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 elect to 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
- Love Poetry in Antiquity
- Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology
- 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:

- “Social and Sexual Intercourse: Exploring the Role and Reality of the Hetaira in Classical Greek Culture and Iconography”
- “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”
- “From Fear to Awed 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 of Arts and Sciences’s foreign language requirement.

STUDENT CLUBS/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 at Tulane 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


Rev. Patrick Hartin


Dr. Dave Oosterhuis


Faculty Contacts and Specialties:

Dr. Andrew Goldman | Ph.D., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill | Dept. Chair | Associate Professor of History | ancient history (Roman and Greek), classical archaeology, classical languages (Latin and Greek) | goldman@gonzaga.edu

Rev. Patrick Hartin | D.Th., University of South Africa | Professor of Religious Studies (New Testament) | the Letter of James, traditions behind the Gospels (particularly the Sayings Gospel Q) | hartin@gonzaga.edu

Rev. Ken Krall, S.J. | M.A., Gonzaga University | Senior Lecturer | classical languages (Latin and Greek) | krall@gu.gonzaga.edu

Dr. Dave Oosterhuis | Ph.D., University of Minnesota | Assistant Professor of Classical Civilizations | Augustan Rome and its reception, the poet Vergil, and the portrayal of ancient Rome in popular culture | oosterhuis@gonzaga.edu