ms. Walker

GRK 98a Directed Reading
Generally reserved for those students who have exhausted regular course offerings. Usually offered every year.
Staff

GRK 98b Directed Reading
Generally reserved for those students who have exhausted regular course offerings. Usually offered every year.
Staff

GRK 99d Senior Research
For seniors writing an honors thesis under direction. Usually offered every year.
Staff

GRK 110b Greek Epic
[fl hum]
Prerequisite: GRK 20b or equivalent (consult instructor).
Selections from Homer’s Iliad or Odyssey, in Greek. Usually offered every third year.
Mr. Muellner

GRK 115b Ancient Greek Drama
The plays of Aeschylus, Aristophanes, Euripides, and Sophocles in Greek. A different playwright is studied each year. See Schedule of Classes for current topic. Usually offered every fourth year.
Mr. Muellner

GRK 120b Greek Prose Authors
Selections from Herodotus, Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle, Demosthenes, and other prose authors, in Greek. See Schedule of Classes for current topic. Usually offered every third year.
Mr. Muellner

LAT 10a Beginning Latin
An introduction to Latin grammar, based on Latin authors. Usually offered every year.
Ms. Johnston

LAT 20b Continuing Latin
Prerequisite: LAT 10a or permission of the instructor.
See LAT 10a for course description. Usually offered every year.
Ms. Johnston

LAT 30a Intermediate Latin: Literature
[fl]
Prerequisite: LAT 20b or permission of the instructor.
Selections of Latin prose and verse from various periods. Usually offered every year.
Ms. Koloski-Ostrow

LAT 98a Directed Reading
Generally reserved for those students who have exhausted regular course offerings. Usually offered every year.
Staff

LAT 98b Directed Reading
Generally reserved for those students who have exhausted regular course offerings. Usually offered every year.
Staff

LAT 99d Senior Research
For seniors writing an honors thesis under direction. Usually offered every year.
Staff

LAT 110b Advanced Latin Composition
[fl hum]
Poetry and prose composition. Offered on request.
Ms. Johnston

LAT 114b Latin Prose Authors
[hum]
A close study of Cicero and other prose authors. Offered on request.
Staff

LAT 115a Roman Drama
[fl hum]
Selected plays of Plautus and Terence, in Latin. Usually offered every fourth year.
Ms. Johnston

LAT 116b Roman Satire
The satires of Horace and Juvenal, in Latin. Usually offered every fourth year.
Ms. Johnston

LAT 117a Lucretius, De Rerum Natura
[fl hum]
Close reading [in Latin] and discussion of poetic and philosophical dimensions of the poem. Usually offered every fourth year.
Ms. Johnston

LAT 118a Latin Lyric and Elegiac Poetry
[fl hum]
Selections from Catullus, Horace, Propertius, Tibullus, and Ovid in Latin. Usually offered every third year.
Ms. Johnston

LAT 118b Roman Historians
Selections from the histories of Julius Caesar, Sallust, Livy, and Tacitus, in Latin. Usually offered every fourth year.
Ms. Walker

LAT 119b Ovid: Metamorphoses
[fl hum]
Selections from Ovid's mythological-poetic history of the universe, in Latin. Usually offered every fourth year.
Ms. Johnston

LAT 120a Vergil
[fl hum]
Selections from Vergil's Eclogues, Georgics, and Aeneid in Latin. Usually offered every third year.
Ms. Johnston

LAT 125a Medieval Latin
[fl hum]
Surveys Medieval Latin prose and poetry, from the fourth to the 14th centuries, and their influence on subsequent English, French, and Italian literature. Materials will be studied in the original Latin and English. Offered on request.
Ms. Walker

Cross-Listed Courses

HIST 103a
Roman History to 455 C.E.

HIST 124b
Science in the Ancient Medieval World

NEJS 116b
The Archaeology of Ancient Israel and Its Neighbors

Courses of Related Interest

ANTH 1a
Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies

ANTH 60a
Archaeological Methods

ARBC 10a
Beginning Literary Arabic

ARBC 20b
Continuing Literary Arabic

ARBC 30a
Intermediate Literary Arabic

ARBC 40b
Advanced Intermediate Literary Arabic

ARBC 103a
Advanced Literary Arabic

ARBC 103b
Advanced Literary Arabic