

CLASSICAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CLAS 130: CLASSICAL GREEK LITERATURE (4)

Reading and discussion of outstanding works in translation from Archaic, Classical, and Hellenistic Greece, including selections from such authors as Homer, Sophocles, Euripides, Sappho, Herodotus, Plato, and Aristophanes. The course examines what makes these works “classics,” the defining characteristics of different genres, and the social context in which these authors worked. Open to first-year students.

CLAS 138: CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY (4)

An introduction to the nature and function of myth in Greece and Rome. Readings and discussions will give an understanding of the role of myth in religion, history, politics, and social organization. The course will also introduce the various methodologies for studying myth, such as comparative, historical, psychoanalytic, structuralism, folkloric, and feminist approaches. Open to first-year students.

CLAS 140: ROMAN LITERATURE (4)

Reading and discussion of outstanding works in translation from the Roman republic and empire, including selections from such authors as Virgil, Ovid, Catullus, Horace, Cicero, Tacitus, Juvenal, and Plautus. The course examines what makes these works “classics,” the defining characteristics of different genres, and the social context in which these authors worked. Open to first year students.

CLAS 141: ROMAN AUTHORS (1)

A one-credit course that focuses on a particular author or genre. The class discusses works read in English, their social and literary background, and modern scholarly approaches to them. This course meets once a week in conjunction with the 300-level Latin offering on that author or genre. This course is not open to those enrolled in the 300-level Latin course. The course can be repeated for credit. Open to first-year students.

CLAS 197F: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR – LEARNING FROM GAIA: NATURE, MYTH, ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN (4)

Gaia, the earth goddess, is invoked by ancient writers as a teacher of justice and balance, illustrating that even in antiquity humans understood they interacted significantly with their natural surroundings. What ancient communities thought about nature can be found in ideas expressed in their mythology, theology, and art. Archaeological remains can reveal traces of ancient use and impact. This course is an introduction to the environmental history of the ancient Mediterranean using ancient sources to discover the ways humans have lived in the natural world. Also listed as ES 197F. Placement to be determined during the summer.

CLAS 197F: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR – ROME AND SHAKESPEARE (4)

Historians both establish facts about the past and interpret those facts: what do they mean? Which facts are significant? One of the most sensitive and perceptive interpreters of Rome’s history is Shakespeare; and Rome provided Shakespeare with some of his best source material. We will read, view and discuss Shakespeare’s four Roman plays (*Julius Caesar*, *Antony & Cleopatra*, *Coriolanus*, *Titus Andronicus*) coupled with study of the relevant periods of Roman history (early republic, late republic, late empire). The goal is both to study ancient sources and their transformations and also to see Shakespeare as an interpreter of Roman history for the page and stage. Also listed as HIST 197F. Placement to be determined during the summer.

CLAS 197F: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR – THE GREAT (AND NOT SO GREAT) GREEK TRAGEDIES (4)

This first-year seminar engages students in the study of the unique nature and enduring significance of Greek tragedy. Students read tragedies by Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and O'Neill, as well as related texts on the theory of tragedy, including Aristotle's *Poetics*. Students also will stage a production of Aristophanes' *Frogs*.

Various productions on DVD and field trips will enhance the study of these plays. Also listed as THEA 197F. Placement to be determined during the summer.

CLAS 240: GREEK HISTORY (4)

Also listed and described as HIST 240.

CLAS 241: ROMAN HISTORY (4)

Also listed and described as HIST 241/241S.

CLAS 245: MYTH AND ANCIENT ART (4)

Myths from the near-eastern, Egyptian, and classical worlds are not only preserved in textual sources but also in vase paintings, architectural sculpture, carved reliefs, frescoes, and other painted media. We'll compare the artistic representations with literary sources for the mythological stories of several ancient civilizations, discuss myths known only from visual sources, learn the elements of iconography, and examine the interplay of text and image in many works of art. Also listed as ART 245. Open to first-year students.

CLAS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC – GREEK AND ROMAN THEATER (4)

Advanced study of the scripts, theaters, and staging practices of ancient Greece and Rome, including: the tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Seneca; the comedies of Aristophanes, Menander, Plautus, and Terence. We shall watch selected recordings of performances. Students will perform selected scenes. Also listed as THEA 250. No prerequisites.

CLAS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC - THE ANCIENT NOVEL (4)

Young lovers, travel, and pirates are only some of the ingredients of the ancient novel. We'll read in translation novels by Longus, Heliodorus, Achilles Tatius, and Apuleius, as well as representative selections from less-known texts. Much read and widely copied and translated across ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Latin, these texts offer precious insights on the construction of gender, the representation of the other, and the ancient readers. No prerequisite.

CLAS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC - THE GREAT GREEK TRAGEDIES (4)

This course engages students in the study of the unique nature and enduring significance of Greek tragedy and Greek theatre in Western culture. Students will read tragedies by Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, as well as related texts on the theory of tragedy, including Aristotle's *Poetics* and Nietzsche's *The Birth of Tragedy*. Various productions available on DVD will be used to enhance the study of these great plays. No prerequisite. Open to first-year students.

CLAS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC – REVEALING ROMAN WOMEN (4)

Roman and Etruscan women - mothers, maidens, priestesses, and prostitutes - as portrayed in art, literature, and history, will be the focus of this class. There is abundant and diverse evidence for women's lives in the ancient Mediterranean: Etruscan funerary sculpture with strikingly egalitarian portrayals, agrarian writings on the traditional, female, Republican virtues, prominent monuments and political plotlines for Augustan and Imperial women. The portraiture and biographies of historical women – from empress to laundress – will especially be featured. Also listed as ART 250.

CLAS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC - THE RISE AND FALL OF THE ATHENIAN "EMPIRE" (4)

John Adams once said that "Democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts and murders itself." In just a hundred short years, the ancient Athenians created, nurtured, and lost history's most famous and influential democracy. This course explores the history, culture, and politics of this democracy using the literature, art, and monuments through which the Athenians developed and expressed their democratic, and even antidemocratic, ideals. In class, we will read and recreate the debates over the relative values of democracy and aristocracy. We

will analyze and perform the “political” plays of the age and retry the philosopher Socrates, exercises through which students will hone their own rhetorical skills and develop effective practices for oral communication. In addition, we will consider the many artistic media—painting, sculpture, monuments, and architecture—through which Athenian political ideals were expressed, in order to understand the ways in which art can be used to reflect and mould the ideals and concerns of a community. No prerequisite. Open to first-year students.

CLAS 260: WOMEN IN ANCIENT SOCIETIES (2)

A four-part cycle of two-credit courses focusing on the lives and status of women in four great ancient civilizations: Egypt, Persia and the Near East, Greece, and Rome. The approach of these courses will be interdisciplinary, responsibly combining historical documents, artifacts from archaeological excavations, and preserved works of art such as statuary, reliefs, wall paintings, and other minor arts. Also listed as ART 260. Open to first-year students.

CLAS 261: ANCIENT ART (4)

Also listed and described as ART 261.

CLAS 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)

Independent study conducted below the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration.

CLAS 332: THE IDES OF MARCH (4)

Also listed and described as HIST 332.

CLAS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC – AFTERLIVES OF ANTIQUITY: METAMORPHOSES OF OVID (4)

What is a “literary tradition?” How might we recognize and make sense of one? In this seminar we focus on a foundational work in the Western literary tradition, Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, in close connection with other works from Ovid's day to our own. Topics include intertextuality and allusion; the interaction of forms, meanings, and modes of being; and the *Metamorphoses'* main theme of “transformation.” In addition to Ovid's epic poem, readings, all in English, are drawn from Apuleius, Shakespeare, Darwin, Kafka, Woolf, Italo Calvino, and A. S. Byatt. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission.

CLAS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC - ANCIENT GREEK RELIGION THROUGH ART (4)

Vase painting, votive reliefs and figurines, statuary, architectural sculpture, temple architecture, and altars are all essential pieces of evidence for the study of the Greek religion. This course examines the material remains of many different artistic genres for evidence of ancient Greek religious/cultic practice. Our investigations begin in the Bronze Age and trace the growth of the established pantheon through the Dark Ages and Geometric period but focus on the fully developed pan-Hellenic sanctuaries (e.g., Delphi, Athens, Olympia, Eleusis, Dion, etc.) in the Classical and Hellenistic periods. The canonically established 12 Olympian divinities are studied as well as hero and heroine cults, and other lesser known figures of cult. Also listed as ART 350. Prerequisite: ART/CLAS 261 or permission.

CLAS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC – GREEK AND ROMAN LYRIC POETRY (4)

Intensive study of poems and fragments in English translation by such ancient Greek authors as: Archilochus, Sappho, Alcaeus, Solon, Pindar; and such Roman authors as: Catullus, Horace, and Sulpicia. Topics to be debated and appreciated include: love, lust, obscenity, aggression, mortality, bereavement, immortality, divinity, athletics, philosophy, politics, friendship, tragedy, comedy, poetry. In short, the universe.

CLAS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC – GREEK AND SHAKESPEAREAN TRAGEDY (4)

An exploration of Shakespearean tragedy within the context of classical traditions of tragedy, focusing on the unique nature and enduring significance of Greek and Shakespearean tragedy in western culture. Students will

read closely, discuss, and see live or taped performances of tragedies by Shakespeare, as well as those by Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides. Also listed as ENG 350. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission

CLAS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC - SHAKESPEARE AND THE TRADITION OF COMEDY (4)

This course will explore the tradition of New Comedy in ancient Rome as well as its variants and extensions in the work of Shakespeare. Readings will include plays by the Roman authors Plautus and Terence, who define the conventions of the western New Comic tradition, and Shakespeare's appropriation and adaptation of those conventions in *Comedy of Errors*, *As You Like It*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *The Tempest*. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Also listed as ENG 350.

CLAS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC – SHAKESPEARE'S BOOKSHELF (4)

This course studies the intertextual dialogue that emerges between Shakespeare and the Roman authors in his library. Video and live performance will supplement this study. Texts may include the works of Ovid, Plautus, Plutarch, Seneca, and Virgil. Shakespeare plays may include *Comedy of Errors*, *Twelfth Night*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, and *Titus Andronicus*. Prerequisite: a 200-level ENG course or a 100-level CLAS course or permission of the instructors. Also listed as ENG 350.

CLAS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC - THE TROJAN WAR: MYTH & HISTORY (4)

A study of the literary and historical sources for the Trojan War. Readings in translation include epic (Iliad, Odyssey, Aeneid), tragedy (Agamemnon, Ajax, Trojan Women, Helen, others), and lyric poetry. Discussion of the historical basis centers upon Michael Wood's book *In Search of the Trojan War*. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing and fans of Brad Pitt.

CLAS 355: ADVANCED TOPICS IN ANCIENT ART - ANCIENT PAINTING (4)

This seminar explores a cross-cultural topic from ancient art in detail, focusing on evidentiary analysis and the development of research skills in the study of Mediterranean antiquity. The topic will be the genre of wall painting from seven ancient cultures: Paleolithic, Egyptian, Mycenaean, Minoan, Macedonian, Etruscan, and Roman. The various techniques of ancient painting will be studied, with an emphasis on frescoes. Students will come to an understanding of the themes, placement, and meaning of the surviving paintings as well as the issues of excavation and conservation of these fragile works of art. Also listed as ART 355. Prerequisite: ART/CLAS 261 and sophomore standing.

CLAS 355: ADVANCED TOPICS IN ANCIENT ART - POMPEII AND HERCULANEUM (4)

This seminar course will build on the basic concepts and knowledge of artistic materials and forms introduced in ancient art by examining a cross-cultural topic in more detail and focusing on developing research skills in the study of Mediterranean antiquity. The immense amount of archaeological material from Pompeii and Herculaneum allows the study of public and religious structures, houses and villas, gardens, graffiti and dipinti, papyri, sculpture, wall paintings, mosaics, and everyday objects from the Roman Empire. We will set these material remains in their economic, social, and intellectual context by reading primary sources from Roman history and Latin literature, as well as scholarly discussions. This material also permits a glimpse at the influence of Greek and Egyptian art forms on the development of Roman art. Also listed as ART 355. Prerequisite: ART/CLAS 261 and sophomore standing.

CLAS 355: ADVANCED TOPICS IN ANCIENT ART - ANCIENT GREEK RELIGION THROUGH ART (4)

Vase painting, votive reliefs and figurines, statuary, architectural sculpture, temple architecture, and altars are all essential pieces of evidence for the study of the Greek religion. This course examines the material remains in many different artistic genres for evidence of ancient Greek religious/cultic practice. Our investigations will begin in the Bronze Age and trace the growth of the established pantheon through the Dark Ages and Geometric period, but will focus on the fully developed pan-Hellenic sanctuaries (e.g., Delphi, Athens, Olympia, Eleusis, Epidauros, etc.) in the Classical and Hellenistic periods. The canonically established twelve Olympian divinities

will be studied as well as hero and heroine cults, and other lesser known figures of cult. Also listed as ART 355. Prerequisite: ART/CLAS 261 or permission.

CLAS 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)

Independent study conducted at the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration.

CLAS 395: GREEK ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY (4)

An in-depth survey of Greek material culture in five major time periods: the Bronze Age, and the Geometric, Archaic, Classical, and Hellenistic periods. Architecture, pottery, sculpture, and the small finds that define the domestic, political, and religious life of ancient Greece will be studied. Archaeological methodology, especially pertaining to chronology, will be introduced to give the material studies a firmer context. Also listed as ART 395. Prerequisite: ART/ CLAS 261 or permission.

CLAS 396: ROMAN ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY (4)

A thorough survey of material culture from Early Republican to Late Imperial Rome. The art and architecture of the Roman provinces, as well as the major monuments in Rome and Italy, will be examined. Archaeological methods that illuminate Roman advances in technology will be introduced. Also listed as ART 396. Prerequisite: ART/CLAS 261 or permission.

CLAS 399: INTERNSHIP (4)

May be proposed in any term. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration.

CLAS 480: SENIOR THESIS (2 or 4)

Students write a major research paper using primary and secondary sources. Prerequisite: Senior standing. Required of senior majors. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration.