Department of Classics and Mediterranean Studies

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Administration:
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Classics is the study of the history, culture, and languages of the ancient Mediterranean world, with a particular focus on the Greeks and the Romans. At UIC, the field is geographically and chronologically more expansive, also encompassing studies in the Near and Middle East and northern Africa, the medieval through modern periods, and reception. In addition to a wide range of courses in classical studies, students can also learn introductory through advanced Arabic; introductory through intermediate Latin; and Modern Greek.

Students who major in classical studies go on to pursue careers in law and professional scholarship, teach, and find employment in a wide range of fields. Recent graduates have entered law, medical, and divinity schools, while others have taken positions in business, public service, and education. The training students receive in critical reading, analytical thinking, and written and oral rhetoric is highly valued and sought by prospective employers.

The Department of Classics and Mediterranean Studies offers a program leading to the Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Classical Studies. Minors in Classical Studies and Arabic are also offered.

Language Study and Major/Minor
The Major in Classical Studies requires 31 hours, including ARAB 104, GKM 104, or LAT 104 (or the equivalent to be determined by examination). Students choose electives from the fields of art and archaeology, history, classical literature, and Greek or Arabic studies.

The Minor in Classical Studies requires 18 hours but no language. For electives, students must take a combination of courses in ancient through modern Mediterranean history, culture, and art and archaeology.

Distinction
• Departmental Distinction. The candidate for departmental distinction must earn a 3.50/4.00 GPA in courses required for the major and a 3.00/4.00 overall GPA (UIC and transfer credit).
• High Departmental Distinction. The candidate for high departmental distinction must earn a 3.75/4.00 GPA in courses required for the major and a 3.00/4.00 overall GPA (UIC and transfer credit).
• Highest Departmental Distinction. Students who qualify for High Distinction and complete CL 399 with a grade of A will qualify for Highest Distinction.

Degree Program
• BA with a Major in Classical Studies

Minor
• Minor in Arabic
• Minor in Classical Studies

CL 100. Greek Civilization. 3 hours.
An introduction to the life, society and culture of the ancient Greeks. Course Information: All readings are in English. Creative Arts course, and Past course.

CL 101. Roman Civilization. 3 hours.
An introduction to the life, society and culture of the ancient Romans. Course Information: All readings are in English. Past course.

CL 102. Introduction to Classical Literature. 3 hours.
The main literary forms of Classical Antiquity: epic, tragedy, comedy, the philosophical dialogue, history. Course Information: All readings are in English. Creative Arts course, and Past course.

CL 103. Introduction to Classical and Mediterranean Archaeology. 3 hours.
Contributions of archaeological excavations to the study of ancient Greece, Rome, Egypt and the Near East; architecture, painting, and sculpture in their social and historical contexts. Course Information: All readings are in English. Creative Arts course, and Past course.

CL 120. Introduction to Ancient Philosophy. 3 hours.
Introduction to issues and methods of philosophy through engagement with classic Greek and Roman texts (read in translation). Course Information: Same as PHIL 120. Class Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Discussion/Recitation and one Lecture. Individual and Society course, and Past course.

CL 124. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible. 3 hours.
A study of the Five Books of Moses (a.k.a Torah or Pentateuch) within the contexts of the ancient Near East and biblical literature. Course Information: Same as JST 124 and RELS 124. Taught in English. Past course.

CL 128. The Jesus Movement and the New Testament. 3 hours.
Investigates the Jesus movement from its beginnings as a small Jewish reform sect through its development into the religion known as Christianity. Uses New Testament writings as primary sources for reconstructing the past.

CL 201. Medical Terminologies: Ancient Roots in Modern Medicine. 3 hours.
The structure and formation of technical terms used in the health sciences, based on roots and elements from Greek and Latin. Course Information: Same as LING 201.

CL 202. Ancient Greece. 3 hours.
Greece from the Mycenaean through the Hellenistic periods; political, social, economic, and religious life of the Greek city-state and the Hellenistic kingdoms. Course Information: Same as HIST 202. Past course, and World Cultures course.

CL 203. Ancient Rome. 3 hours.
History of Rome from its origins to the end of the Roman Empire; emphasis on transformation of Rome from city-state to world empire, with attention to social, cultural, and economic background. Course Information: Same as HIST 203. Past course, and World Cultures course.
CL 204. Greek Art and Archaeology. 3 hours.
Contribute contributions of archaeological excavations to the study of ancient Greece, 600 BC to 31 BC. Architecture, sculpture and painting in their social and historical contexts. Course Information: Same as AH 204, and HIST 204. Credit is not given for CL 204 if the student has credit in CL 215. Taught in English. 

CL 320. Roman Art and Archaeology. 3 hours.
Contribution of contributions of archaeological excavations to the study of ancient Rome and her empire 1000 BC-400 AD. Architecture, sculpture and painting in their social and historical contexts. Course Information: Same as AH 205, and HIST 205. Creative Arts course, and Past course.

CL 208. Classical Mythology. 3 hours.
Intensive study of the gods and heroic sagas of the cultures of the ancient Mediterranean world, through original sources in translation. Course Information: Same as RELS 208. All readings are in English. 

CL 209. Near Eastern Art and Archaeology. 3 hours.
Introduction to the art, archaeology, and material culture of ancient societies in western Asia (Mesopotamia, Syria, the Levant, Anatolia, and Iran) from the first settled villages of the Neolithic to Alexander the Great (ca 9600-330 BCE). Course Information: Same as AH 209. Credit is not given for CL 209 if the student has credit in AH 209 or ARST 209. Prerequisite(s): Sophomore standing or above. Recommended background: AH 110. Class Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students should enroll in one Lecture and one Lecture-Discussion. Creative Arts course, and Past course.

CL 210. Ancient Egyptian Art and Archaeology. 3 hours.
Ancient Egypt from 6000-1000 BCE. Architecture, sculpture and painting in their social and historical contexts. Course Information: Same as AH 210 and BLST 210. Credit is not given for CL 210 if the student has credit in ARST 210 or AH 210 or BLST 210. Prerequisite(s): Completion of the English Composition requirement; and sophomore standing or above. Recommended background: Credit in AH 100 or AH 110. Class Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Lecture and one Lecture-Discussion. Creative Arts course, and Past course.

CL 211. Sex and Gender in the Ancient World. 3 hours.
An exploration of the construction of gender and its relationship to love and sexuality in the ancient world through literature and art. Course Information: Same as GWS 211. Prerequisite(s): Sophomore standing or above.

CL 214. Pompeii: Everyday Life in a Roman Town. 3 hours.
Examination of the Roman town of Pompeii, including its history, society, politics, economy, religion, art, architecture, and entertainments. Course Information: Same as AH 214 and HIST 214. Past course.

CL 215. Sport in the Ancient World. 3 hours.
Survey of Greek and Roman sport from the Bronze Age to the demise of pagan athletic festivals in late antiquity (c. fifth century CE). Course Information: Same as HIST 215.

CL 220. Ancient Philosophy I: Plato and His Predecessors. 3 hours.
Introduction to Plato and his predecessors in the ancient period. Course Information: Same as PHIL 220. Prerequisite(s): One non-logic course in philosophy or consent of the instructor. 

CL 221. Ancient Philosophy II: Aristotle and His Successors. 3 hours.
Introduction to Aristotle and his successors in the ancient period. Course Information: Same as PHIL 221. Prerequisite(s): One non-logic course in philosophy or consent of the instructor. Class Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Discussion/Recitation and one Lecture.

CL 225. Topics in Muslim-Jewish Relations. 3 hours.
Muslim-Jewish interactions from the rise of Islam until contemporary times, the relationship between Biblical and Quranic materials, the Jewish and Islamic interpretative traditions and the legal systems of the two religious traditions. Course Information: Same as JST 225 and RELS 225.

CL 230. Italian and Italian American Culture and Civilization. 3 hours.
Italian and Italian American culture and civilization will explore key moments in Italian social history and its connection to the Italian diaspora. Course Information: Same as ITAL 230. Taught in English. No knowledge of Italian required. Past course, and World Cultures course.

CL 235. Introduction to Jewish Thought I. 3 hours.
Introduces students to the fundamental Jewish texts, theology, and thought of the Rabbinic period (100CE - 900 CE). Topics include: ethics, authority, sexuality, exegesis, and law. Course Information: Same as JST 235 and RELS 235. Prerequisite(s): Sophomore standing or above.

CL 242. The History of Jewish Biblical Interpretation. 3 hours.
Jewish interpretation of the Hebrew bible. A survey of the span of Jewish history and the wide range of cultural contexts that have impacted the understanding of the Torah. Same as JST 242 and RELS 242. Past course.

CL 250. Greek and Roman Epic Poetry. 3 hours.
The epic poems of Homer, Apollonius of Rhodes, Vergil, and others in the Greco-Roman tradition. Course Information: All readings are in English. Prerequisite(s): CL 100 or CL 101 or CL 102 or CL 103 or the equivalent. Creative Arts course, and Past course.

CL 251. Greek Tragedy. 3 hours.
The plays of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, and their reception. Course Information: All readings are in English. Recommended background: CL 100 and CL 102 and CL 103 or the equivalent. Creative Arts course, and Past course.

CL 252. Greek and Roman Comedy. 3 hours.
The plays of Aristophanes, Menander, Plautus, and Terence. Course Information: All readings are in English. Recommended background: CL 100 or CL 101 or CL 102 or CL 103 or the equivalent. Creative Arts course, and Past course.

CL 253. Roman Satire and Rhetoric. 3 hours.
A survey of Roman literature with special emphasis on satire and rhetoric. Course Information: All readings are in English. Recommended background: CL 101 or CL 102 or CL 103 or the equivalent. Creative Arts course, and Past course.

CL 260. Near Eastern Myths & Epic. 3 hours.
Literature and religious traditions from the ancient Near East and Egypt in the first and second millennia BCE. Course Information: All texts read in translation. Prerequisite(s): Completion of the English Composition requirement; or consent of the instructor. Recommended Background: ARST 209 or ARST 210.
CL 290. History of Political Thought I. 3 hours.
Western political theorists from ancient Greece and Rome through the end of the classical era, including Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, and Augustine. Course Information: Same as POLS 290. Prerequisite(s): POLS 120; or consent of the instructor.

CL 291. Topics in Latin Prose Authors. 3 hours.
Readings in Latin prose chosen from a single author, period, or single genre. Course Information: Same as LAT 291. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 hours if topics vary. Taught in English. Students who register in CL 291 will complete assignments in English translation. Students who register in LAT 291 will complete more than half of the readings in Latin. Prerequisite(s): LAT 104 or equivalent for students who register in LAT 291 only. Recommended background: CL 102. Class Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Lecture-Discussion and one Discussion.

CL 297. Studies in the Classical Tradition. 3 hours.
Examination of selected texts of ancient Greek and Roman literature, such as the novel, drama, and epic, and how they inform English and American literature and culture. Course Information: Same as ENGL 297. Prerequisite(s): CL 102; or consent of the instructor. Creative Arts course, and Past course.

CL 298. Topics in Classical Civilization. 3 hours.
Selected topics at an intermediate level in Greek and Roman civilization. Course Information: May be repeated. Students may register in more than one section per term. All readings are in English. Prerequisite(s): Any 100-level classics course or the equivalent.

CL 299. Independent Reading: Special Topics in Classics in Translation. 3 hours.
Individual study under faculty direction. Reading and papers on chosen topics for qualified students based on preparation and interest; students must confer with faculty. Course Information: May be repeated. Students may register in more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor and department. Class Schedule Information: This course counts toward the limited number of independent study hours accepted toward the degree and the major.

CL 304. Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic World. 3 hours.
Examines the career of Alexander the Great of Macedon and his legacy in Greece, Egypt and the Near East, up until the arrival of the Romans. Course Information: Same as AH 304. Prerequisite(s): Sophomore standing or above.

CL 340. The Trojan War and Its Legacies. 3 hours.
An examination of the literary and cultural significance of the Iliad both within its own culture, and in its continuing legacy.

CL 390. Seminar in Mediterranean Literature. 3 hours.
Comparative readings in selected texts from the literatures of Ancient Greece, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam with an emphasis on writing and research skills. Course Information: May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours.

CL 391. Topics in Latin Poetry. 3 hours.
Advanced readings in Latin poetry chosen from a single author, period, or single genre in different periods. Course Information: Same as LAT 391. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 hours if topics vary. Taught in English. Students who register in CL 391 will complete assignments in English translation. Students who register in LAT 391 will complete more than half of the readings in Latin. Prerequisite(s): CL 250 or CL 252 or CL 253; or consent of the instructor; and LAT 291 or the equivalent for students who register for LAT 391 only. Recommended background: CL 102. Class Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Lecture-Discussion and one Discussion.

CL 398. Advanced Topics in Classical Civilization. 1-3 hours.
Capstone research course, for variable credit. Emphasis on research and writing on an advanced topic in classical studies. Course Information: Students may either: 1) register for 1-2 credit hours of CL 398 while concurrently enrolled in a CL (or other approved) course at the 200-level or above; or 2) register for 2-3 credits as an independent study with permission of faculty. Discuss with faculty to determine appropriate number of credit hours. Prerequisite(s): At least two Classics (or approved) courses at the 100 or 200-level.

CL 399. Independent Study: Honors Project. 1-3 hours.
Selected topics for individual study. Course Information: Restricted to students seeking Highest Distinction in Classics. Prerequisite(s): A minimum 3.75/4.00 GPA in major courses and the completion of and/or concurrent registration in four advanced 200- and/or 300-level courses in the major, in consultation with the academic advisor.

CL 401. Topics in Greek History. 3 or 4 hours.
Specific topics are announced each term. Course Information: Same as HIST 401. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated. Prerequisite(s): 3 hours of history or classics.

CL 405. Herodotus and His World. 3 or 4 hours.
Examines the Histories of Herodotus - both the text and the culture of Classical Greece compared to the Near East and Egypt. Course Information: Same as HIST 405. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): Sophomore standing or above.

CL 408. Athenian Democracy and Society in the Age of Aristophanes. 3 or 4 hours.
A careful examination of the comedies of Aristophanes, his acute criticism of Athenian politics, and his account of the war between Athens and Sparta. Course Information: Same as HIST 408. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): CL 202. Recommended background: one of the following courses: CL 251, CL 252, CL 405 or HIST 405.

CL 466. Material Worlds: Topics in Material Culture Studies. 3 or 4 hours.
Examines current theories of material culture, drawn from art history, archaeology and anthropology to reflect on technologies of production and social life of things. Case studies will be drawn from ancient, medieval and modern historical context. Course Information: Same as AH 466 and ANTH 466. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

CL 499. Advanced Independent Study. 3 or 4 hours.
Advanced independent study under faculty direction. Reading and papers on chosen topics for qualified students based on preparation and interest. Students must consult with faculty. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated. Students may register in more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the faculty member and department. Class Schedule Information: This course counts toward the limited number of independent study hours accepted toward the undergraduate degree and the major.