Classical Studies

Classical studies courses require no prior study of Latin or Greek, and all primary texts are read in English translation.

Dual-numbered courses (i.e. CLA 110/310) offer qualified students an opportunity for study of the course topic in greater depth and breadth. In selecting the higher-level course a student will follow the basic syllabus but will enlarge it with supplementary readings leading to occasional essays and class presentations. The higher-level option is recommended for students who have already had courses in Latin, Greek, or classical studies, and especially for those students undertaking a major or minor in the field.

Requirements for a minor in classical studies: Twenty credits in course work distributed as follows: HIS 214; four credits of Greek or Latin at the 112 or higher level; two classical studies courses, of which one must be at the 300-level; one course selected from ART 171, HIS 210, THE 231, REL 121 or 122, LIN 332.

Students who desire a major centered upon the classical languages or the ancient world may define such a course of study according to their needs and interests under the college’s option for self-designed majors described in the Academic Policies section of this catalog.

110/310. Foundations of the Western World Lowry

Four credits.
A chronological study of the art, literature, religion, and statecraft of the civilizations that formed Western culture and values: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel, Greece, and Rome. May count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information.

200. Topics in Classical Studies Lowry

Variable credit course, 2-4 credits.
Special subjects in classical studies not covered by regular courses. This course may be repeated for credit when topics change. Please see the pertinent Schedule of Courses for the listing of topics courses. Some topics may count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information.

220/320. Greek and Roman Mythology Lowry

Four credits.
An introduction to the principal myths of the Greeks and Romans, approaches to their interpretation, and their influence on the art and literature of the Western world. Some treatment of myths from the Ancient Near East for comparative purposes.

248/348. Mediterranean Adventures: Heroes in Their Epics Lowry

Four credits.
Careful readings of Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey, Apollonius’ Argonautica, and Vergil’s Aeneid. The historical and cultural context of each epic – Archaic Greece, Hellenistic Alexandria, and Augustan Rome – will be considered for an understanding of changes in the concept of heroism according to time and place. This course may count toward the Global and Cultural Studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information.
250/450 Rome's Rise to World Power

Four credits.
A survey of the history, literature, art, and architecture of Rome from the beginnings to the second century C.E. May count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information.

252/352. Emperors, Entertainments, and Edifices

Four credits.
This course will examine the history of the ancient Roman Empire beginning with its first emperor, Augustus, in the first century B.C. through the so-called “period of crisis” in the third century A.D. Topics to be covered include the lives of the emperors, literature produced under the Empire such as Vergil’s epic poem the Aeneid, imperial entertainment such as gladiators and chariot-racing, Greece under Rome, fine art such as mosaics, and the imperial building program with a survey of archaeological remains. The course will also consider the place of this period of Roman history in the modern imagination. This course may count toward the Global and Cultural Studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information.

260/360. Words and Ideas: English Etymology

Four credits.
A study of Greek and Latin elements in the English language designed to improve students’ abilities to comprehend derivatives from the classical languages in bioscientific writings and traditional literature. Special emphasis is placed on words that illuminate the culture and values of ancient Greece and Rome and on elements found in words likely to be tested on such standardized examinations as the GRE, MCAT, and LSAT.

300. Departmental Studies in the Classics

Variable credit course, 1-4 credits. Offered on demand. Special subjects in classical studies not covered by regular courses. This course may be repeated for credit when topics change. Please see the pertinent Schedule of Courses for the listing of topics courses. Some topics may count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information.

430. Variable Topic Seminar

Variable credit course, 2-4 credits. Offered on demand. Thorough study of a topic in classical studies with a substantial amount of independent writing and research.