



CLASSICS DEPARTMENT COURSES

FALL 2017



Requirements: Foreign Language, Humanities, Social Sciences, FYE
Includes courses in Gender Studies, History, Philosophy

Latin and Greek

All courses in Greek and Latin fulfill the Foreign Language Requirement

CG 210: Intermediate Greek

Prof. Mechem

M 11:15-12:10, TuTh 11:10-12:30

4 Credits

Greek, the language of Homer, Plato, Sophocles and the New Testament, is central to the Western tradition, it informed and influenced the Latin-speaking Roman world, and it contributed fundamentally to the European Renaissance.

Prerequisite: CG 110 or permission of the instructor.

CG 311: Revelation

Prof. Mechem

TuTh 2:10-3:30

4 Credits

What is an apocalypse? What are its distinguishing features? *The Revelation to John* is, perhaps, the most famous example of an apocalypse. It is, however, part of a long tradition of writings about eschatology, the end times, in the ancient Mediterranean world. Over the course of the semester we will conduct a careful reading and analysis of this text, examine some of the scholarship about this book, and attempt to understand why it has had such a profound influence on visions of the end of the world.

Prerequisite: CG 210 or permission of the instructor.

CL 110: Elementary Latin

Prof. Curley and Prof. Oh

M 11:15-12:10, TuTh 11:10-12:30

4 Credits

Latin, the root of the Romance languages of French, Spanish and Italian, and the language of the sciences and medicine, lies at the heart of Western civilization. The study of Latin and Roman culture leads to a greater understanding of our own literature and civilization, improves writing and reading skills, and helps to develop precise thinking. Students in this course will acquire the basics of Latin grammar and vocabulary while reading selected prose passages and poems by Cicero, Catullus, Vergil, Martial, and Caesar.

Prerequisite: None.

CL 311: St. Jerome

Prof. Oh

WF 10:10-12:10

4 Credits

Jerome of Stridon (c. 347-420 AD) is best known for being an accomplished translator and religious scholar. But he was also an ambitious man with a caustic wit, ready to use his extensive knowledge of the Bible to insult his enemies! In this course, we will read a variety of Jerome's works and discuss his place in the world of invective, biblical exegesis, and epistolography.

Prerequisite: CL 210 or permission of the instructor.

History

HI 205: Rise of Rome

Prof. Arnush

TuTh 12:40-2:00

3 Credits

Cicero described history as "the witness of the past, the light of truth, the survival of memory, the teacher of life, the message of antiquity." This interpretation of history will guide us as we explore the contributions of the Romans to western civilization. We will examine the first 500 years of Rome's history - from the mythical Romulus, to the domination of the Republic over the Mediterranean world and central Europe, to the Republic's collapse and replacement by the Empire. We will examine such topics as Etruscan civilization, Roman foreign relations, social and political institutions, the emergence of Latin literature, and the destructive power of partisan politics. The course concludes with a role-playing game, *Beware The Ides of March*, where students assume the roles of Roman politicians deciding the fate of the Republic in the wake of the assassination of Julius Caesar.

Prerequisite: None. Fulfills the Social Sciences requirement. Counts towards the Classics and History majors.

Classics in English

CC 220: Classical Mythology

Prof. Curley

MWF 12:20-1:15

3 Credits

What defines a myth? Who are the major deities and what are the foundational myths of ancient Greece? What is the social and historical context of these myths? Did the Greeks believe that the tales of Troy and the heroes were true? How should we interpret these stories? These are a few of the questions we will consider in our exploration of classical mythology. Through text and image we will investigate gods, heroes, and heroines to acquire an understanding of the critical role myth played in the lives of the Greeks and how those stories still resonate today.

Prerequisite: None. Fulfills the Humanities requirement. Counts towards the Classics major.

CC 365: Sex and Gender in the Ancient World

Prof. Mechem

MW 2:30-3:50

4 Credits

What constituted appropriate behavior for men and women in ancient Greece and Rome? With whom could men and women associate and have sexual relations? Did women have roles other than that of wife and mother? What did it mean to be a man? These are a few of the questions we will consider as we explore how the Greeks and Romans constructed gender and sexuality. Through primary sources in literature, history, epigraphy, art, and archaeology, we will examine the changing nature of gender and sexuality over time.

Prerequisite: None. Counts towards the Gender Studies and Classics majors.

Science

CC 265: Ancient Medicine

Prof. Oh

TuTh 3:40-5:00

3 Credits

What did the ancient Greeks and Romans have to say about health? What treatments did they seek when they got sick? Were they different for men and women? In this course, we will learn about the history of ancient medicine and discuss special topics including: the humors, magic, women's "diseases", incubation cult, and much more!

Prerequisite: None. Fulfills the Humanities requirement. Counts towards the Classics major.

Philosophy

PH 203: Ancient Greek Philosophy

Prof. Carli

WF 12:20-2:10

4 Credits

Ancient Greek thinkers engaged in a continuous dialogue about certain core philosophical questions, such as: What is the origin of philosophy? What is the nature of the cosmos? What is the relation between being and becoming? What is knowledge? What is the nature of human beings? What is happiness and how can human beings achieve it? It will be our task to enter into that conversation and consider its relevance for our own lives. Special attention will be given to Plato's and Aristotle's approaches to these questions.

Prerequisite: None. Fulfills the Humanities requirement. Counts towards the Classics and Philosophy majors.

After Skidmore

CC 395: Classics Major and Beyond

Prof. Mechem

M 10:10-11:05

1 Credit

"Classics? What are you going to do with *that*?" In this transitional course, senior majors will reflect on their work in the Classics curriculum and look ahead to life as Skidmore graduates. Working both individually and collaboratively, students will examine the relevance of classical studies to continuing intellectual, cultural, and civic engagement; explore options for future work and study; compile a portfolio documenting and evaluating coursework in the Classics major; and strengthen the presentation and communication skills essential to professional success.

Prerequisite: Senior standing as a Classics Major. Must be taken S/U.

Scribner Seminar

SSP 100: Democracy Inaction

Prof. Arnush

MW 2:30-4:20

4 Credits

What does it mean to be democratic? We speak of living in a democratic society, we refer to the "Republican" and "Democratic" parties, and yet do we understand what those terms signify, and what being "democratic" really conveys? We will look for answers first far in the past, with the ancient Greeks and their experiment with *dēmokratia*. Students will conduct close readings of texts and examine the archaeological remains of ancient Athens. We will also examine modern and public exercises of democracy – in Saratoga Springs and Vermont – as living laboratories for the contemporary American conception of democracy. Students will research their hometown forms of government and conduct an analysis of an issue facing their local system based upon the study of ancient and modern democracies.

First-Year Experience.