

Department of  
**Classical Studies**

Courses of Study:  
 Minor  
 Major (B.A.)

## 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.

## Faculty

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

**Patricia Johnston**  
 Latin and Greek, language and literature.

**Leonard Muellerner**  
 Greek and Latin, language and literature.

**Cheryl Walker, Undergraduate Advising Head**  
 Roman and Greek history.

## 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.

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

**E.** Certification for teaching Latin in Massachusetts high schools can be obtained concurrently with the Brandeis bachelor's degree. For details see item E under "Major in Latin Language and Literature."

### 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.

**Major in Latin Language and Literature**

A. Four semester courses in Latin numbered 30 or higher.

B. One semester course in Roman 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. Normally, 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****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, Virgil, and Dante. Thematic emphases and supplementary texts vary from year to year.

Mr. Muellner

**CLAS 98a Directed Reading**

*Signature of the instructor required.*

Usually offered every year.

Staff

**CLAS 98b Directed Reading**

*Signature of the instructor required.*

Usually offered every year.

Staff

**CLAS 99d Senior Research**

*Signature of the instructor required.*

Majors will be guided by their major professor in writing their honors paper.

Usually offered every year.

Staff

**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. Last offered in the fall of 2001.

Ms. Walker

**CLAS 115b Topics in Greek and Roman History**

[ wi hum ss ]

*A library-intensive course.*

Topics vary from year to year and the course may be repeated for credit with permission of the instructor; see *Course Schedule* for current topic. Usually offered every year. Will be offered in the spring of 2004.

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. Last offered in the spring of 2003.

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. Last offered in the spring of 2002.

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 Jews and Judaism in the Graeco-Roman world. See *Course Schedule* for current topic and description. Usually offered every year. Last offered in the spring of 2003.

Ms. Koloski-Ostrow

**CLAS 165a Survey of 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. Last offered in the fall of 2002.

Ms. Koloski-Ostrow

**CLAS 170a Classical Mythology**

[ hum ]

An introduction to Greek and Roman mythology. Usually offered every fourth year. Last offered in the fall of 1999.

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. Last offered in the fall of 2000.

Mr. Muellner

**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. Last offered in the spring of 2002.

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. Last offered in the fall of 2002.

Mr. Muellner

**GRK 98a Directed Reading**

*Signature of the instructor required.*

Generally reserved for those students who have exhausted regular course offerings. Usually offered every year.

Staff

**GRK 98b Directed Reading**

*Signature of the instructor required.*

Generally reserved for those students who have exhausted regular course offerings. Usually offered every year.

Staff

**GRK 99d Senior Research**

*Signature of the instructor required.*

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 second year. Last offered in the spring of 2002.

Mr. Muellner

**GRK 115b Ancient Greek Drama**

[ fl hum ]

The plays of Aeschylus, Aristophanes, Euripides, and Sophocles in Greek. A different playwright is studied each year. See *Course Schedule* for current topic. Usually offered every fourth year. Last offered in the spring of 2003.

Mr. Muellner

**GRK 120b Greek Prose Authors**

[ fl hum ]

Selections from Herodotus, Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle, Demosthenes, and other prose authors, in Greek. See *Course Schedule* for current topic. Usually offered every third year. Last offered in the spring of 2001.

Mr. Muellner

**LAT 10a Beginning Latin**

An introduction to Latin grammar, based on Latin authors. Usually offered every year.

Last offered in the fall of 2002.

Ms. Johnston

**LAT 20b Continuing Latin**

*Prerequisite: LAT 10a or permission of the instructor.*

See LAT 10a for course description. Usually offered every year. Last offered in the spring of 2002.

Ms. Johnston

**LAT 30a Intermediate Latin: Literature**

[ fl ]

*Prerequisite: LAT 20b or permission of the instructor. This course satisfies the foreign language requirement.*

Selections of Latin prose and verse from various periods. Usually offered every year. Last offered in the fall of 2002.

Ms. Koloski-Ostrow

**LAT 98a Directed Reading**

*Signature of the instructor required.*

Generally reserved for those students who have exhausted regular course offerings. Usually offered every year.

Staff

**LAT 98b Directed Reading**

*Signature of the instructor required.*

Generally reserved for those students who have exhausted regular course offerings. Usually offered every year.

Staff

**LAT 99d Senior Research**

*Signature of the instructor required.*

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**

[ fl hum ]

A close study of Cicero and other prose authors. Usually offered every fourth year. Last offered in the spring of 1998.

Staff

**LAT 115a Roman Drama**

[ fl hum ]

Selected plays of Plautus and Terence, in Latin. Usually offered every fourth year. Last offered in the spring of 2000.

Ms. Johnston

**LAT 116b Roman Satire**

[ fl hum ]

The satires of Horace and Juvenal, in Latin. Usually offered every fourth year. Last offered in the spring of 2003.

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. Last offered in the spring of 2002.

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. Last offered in the fall of 2002.

Ms. Johnston

**LAT 118b Roman Historians**

[ fl hum ]

Selections from the histories of Julius Caesar, Sallust, Livy, and Tacitus, in Latin. Usually offered every fourth year. Last offered in the fall of 2000.

Ms. Johnston

**LAT 119b Ovid: *Metamorphoses***

[ fl hum ]

Selections from Ovid's mythological-poetic history of the universe, in Latin. Usually offered every fourth year. Last offered in the spring of 2001.

Ms. Johnston

**LAT 120a Vergil**

[ fl hum ]

Selections from Vergil's *Eclogues*, *Georgics*, and *Aeneid* in Latin. Usually offered every third year. Last offered in the fall of 2001.

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

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**Cross-Listed Courses****ANTH 143b**

Recovering Religion in the Archaeological Record

**HIST 103a**

Roman History to 455 C.E.

**HIST 124b**

Science in the Ancient and Medieval World

**HOID 108b**

Greek and Roman Ethics: From Plato to the Stoics

**NEJS 116b**

The Archaeology of Ancient Israel and Its Neighbors

**NEJS 130b**

(formerly NEJS 192b)  
Ancient Greek-Speaking Judaism and Christianity

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**Courses of Related Interest****ANTH 1a**

Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies

**ANTH 60a**

Introduction to Archaeological Methods

**ANTH 187a**

Materials Research in Archaeology, I

**ANTH 188b**

Materials Research in Archaeology, II

**ARBC 10a**

Beginning Literary Arabic

**ARBC 20b**

Continuing Literary Arabic

**ARBC 30a**

Intermediate Literary Arabic

**ARBC 40b**

Advanced Intermediate Literary Arabic

**ARBC 103a and b**

Advanced Literary Arabic

**FA 40b**

The Formation of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Art

**NEJS 101a**

(formerly NEJS 108a)  
Elementary Akkadian

**NEJS 101b**

(formerly NEJS 109b)  
Intermediate Akkadian