
Department of
Classical Studies

Courses of Study:
Minor
Major (BA)
Graduate Certificate

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 have not ceased to beguile and inform students for more than two thousand years.

Undergraduate Major in Classical Studies

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.

Graduate Certificate Program in Ancient Greek and Roman Studies

The department offers a five-course certificate program for students with a bachelor's degree in any field. The program permits students who have taken RSEM 161 (The Examined Life) at the Rabb School and other practicing professionals in the area to continue their professional education, to gain professional development points, and to advance their school careers.

Designed to combine class experience and scholarship with experiential learning, the program allows students to make trips to various museum exhibitions, work in our Classical Artifact Research Center, learn to improve verbal and written skills, understand aesthetic creativity within the ancient world, consider the problems of historical and archaeological preservation, gain insight into archival documentation of antiquity, learn digital technologies, and gain expertise in visual media related to the ancient world (slides, digital databases, Internet resources).

How to Become a Major or Minor

Many of the courses in the Department of Classical Studies fulfill general university requirements: school distribution requirements (in three of the schools), writing-intensive course requirements, and foreign language proficiency. Classical studies affords students many opportunities to explore interdisciplinary connections between Greece and Rome and with many other civilizations, both ancient and modern. Besides the intense study of two ancient languages and literatures, the department offers comprehensive courses in the art, archaeology, and history of the Greeks and Romans. We encourage students who have had some background in Greek and Latin to resume their study of those languages as soon as possible after entering Brandeis, as those skills are more difficult to retrieve after a passage of time. Brandeis has a placement test to determine the level of instruction at which a student should begin his/her study of Latin. The test, which cannot be "self-scored," can be downloaded from the Web site of the Office of the University Registrar; follow the submission directions indicated. Students who have had no background in Greek or Latin languages should try to begin one of them as soon as possible after entering Brandeis. Each is a window on an entire civilization.

How to Be Admitted to the Graduate Program

Candidates for admission should have a bachelor's degree in any subject. The general requirements for admission to the Graduate School, specified in an earlier section of the *Bulletin*, apply to candidates for admission to graduate study in ancient Greek and Roman studies. Admission decisions are based primarily on the candidate's undergraduate academic record, two letters of recommendation, and the personal statement that is part of the application form. Applicants to the certificate program need not have completed an undergraduate major in classics. Students are encouraged, though not required, to visit the campus and to talk to the director of the program.

Faculty

Ann O. Koloski-Ostrow, Chair

Roman and Greek art and archaeology.
Latin texts. Pompeii. Ancient technology.
Mythology in classical art.

Patricia A. Johnston

Latin and Greek language and literature.
Vergil. Ancient religion. Mystery cults.

Leonard C. Muellner

Greek and Latin language and literature.
Homeric texts. Ancient poetics. Linguistics.
Mythology.

Eirene Visvardi, Florence Levy Kay Fellow in Ancient Greek Theater

Ancient Greek drama. Greek lyric poetry.
Ancient aesthetics. Ancient and modern theater. Theories of performance and the emotions.

Cheryl L. Walker, Undergraduate Advising Head

Roman and Greek history. Caesar. Alexander the Great. Medieval literature and culture.

Requirements for the Minor

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

Requirements for the Major

A. Required of all majors: A minimum of nine semester courses in classical studies, to include one course in Greek or Latin, level 30 or higher; one course in history appropriate for the language chosen (for Greek, CLAS 100a; for Roman, HIST 103a); one course in the art and archaeology of the appropriate culture (for Greek, CLAS 133a; for Roman, CLAS 134b).

B. Graduation with honors in classical studies may be achieved by completing a senior essay in one semester (CLAS 97a or b; LAT 97a or b; or GRK 97a or b) or by taking a year-long course (CLAS 99d or LAT 99d or GRK 99d) culminating in a senior thesis. One semester course credit from this year-long two-semester course may be counted toward the nine required courses with the consent of the thesis adviser.

C. We strongly urge classical studies majors to work in both Greek and Latin languages, as both define our field of study. In special circumstances students may petition for exemptions within the spirit of the disciplines of classical studies. We encourage students to think creatively about their programs. An approved summer archaeological excavation, study tour, or museum internship, completed for credit, may be counted as fulfilling one course requirement for the major. The education program can provide licensure (formerly certification) for teaching Latin and classical humanities in high schools in Massachusetts and several other states, including Connecticut and New York. Such licensure can be obtained concurrently with the Brandeis bachelor's degree by additionally completing approved courses in the education program. Interested students should meet with the director of the education program early in their course of study to ensure sufficient time to take the course sequence.

Classical studies majors must choose one of three tracks of study. The first track in classics includes both Greek and Latin, languages and literatures, whereas the second track in Greek or Latin literature requires just one core language and literature. The third track in classical archaeology and ancient history places less emphasis on language and more upon courses in ancient history, ancient art, and archaeology. With departmental approval, various archaeological excavation programs may be substituted for some required courses.

Classics Track

A. Five additional language courses numbered 30 or higher with at least two in each language (Greek and Latin).

B. A second survey in Greek or Roman history. If CLAS 100a (Greek History) completed the core requirement, HIST 103a (Roman History) must also be taken, and *vice versa*.

Greek or Latin Literature Track

A. Three semester courses in Greek or Latin numbered 30 or higher.

B. A combination of three 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 adviser.

Classical Archaeology and Ancient History Track

A. A second survey in Greek or Roman history. If CLAS 100a (Greek History) completed the core requirement, HIST 103a (Roman History) must also be taken, and *vice versa*.

B. A second survey in the art and archaeology of Greece or Rome. If CLAS 133a (Greek Art) completed the core requirement, CLAS 134b (Roman Art) must also be taken, and *vice versa*.

C. A topics course (CLAS 115b, CLAS 145b, etc.).

D. A combination of three 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 adviser.

Independent Interdisciplinary Major in Classical and English Literature

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

Requirements for the Graduate Certificate in Ancient Greek and Roman Studies

Program of Study

A. One core course: The graduate-level capstone course (CLAS 250b) is offered in alternate years in the spring semester and can be taken anytime in the two-and-a-half-year cycle.

B. Four electives: Four additional undergraduate courses from a selection of regularly offered undergraduate courses in the Department of Classical Studies, which may include independent study. Faculty in the Department of Classical Studies must teach at least three of the required five courses. A course covering another ancient civilization may be chosen (in consultation with the program chair) as one or two of the electives counting toward the five courses required for the certificate. N.B.: Students will be expected to fulfill graduate-level requirements in all courses taken.

C. Optional experiential component: A graduate course in Directed Study (CLAS 251a) is also offered to students who complete some approved experiential summer study and may serve as one of the four required elective courses.

Residence Requirement

There are no residency requirements.

Language Requirement

There is no foreign language requirement, although courses in Latin and Greek (above level 30) may be taken toward completion of the certificate.

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

Courses of Instruction

(1–99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students

HUM 10a The Western Canon

[hum]

Foundational texts of the Western canon: the Bible, Homer, Vergil, and Dante.

Thematic emphases and supplementary texts vary from year to year. Not offered 2008–2009.

Staff

CLAS 92a Internship

Usually offered every year.

Staff

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 adviser as they write their honors paper. Usually offered every year.

Staff

HUM 125a Topics in the Humanities

[hum]

An interdisciplinary seminar on a topic of major significance in the humanities; the course content and instructor vary from year to year; may be repeated for credit, with instructor's permission. Usually offered every third year.

Staff

(100–199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

CLAS 100a Survey of Greek History: Bronze Age to 323 BCE

[hum]

Surveys 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. Topics include the Age of Alexander the Great, the Age of Pericles, the Greekness of Alexander, and Imperialism in Antiquity. See the *Schedule of Classes* for the current topic. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Walker

CLAS 120a Age of Caesar

[hum wi]

This course may not be repeated for credit by students who took CLAS 115b in spring 2005.

The life and times of Gaius Julius Caesar (100–44 BCE) viewed through primary texts in a variety of genres: from Caesar himself to contemporaries Cicero and Catullus and biographers Plutarch and Suetonius. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Walker

CLAS 133a 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 BCE 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 the course may be repeated for credit. Topics include women, gender, and sexuality in Greek and Roman text and art; daily life in ancient Rome; ancient technology; and Athens and the golden age of Greece. See *Schedule of Classes* for the current topic and description. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Koloski-Ostrow

CLAS 150b Pompeii: Life in the Shadow of Vesuvius

[hum ca]

This course may not be repeated for credit by students who took CLAS 145b in spring 2005.

Examines Pompeii and Herculaneum, buried by Vesuvius in 79 CE, using the ancient cities' art, architecture, and wall writings to understand the social, political, economic, and religious realities of Roman life on the Bay of Naples, especially in the first century CE. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Koloski-Ostrow

CLAS 165a Roman Decadence: Latin Literature in Translation

[hum]

Famous Roman texts (200 BCE–200 CE) are read from social, historical, psychological, literary, and religious viewpoints. The concept of "Roman decadence" is challenged both by the Roman literary accomplishment itself and by its import on subsequent periods. 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. Considers ancient song cultures, and the relationship between myth, drama, and religion. Also explores visual representations of myth. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Mueller

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. Mueller

CLAS 180a Lovers, Tyrants, and Other Enemies: Greek Tragedy from Aeschylus to Brecht

[ca hum]

Aims to familiarize students with Greek tragedy while raising a series of questions about its function as a literary genre and as a public medium in the religious and political context of fifth-century BCE democratic Athens. Special two-time offering: fall 2007 and fall 2008.

Ms. Visvardi

CLAS 181b Eros: Love, Desire, and Identity in Ancient Greece

[ca hum]

An exploration of dance and dance culture in classical Athens through the different genres of choral poetry, tragedy, and comedy that incorporate choruses. Also considers philosophical texts that reflect on the origins and role of choral performance. Investigates the occasions that call for choral performance, the identity of the dancers, the ethical, political, and philosophical messages of the poetry that accompanies their performance, and the role that the community attributes to their dance. Discusses how philosophers view choral performance and examines the relation between ethical cultivation, political indoctrination, and the natural power of dance. Special two-time offering: spring 2008 and spring 2009.

Ms. Visvardi

(200 and above) Primarily for Graduate Students

CLAS 250b Capstone Course

Taught consecutively by department faculty on the methodologies, perspectives, and theories in the field of classical studies. Students gain insight, for example, into Homeric scholarship, Vergilian studies, historiography, and new methods and research in such areas as classical archaeology, anthropology, epigraphy, ancient Greek and Roman history, and ancient art. Usually offered every second year in the spring semester.
Staff

CLAS 251a Directed Study

A graduate course for students who complete some approved experiential summer study (e.g., participation in an archaeological excavation or in a two-week summer program at Cumae, Italy, on the Bay of Naples through the Vergilian Society). Usually offered every year in the fall semester.
Ms. Koloski-Ostrow

CLAS 298a Independent Study

Staff

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 or instructor's permission.
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 or instructor's permission.
Selections from Homer's *Iliad* or *Odyssey*, in Greek. Usually offered every third year.
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 *Schedule of Classes* for current topic. Usually offered every fourth year.
Mr. Muellner

GRK 120b Greek Prose Authors

[hum fl]
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

GRK 125a Greek Lyric Poetry

[hum fl]
Prerequisite: GRK 30a or equivalent.
Close reading and interpretation of mainly fragmentary poems, several of them newly recovered from Hellenistic papyri, of Archilochus, Alcman, Solon, Sappho, and Simonides, along with selected epinicians of Pindar and his nephew, Bacchylides; reconstruction of the poetics of lyric performance. 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.
An introduction to Latin literature; 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 wi]
Poetry and prose composition. Offered on request.
Ms. Johnston

LAT 114b Latin Prose Authors

[hum fl]
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

[hum fl]
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

[fl hum]
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

[hum fl]

Selections from Vergil's *Eclogues*, *Georgics*, and the *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 fourteenth 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**ANTH 1A**

Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies

ANTH 60A

Archaeological Methods

ANTH 60B

Archaeological Analysis

ANTH 80A

Anthropology of Religion

ANTH 105A

Myth and Ritual

ANTH 149A

Archaeology of Egypt and Canaan in Ancient Times

ANTH 153A

Writing Systems and Scribal Traditions

ANTH 156A

Power and Violence: The Anthropology of Political Systems

ENG 10A

Canonical Precursors: Genesis, Homer, Sappho, Ovid, Virgil

FA 17A

History of Art I: From Antiquity to the Middle Ages

FA 41A

Art and the Origins of Europe

HIST 56B

World History to 1960

HIST 80A

Introduction to East Asian Civilization

HIST 103A

Roman History to 455 CE

HIST 110A

The Civilization of the Early Middle Ages

HIST 113A

English Medieval History

HUM 10A

The Western Canon

HUM 125a

Topics in Humanities

LING 100A

Introduction to Linguistics

LING 112B

Historical Linguistics

NEJS 8A

The Bible in Its Near Eastern Context

NEJS 9A

The World of the Ancient Near East

NEJS 101A

Elementary Akkadian

NEJS 101B

Intermediate Akkadian

NEJS 102A

Elementary Hittite

NEJS 104A

Comparative Grammar of Semitic Languages

NEJS 104B

Ezra, Daniel, and Early Aramaic Texts

NEJS 106A

Northwest Semitic Inscriptions

NEJS 106B

Elementary Ugaritic

NEJS 110B

The Hebrew Bible: Meaning and Context

NEJS 111A

The Hebrew Bible/Old Testament

NEJS 111B

History of Israelite Religion

NEJS 112A

The Book of Genesis

NEJS 113B

Law in the Bible and the Ancient Near East

NEJS 114B

Biblical Ritual, Cult, and Magic

NEJS 116A

Ancient Near Eastern Religion and Mythology

NEJS 122A

Magic and Witchcraft in the Ancient Near East

NEJS 128A

Introduction to Christianity

NEJS 128B

History of Jewish and Christian Women in the Roman Empire

NEJS 130B

Ancient Greek-Speaking Judaism and Christianity

NEJS 140A

History of the Jews from the Maccabees to 1497

PHIL 1A

Introduction to Philosophy

PHIL 161A

Plato

PHIL 162B

Aristotle

POL 186B

Classical Political Thought

THA 1A

The Theater in History I

THA 100A

Theater Literature and Theory I

THA 160A

History of Theater Design: Classical Period to 1900