



# Classical Civilizations

The Classical Civilizations program is designed for the student who possesses a passionate interest in exploring the history, languages, and cultures of the ancient world. The program, with its emphasis on a comprehensive introduction to ancient civilizations, gives undergraduates an opportunity to study the societies of ancient Greece and Rome in depth. These cultures, through their theater, philosophy, science, and government, helped shape the modern world and its Western traditions. Studying them brings new insight into our own age. The program embraces the qualities of Gonzaga University's Core Curriculum, providing students with exposure to some of the world's greatest thinkers, including Aristotle and Plato, as well as its most influential cultural treasures, like the Parthenon in Athens and the Colosseum of Rome.

## THE PROGRAM

The Department of Classical Civilizations—one of the oldest at our University—provides undergraduates with access to over 2,500 years of human experience drawn from the multicultural world of the ancient Mediterranean and Near East. Classical Civilizations is an interdisciplinary program devoted to the study of the Mediterranean world, with an emphasis on the cultures of Ancient Greece and Rome. In addition to the language and culture courses related to a student's area of interest, students take classes in several different academic disciplines, including philosophy, religious studies, and history. The program offers both a **major** (36 credits) and **minor** (23 credits) in Classical Civilizations (CLAS).

## CURRICULUM

All majors and minors are required to complete two upper-division CLAS courses as part of the degree, as well as a minimum of at least three language courses in either **Latin or Greek** at the Introductory (100) and Intermediate (200) levels. Students who pursue a major in this program must choose a focus in either Latin language/literature or Greco-Roman civilization and complete five CLAS elective courses. Minors are required to select three upper-level CLAS electives. The electives encompass a range of disciplines, including history, archaeology, philosophy, religious studies, and intermediate and advanced Latin and Greek. Majors are required to include at least one course in Greek culture and one course in Roman culture from among the elective offerings. Examples of CLAS courses include the following:

- Greek Gods & Heroes
- The Iliad & The Odyssey
- Women in Antiquity
- Roman Epic

- Intro to Classical Literature
- Ancient Near Eastern Archeology
- Peoples and Empires of Turkey

In the fall semester of their senior year, Classical Civilizations majors will enroll in the 3-credit CLAS 499-**Senior Thesis course**, which is necessary for completing the degree and its various concentrations. Examples of recent thesis titles include:

- "Everlasting Light: Roman Heritage and Roman Resistance in the Early American Republic"
- "Late Antique Christian Iconography: The Redefinition of Pagan Motifs and Their Respective Use on the Mediums of Gemstones and Coinage"
- "Vitrum Flexile: A Case Study of Roman Mold-Blown Glass at the Seattle Art Museum"
- "Social and Sexual Intercourse: Exploring the Role and Reality of the Hetaira in Classical Greek Culture and Iconography"
- "From Fear to Awe'd Fascination: Taboo and Tragic Myth Structures in Phaedra's Love"

Participating students are thus required to complete a balanced curriculum divided between the study of ancient languages (Latin, Greek) and their contemporary societies. Through this combined focus, students gain a broader comprehension of and appreciation for the rich cultural and humanistic heritage stemming from the classical world. The ancients themselves embraced this model of liberal arts education. According to the Roman orator Cicero, such cultural and historical study "illuminates reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity."

Upper-division courses in Latin and topics related to classical cultures are offered each semester, while upper-division coursework in Greek is offered on a tutorial basis based on the needs of the individual student. Coursework in New Testament



Greek is also available on a rotating schedule, as are summer session courses in Latin and Greek.

Students who wish to study Latin or Greek to supplement another major or to prepare for advanced work in other fields will find their needs met in this program, as will students seeking to fulfill the College's foreign language requirement.

## STUDENT CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

**Eta Sigma Phi** is an honorary collegiate society for students of Latin and/or Greek. The society consists of students who share a love of all things ancient, whether it be languages, societies, literature, or the arts. The group plans activities on and off campus that help promote Classics to others in the community. Past society activities have included tutoring in local high schools, publicizing campus events linked to the Classics, and various service activities.

The **Gonzaga Latin/Classics Club** seeks to promote awareness of Latin, Greek and the Classical world on campus. The club hosts events and meetings that seek to foster interest in the Latin and Greek languages and provide learning opportunities for students interested in the ancient world. The Latin/Classics Club also provides a gateway for those who aspire to become members of Eta Sigma Phi.

## OUTCOMES

The study of the classics prepares students for careers in teaching, historical research, and museum work, but it can also be used to prepare for studying disciplines like business, law, politics, science, and medicine. About 70 percent of Gonzaga's Classical Civilizations graduates will go on to graduate study in a Classics-related field

or other professional programs. Recent graduates of the program have entered master's or doctoral programs in classics or archaeology at Oxford University, the University of Missouri and the University of Washington. Others have attended graduate school for programs in related fields, such as the Early Christian Studies Program at the University of Notre Dame and graduate studies in Ancient and Medieval Art at New York University.

## THE PEOPLE

### A SAMPLE OF PUBLICATIONS BY CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS FACULTY:

#### Dr. Andrew Goldman

"New Evidence for Non-Elite Burials in Central Turkey", in J.R. Brandt, E. Hagelberg, G. Bjornstad and S. Ahrens (eds.), *Life and Death in Asia Minor in Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine Times. Studies in Archaeology and Bioarchaeology* (OxBow Books, 2017), 149-75.

"Sinope Ancient Kale Excavations 2015: towards a new model of mobile fishing communities and incipient trade in the Black Sea." With O.Doonan, H.Vural, A. Bauer, J. Rempel, E.S. Sherratt, K. Domzalski, and A. Smokotina. *Antiquity Project Gallery* (April 2016), [antiquity.ac.uk/antplus/projgall](http://antiquity.ac.uk/antplus/projgall).

"The Octagonal Gemstones from Gordion: Observations and Interpretations." *Anatolian Studies* 64 (2014): 163-97.

"Weapons and the Army." In *A Companion to the Archaeology of the Roman Republic*. Ed. J. DeRose. Wiley-Blackwell (2013): 123-40.

"A Pannonian Auxiliary's Epitaph from Roman Gordion." *Anatolian Studies* 60 (2010): 129-46.

#### Dr. Dave Oosterhuis

"Veni, Vidi, Vicipaedia: Using the Latin Wikipedia in an Advanced Latin Classroom." *Teaching Classical Languages*

7.2 (2016): 168-197.

"Orpheus, the Original Penniless Poet: Plutus/Pluto in Anaïs Mitchell's *Hadestown*." *Syllecta Classica* 23.1 (2013): 103-126.

## FACULTY CONTACTS & SPECIALTIES

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