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 theatre, 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
Participating students are 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 “illumines reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity.”

The program’s courses are by nature interdisciplinary, with application to the sciences, art, theatre, literature, philosophy, religion, politics, and government. Moreover, through addressing relevant issues of gender, ethnicity, and interaction between cultures, the curriculum reaches well beyond the borders of Greece and Rome to embrace other civilizations across the world and time. By immersing students in an examination of the languages and ethnically diverse societies of antiquity, the program prepares them for careers within a world that is increasingly multicultural, interdependent, and global in outlook, in such fields as politics, ethics, business, law, sciences and education.

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 Archaeology
- Peoples and Empires of Turkey

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
Students graduating with a degree in Classical Civilizations will develop the following:
• The skills of close reading and analysis through the study of ancient texts and material culture
• Linguistic and cultural fluency with the classical roots of Western Tradition
• Professional-level writing and communication skills
• Historical perspective and insight into their own lives and the world today

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 at Oxford University 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
“A Pannonian Auxiliary’s Epitaph from Roman Gordion.” Anatolian Studies 60 (2010): 129-46

Fr. Patrick Hartin
“Apollos: Partner or Rival of Paul?” Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2010

Dr. Dave Oosterhuis
“Orpheus, the Original Penniless Poet: Plutus/Pluto in Anaïs Mitchell’s Hadestown.” Syllecta Classica 23.1 (2013): 103-126

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