Why pursue classical studies at Brandeis University?

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 has practical applications as well (e.g., the study of Latin is a proven key to communication skills in English and in the Romance languages). Both Latin and Greek have long been, and continue to be, sources of technical concepts and vocabulary in all fields, from cybernetics to political economy.

The department offers courses in the languages, literature, history, and archaeology of ancient Greece and Rome, two cultures that are the intellectual, social, political, legal, scientific, and artistic origin of Western civilization. Their brilliance and beauty have not ceased to beguile and inform for more than 2,000 years.

Department of Classical Studies
Mailstop 016
Waltham, Massachusetts
02454-9110
Rabb 140
Phone: 781-736-2180
Fax: 781-736-2184

What will your curriculum look like?
The classical studies curriculum includes Art and Archaeology of Ancient Greece and of Ancient Rome; Topics in Greek and Roman History; Pompeii; Classical Mythology; Greek Epic and Athenian Drama; Medieval Literature; Roman Decadence: Latin Literature in Translation; and the Age of Caesar. Upper-level Latin courses include Latin Prose Authors, Roman Drama, Roman Satire, Lucretius’ De Rerum Natura, Latin Lyric and Elegiac Poetry, Ovid’s Metamorphoses, and Vergil. Upper-level Greek courses include semester-long studies of Homer’s Iliad or Odyssey, as well as courses on the works of Aristophanes, Euripides, Sophocles, Aeschylus, Plato, Aristotle, Herodotus, Thucydides, and Demosthenes.

The major requires a total of nine semester courses, including the following three core courses:

- One course in Greek or Latin language (level 30 or higher)
- One course in history (Greek for Greek language students; Roman for Latin language students)
- One course in Art and Archaeology (Ancient Greece for Greek language students; Ancient Rome for Latin language students)

In addition to these core requirements, students are required to complete the following courses in their chosen track:

**Greek or Latin Literature.** Three semesters of language courses (level 30 or higher), plus three additional Classics courses.

**Classics.** Five additional language courses (level 30 or higher) with at least two in each language, plus one additional course in classical history. Classical studies majors are strongly urged to work in both Greek and Latin languages since both define the field.

**Classical Archaeology and Ancient History.** One additional class each in classical history and in classical art and archaeology; one topics course; and three other electives.

The minor requires five courses:

These courses may be taken in any combination of ancient language (level 30 and above), classical literature, art and archaeology, and history.

Research Opportunities at Home and Abroad

In addition to the many research opportunities at Brandeis, the Classics department selects outstanding majors to become Lebowitz Cohen Fellows and work with a faculty mentor on a year-long project of the student’s design. Opportunities for learning in the field include summer archaeological field research or museum internships (e.g., Boston Museum of Fine Arts or the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology in Cambridge). On campus, our Classical Colloquium Series offers a lively, intellectual forum.

Classical studies offers much to the student abroad, including the possibility of working on an archaeological dig. With departmental approval, various archaeological excavation programs may be substituted for some required courses. We encourage students to spend a semester or year abroad in exciting programs in Great Britain, Greece, or Italy.

What kind of career and education options will you have?

Studying ancient language, literature, art, and history teaches you to reason and to write. There is no straighter road to academic and career excellence than in developing and harnessing these skills. After just two semesters, Greek students are able to read Homer and Plato in the original; Latin students, Virgil, Ovid, and Catullus. You may also work toward your Latin teaching license to gain certification to teach Latin in secondary schools in most states. Classics majors are a diverse and talented group and are the recipients of major awards at Brandeis. Recent graduates have double-majored in anthropology, biochemistry, biology, chemistry, computer science, economics, English, fine arts, neuroscience, philosophy, and psychology. After they graduate, our majors go on to work in public policy, social activism, teaching (at all levels), law, administration, the arts, and many other fields.

How can you learn more?

Visit the department website at www.brandeis.edu/departments/classics or contact us at 781-736-2180. We welcome your questions and inquiries. Please contact us if you would like to hear from a current major or recent graduate. As Seneca the Younger cautioned: *Non est ad astra mollis e terris via.*