

CLASSICS

Department Website:

<https://www.haverford.edu/classics>

The Department of Classics embraces the interdisciplinary study of any and all aspects of ancient Greek and Roman cultures. Our courses also invite students to explore the people, ideas, and works that Greek and Roman antiquity inspire, influence, and shape throughout time and around the world. The Department offers courses in ancient history, literature, and culture in English translation; as well as courses in Greek and Latin language and literature at all levels.

What Is Classics?

Classics, in the broadest sense, is the study of the ancient Greek and Roman world, its cultures, and their impact on later cultural traditions. The elasticity of these terms (e.g., “ancient,” “culture,” “Roman”) gives the discipline dynamism, but its shared center is a common body of texts.

The careful reading of texts remains central to our discipline, as a window onto all aspects of life and culture in the ancient Greek and Latin worlds. These include history, law, religion, material culture, art, family life, politics, and philosophy. It also looks to the long life of these texts and ideas in their iterative reception by peoples in different times and places, as well as how the classical cultures of the ancient Mediterranean can be productively brought into dialogue with other classical cultures from around the world.

Why Study Classics?

By engaging with the ideas of antiquity, we situate ourselves within a variety of intersecting and rich dialogues between the ancient and post-classical worlds. One of the greatest benefits of Classics—as major, minor, or single class experiment—is the bracing experience of encountering through text and across a vast gulf of time people who are at once familiar and strange; influential on how we think, act, and feel; and yet radically different from us. With honest and critical engagement, this encounter can leave us changed as freer and more powerful thinkers.

By confronting the ideas of antiquity, we join a variety of rich and intersecting conversations about the ancient and post-classical worlds. Exploration within these other worlds allows students to consider and challenge concepts of cultural inheritance, canonicity, and tradition. Studying Latin and Greek in particular equip students with a greater facility in understanding the potential and limitations of

language itself as it is practiced in speech and literature. As Theodor Seuss Geisel (i.e., Dr. Seuss) put it, Classics “allows you to adore words, take them apart and find out where they came from.”

Such training can also enrich study in other disciplines—most notably fields like philosophy, comparative literature, and history—where knowledge of the pervasive presence and diverse reception of Greco-Roman antiquity can produce valuable insights. Likewise, because of the breadth of our inquiries, students’ other interests and experiences can enrich a their study of the ancient world and illuminate their other studies in turn.

Studying Classics prepares our students for a variety of careers after graduation. Some have pursued advanced degrees in classics or related fields (e.g. archaeology, religion, comparative literature, medieval studies); others have studied medicine or law; still others have chosen careers in journalism, in business, in technology, in publishing, in social work, in museum curatorship, and in secondary education.

Learning Goals

- Students will learn ancient Greek or Latin (or both), cultivating an urgent connoisseurship of the word. Through this “love for words upon words, words in continuation and modification” (Eudora Welty), they acquire the power to analyze and interpret foundational texts of western philosophy, history, oratory, fiction, and poetry in their original forms.
- Students will connect with thought-provoking and influential texts from antiquity and consider the benefits of the canon — and its dangers. They can recognize their role in a continuing story of communication and reassembly: “Break a vase, and the love that reassembles the fragments is stronger than that love which took its symmetry for granted when it was whole” (Derek Walcott).
- Students will read carefully, deeply, looking to vital context, with reservations and with appreciation of crucial detail, in dialogue with others and with confidence in their own insights, with doors left open, with delicate fingers and eyes (Nietzsche, *Daybreak* 1881).
- Students will confront the most persistent questions about the nature of things, heeding the Socratic warning that “the unexamined life is not worth living” (ὁ δὲ ἀνεξέταστος βίος οὐ βιωτὸς ἀνθρώπῳ, Plato, *Apology* 38a).
- Students will carry their education with them, becoming speakers of words and doers of deeds (μύθων τε ῥητῆρ’ ἔμειναι πρῆκτῆρά τε ἔργων, Homer, *Iliad* 9.443), striving to become individuals to whom nothing human is foreign (*homo sum: humani nil a me alienum puto*, Terence, *HT* 77).

- Students will strive not to amass a cache of the trivial or ephemeral but to create a community of learning in partnership with faculty and students in the full spirit of Haverford's motto (*non doctior sed meliore doctrina imbutus*).
- Students will, at the culmination of their studies, important questions about classical culture or its reception with theoretical rigor, in dialogue with the work of other scholars, in collaboration with their peers, and under the auspices of a faculty Mentor.
- Students will question the lives that speak in multiple pasts, presents, and futures. As we turn our gaze and tune our ears to the pulse of life from the past, and see how bygone people "step into the thick of emotions which blind and bewilder an age like our own" (Virginia Woolf), we forge our future selves and others through engagement, critique, and interpretation.

Haverford's Institutional Learning Goals are available on the President's website, at <http://hav.to/learninggoals>.

Curriculum

The major programs in Classics reflect the diversity of the field: students may major in Classical Culture and Society; Classical Languages (Greek and Latin); or Greek or Latin (in conjunction with a related modern field). We encourage majors to study abroad during a semester of their junior year in Greece, Italy, or any other country with a strong tradition in Classical studies. Students may choose from three minors, each of which requires six courses: Greek, Latin, or Classical Culture and Society.

Major Requirements

Classical Culture Track (11 Courses)

Haverford's track in Classical Culture offers students the opportunity to explore life in Classical antiquity in all of its dimensions—from language, to literature, to history, philosophy, archaeology, and more—as well as its impact on later cultural traditions. It is designed to allow the student to use a foundation in Greek or Latin as the springboard to chart their own paths through the College's rich offerings in archaeology and art history, history, politics, philosophy and religion, and classical literature and its reception.

- Two semesters in either Latin or Greek at any level.
- Seven elective courses, including at least two at the 200 level or above, and one at the 300 level or above. Such courses could include:

- Any Classical Studies, Greek, or Latin course (including cross-listed and tagged courses offered by faculty in other departments)
- With advisor approval, courses outside the department that engage with the ancient Mediterranean world or its afterlife; for example:
 - other historical languages
 - Archaeology, Art History, History, Religion, or Anthropology courses on Mediterranean, North African, and Near Eastern cultures
 - courses on the reception of ancient Mediterranean culture, such as Medieval Studies, Comparative Literature, Museum Studies, or courses focused on the classical tradition
- Senior Seminar and Thesis (CSTS H398/CSTS H399).

Classical Languages Track (11 Courses)

Haverford's Classical Languages track offers students the opportunity to gain proficiency in one of both of Greek and Latin or another classical language and to explore Classical texts and the literary, historical, and philosophical contexts in which they emerged.

- Six courses beyond the introductory level in Greek or Latin, of which at least four must be at the 200 level or above.
- Three elective courses. Such courses could include:
 - Any Classical Studies, Greek, or Latin course (including cross-listed and tagged courses offered by faculty in other departments)
 - With advisor approval, courses outside the department that engage with the ancient Mediterranean world or its afterlife; for example:
 - other historical languages
 - Archaeology, Art History, History, Religion, or Anthropology courses on Mediterranean, North African, and Near Eastern cultures
 - courses on the reception of ancient Mediterranean culture, such as Medieval Studies, Comparative Literature, Museum Studies, or courses focused on the classical tradition
- At least one of the above Greek, Latin, or Classical Studies courses must be at the 300 level or above
- Senior Seminar and Thesis (CSTS H398/CSTS H399).

Majors' Reading List

The Majors' Reading List consists of a group of essential Greek and Latin texts selected by the

faculty, to be read in English (if not in the original) by the beginning of the senior year. Many of these texts will have been assigned in different classes, while others will complement class readings. By reading, considering, and discussing the texts on the list, Classics students—whatever the focus of their particular major—will emerge with a stronger common basis for discussion and with a better sense of the range and depth of the Classical heritage. For most works a particular translation or translations is suggested on the department website, but if students would like to read a different version, they may consult with any faculty member to learn whether the translation is a reasonable alternative. (The list is posted on the departmental website at <https://www.haverford.edu/classics/reading-list>.)

Senior Project

The senior experience in the Department of Classics builds towards the writing of a senior thesis (typically 35 to 45 pages) on a topic of the student's choice, under the guidance of two faculty members. In their theses, Classics students present original work based on serious and extensive research, extending knowledge about antiquity and its reception in innovative and illuminating ways.

Senior Seminar, a weekly course conducted during the fall semester, provides a forum in which students are introduced to a variety of theoretical approaches, further develop the ability to read and critique scholarship, and learn about resources for research in the field; it also gives them an opportunity to craft an interesting and appropriate question that they will explore in the thesis they write during the spring semester.

Senior Project Learning Goals

In the process of writing the senior thesis, students should acquire and demonstrate:

- the ability to craft an interesting and appropriate question in order to make a new contribution to the field of Classics.
- the ability to read relevant ancient texts, in the original languages as appropriate, and to discuss and analyze aspects of Classical culture.
- a familiarity with relevant modern scholarship and engagement with the methods and standards of the discipline of Classics.
- the ability to develop an article-length paper, consisting of original work, under the mentorship of two faculty.

Senior Project Assessment

The thesis is evaluated on the following criteria:

- **Conceptualization of an original research question**
Students strive to acknowledge and explore the full implications of an innovative thesis question. Students demonstrate with depth and precision the importance of the question and what is at stake in answering it.
- **Familiarity with and understanding of primary texts**
Students engage primary sources to answer their research question. Their primary evidence is well organized, exhaustive, and integrated with the continuing scholarly conversation to which they are contributing. Students strive to display a creative approach to existing sources or bring new and illuminating sources to bear on their research question.
- **Engagement with secondary literature**
Students demonstrate comprehensive mastery of scholarly literature as it pertains to the thesis topic by synthesis of and contribution to the scholarly conversation.
- **Methodological and theoretical approach**
Students ground their theses in current knowledge about antiquity, demonstrating a thorough understanding of relevant methodological and theoretical issues.
- **Quality of argument**
Students construct a well-reasoned, well structured, and clearly expressed argument; the line of thought emerges clearly, and the conclusions are persuasive.
- **Clarity of writing**
Writing is consistently engaging, clear, well organized, and enjoyable to read.
- **Oral presentation**
At the end of the semester, students demonstrate comprehensive understanding of their topic in an articulate and engaging presentation and are able to provide innovative and thoughtful answers to questions.

Requirements for Honors

Students demonstrating superior performance in course work in the major and on the senior thesis will be eligible for departmental honors. To qualify for honors, students must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.7 in their major courses (3.85 for high honors) and earn a grade of at least 3.7 on the senior thesis (3.85 for high honors).

Minor Requirements

Classical Culture Track (6 Courses)

- Six courses drawn from the range of courses counted towards the Classical Culture Major, including:

- At least two Classical Culture and Society courses at the 200 level or above
- At least two Greek or Latin courses at any level

Classical Languages Track (6 Courses)

- Six courses in Greek or Latin, including at least two at the 200 level or above.

Related Programs

Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology at Bryn Mawr

Haverford students often pursue coursework and research on the material culture of the ancient world within one of our major programs. Students may also major or minor in Archaeology at Bryn Mawr. Among the notable 'Fords who have taken this path are Brian Rose, excavator of Troy & former President of the American Institute of Archaeology, & Carlos Picón, curator of Greek & Roman Art at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The Archaeology program is interdisciplinary and encourages students to take advantage of related offerings in Departments of Anthropology, Classics, Geology, History, History of Art, and the Program in the Growth and Structure of Cities. The Ella Riegel Memorial Collection of over 6,000 artifacts is used in instruction.

Museum Studies at Bryn Mawr

Haverford students can attain a minor in Museum Studies, a rich and dynamic education in both museum theory and practice. Through coursework and internships, students also have the opportunity to gain practical hands-on experience in the Special Collections as well as in museums, galleries and archives in Philadelphia and beyond.

Teacher Certification

Latin majors interested in teaching as a career may earn a K-12 teacher certification by completing the Latin major and teacher certification track of the Education Minor or by enrolling in the Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Education Program for Bryn Mawr and Haverford graduates.

4+1 Master's Program at Bryn Mawr

Students are offered the opportunity to work towards a Master's degree in Classics concurrently with their work towards their undergraduate degree. Up to two seminars may count towards both degrees. Eligible students must present an overall grade point average of at least 3.40 and an undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.70 in the subject of the proposed master's degree.

Study Abroad

The Classics Department encourages its students to study abroad in Greece or Italy, usually for

a semester in their junior year. Majors in the Department of Classics may receive up to 6 credits for pre-approved courses taken at departments on the College's list of study abroad programs.

Students interested in studying abroad should talk to a member of the Classics faculty. For further information about studying abroad at Haverford, visit the Study Abroad website.

The most popular programs in Greece and Italy include:

College Year in Athens

College Year in Athens, or CYA, is a study abroad program focused upon the history and civilization of Greece and the East Mediterranean region. Its mission is to offer each student an academically rigorous program of studies combined with the vibrant experience of day-to-day contact with people, monuments, and landscape of Greece.

Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome

At the "Centro" students can study Latin, Greek, Italian, art history, and the ancient city in Rome; they also take field trips in Rome, Pompeii, and Sicily. Students planning on studying abroad at the Centro are strongly encouraged to take Roman History (or equivalent) before applying.

Prizes

The department awards a number of prizes, grants, and fellowships.

Departmental Classics Prizes

- **The Daniel Gillis and Joseph Russo Prize** is awarded for the best essay in Classical Studies.
- **The William K. Baker Prize in Greek** is presented to the student who has done the best work in Greek.
- **The Howard Comfort Prize in Latin** is presented to the student who has done the best work in Latin.
- **The Class of 1896 Prize in Latin for Sophomores** is awarded to the sophomore who has done the best work in Latin.
- **The Class of 1902 Prize in Latin for First-years** is awarded to the first-year who has done the best work in Latin.
- **The Mark L. Hepps Prize** is awarded in memory of Mark Larry Hepps '79. This prize is awarded for diligence in the study of elementary Greek or Latin.
- **SCS Prize Outstanding Student Prize** is awarded to the student who has made the greatest contribution to the study of Classics at Haverford.

Utraque Lingua Grants

The Utraque Lingua Grants support further study of Latin and Greek by Haverford students.

Fellowships

- Augustus Taber Murray Research Fellowships
- Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship

Special Programs

The department's extra-curricular life includes visiting speakers, occasional expeditions to plays or museums in Philadelphia and New York City, the annual Bi-College ORALiTea (an occasion for the recitation of Greek & Latin literature), annual public marathon readings of Classical texts, Latin scavenger hunts, student reading groups, and other departmental convivia.

The faculty encourages and supports events that are organized by students. Bryn Mawr hosts a weekly Classics Tea and Colloquium featuring visiting lectures.

Faculty

Matthew Farmer

Associate Professor and Chair of Classics

Bret Mulligan

Associate Provost for Faculty Scholarship; Professor of Classics

Ava Shirazi

Assistant Professor of Classics

Ryan Warwick

Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics

Emeritus Faculty

Deborah Roberts

Professor Emerita of Classics and Comparative Literature

Courses in Classical Studies Not Requiring Greek or Latin at Haverford

CSTS H119 AGE OF ATHENS (1.0 Credit)

Ava Shirazi

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

This course examines the social and political life of Athens in the 5th century BCE. We will approach Athenian ideas such as democracy, citizenship, science, religion, gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity through Greek drama, philosophy, painting, sculpture, architecture and more. We will also approach the legacy and history of Athens through its reception: the way Athenian practices and ideals have been incorporated into, and at times show up

unexpectedly in, modern culture. Throughout the semester, students will engage in active-learning pedagogy through a series of hands-on workshops, re-creations and competitive games, all in the spirit of the Athenian love for competition and craft.

Crosslisted: Classical Studies, PJHR

CSTS H121 ROMAN REVOLUTIONS (1.0 Credit)

Bret Mulligan

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

An introduction to what it meant to be a Roman by exploration what made the Romans revolutionary (in politics, military, philosophy, literature, art, and more) in their time and of lasting influence thereafter. The course culminates in a three-week role playing game, in which you will embody a particular Roman persona during a particular socio-political flashpoint in 63 BCE. All readings will be in English

(Offered: Spring 2026)

CSTS H209 CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY (1.0 Credit)

Matthew Farmer

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

An introduction to the primary characters and stories of Greek and Roman mythology including cosmic creation, Olympian and other deities, and heroes both as they appear in Greek and Roman literature and art and as they are later represented in modern art, music, and film. Crosslisted: Classical Studies, Comparative Literature, Religion

CSTS H211 WHAT DOES ANCIENT ROME TASTE LIKE? (1.0 Credit)

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

We will seek to understand why Roman eating was, and still is, important for our understanding an ancient culture and humanity's relationship with its food. Emphasis will be placed on the interpretation of Roman literature in English translation as well as the use of primary and secondary sources to craft an academic argument. Grading will be based on class participation, reaction journals, two short papers, and a final paper or creative project. Lottery Preference: Classics Majors & Minors

CSTS H222 CREATING CLASSICS: A VISUAL WORKSHOP ON PASOLINI & GREEK DRAMA (1.0 Credit)

Ava Shirazi

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Can our engagement with the past be a creative action? A reclaiming of ancient ideas and media? This seminar-workshop hybrid answers such questions through collaborative scholarship and experiments with Greek tragedy and its afterlife in cinema.

(Offered: Fall 2025)

CSTS H225 DANGEROUS WOMEN IN ANTIQUITY (1.0 Credit)

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

How do intersecting identities (race, ethnicity, class, gender) contribute to labelling a woman or group of women as dangerous? In this course we will examine various types of "dangerous" women from antiquity, and explore how these women embody both the idea of repressed sexuality, hidden knowledge, and peril. We'll first investigate mythological and legendary figures such as Medusa and Clytemnestra, then turn to more historical figures such as Cleopatra and Boudicca. Lottery Preference: Classics Majors and Minors

CSTS H231 QUEER ROAD-TRIP FILMS, ANCIENT AND MODERN (1.0 Credit)

Staff

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

The queer road-trip film has been gaining popularity as an outlet for exploring non-normative sexuality further marginalized on the road. We will examine the phenomenon of the queer road-trip narrative, approaching it from an unlikely starting point: the Ancient Mediterranean novels *Satyrice* and *Leucippe and Clitophon*. Both of these ancient novels dramatize road trips and travel narratives involving different combinations of queer characters; we'll pair them with a curated selection of contemporary queer road-trip films. Crosslisted: GSST,VIST.

CSTS H257 ANTIGONE'S ECHOES: ACTIVISM AND THE LAW FROM ANCIENT GREECE TO TODAY (1.0 Credit)

Matthew Farmer

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Where should the law come from, the individual or the state? How can you protest an unjust system, and how can an ancient story help you do it? Who owns a "Classic"? These are just a few questions that Sophocles' *Antigone* has raised for philosophers and playwrights from the Enlightenment to today. We'll read several versions of the *Antigone* myth and explore this character's enduring relevance to theories of gender, performance, world literature, and politics. Crosslisted: COML,PEAC.

(Offered: Spring 2026)

CSTS H270 THE ART OF SPORTS: ANCIENT AND MODERN (1.0 Credit)

Ava Shirazi

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

This course explores the visual and poetic life of sports, ancient and modern. It brings together cultural criticism, visual analysis, and historical study to theorize the beauty of athletics. Concepts of the body, gender, race and performance, and tropes such as "for the love of the game," "feel for the game" and "poetry in motion" will organize our work on the sensory and aesthetic dimensions of sports. No prior expertise in classics, art or sports necessary. Crosslisted: COML,VIST.

(Offered: Fall 2025)

CSTS H293 TRANSLATION AND OTHER TRANSFORMATIONS: THEORY AND PRACTICE (1.0 Credit)

Maud McInerney

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

An exploration of the theory and practice of translation: from language to language, from culture to culture, and from medium to medium. We will consider different approaches to translation in theoretical writings and in case studies drawn from works in different languages, with attention to changing views and to areas of controversy. Assignments will include both papers and translations, and students may develop translation projects of their own. Crosslisted: Comparative Literature, Classical Studies Prerequisite(s): Student must be at least at the intermediate level in at least one language other than English

(Offered: Spring 2026)

CSTS H380 GUIDED RESEARCH IN CLASSICAL STUDIES (1.0 Credit)

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course is taken concurrently with a 200-level CSTS course to give majors an opportunity to engage in mentored research and practice with scholarly writing. In addition to the work for the 200-level course, students will research and write a substantial final project.

(Offered: Fall 2025)

CSTS H398 SENIOR SEMINAR (1.0 Credit)

Ava Shirazi

Division: Humanities

A bi-college seminar focused on refining the ability to read, discuss, and analyze classical culture and

the scholarship of various sub-fields of Classical Studies (e.g. literature, religion, philosophy, law, social history), leading towards the completion of a prospectus for the senior thesis.

CSTS H399 SENIOR SEMINAR (1.0 Credit)

Ava Shirazi

Division: Humanities

Independent work on the senior thesis and meetings with the thesis advisor.

(Offered: Fall 2025)

CSTS H460 TEACHING ASSISTANT (0.5 Credit)

Bret Mulligan

Division: Humanities

(Offered: Spring 2026)

Courses in Classical Studies Not Requiring Greek or Latin at Bryn Mawr

CSTS B108 ROMAN AFRICA (1.0 Credit)

Catherine Conybeare

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

In 146 BCE, Rome conquered and destroyed the North African city of Carthage, which had been its arch-enemy for generations, and occupied many of the Carthaginian settlements in North Africa. But by the second and third centuries CE, North Africa was one of the most prosperous and cultured areas of the Roman Empire, and Carthage (near modern Tunis) was one of the busiest ports in the Mediterranean. This course will trace the relations between Rome and Carthage, looking at the history of their mutual enmity, the extraordinary rise to prosperity of Roman North Africa, and the continued importance of the region even after the Vandal invasions of the fifth century.

CSTS B175 FEMINISM IN CLASSICS (1.0 Credit)

This course will illustrate the ways in which feminism has had an impact on classics, as well as the ways in which feminists think with classical texts. It will have four thematic divisions: feminism and the classical canon; feminism, women, and rethinking classical history; feminist readings of classical texts; and feminists and the classics - e.g. Cixous' Medusa and Butler's Antigone.

CSTS B205 GREEK HISTORY (1.0 Credit)

Radcliffe Edmonds

Division: Social Science

Domain(s): B: Analysis of the Social World

This course traces the rise of the city-state (polis) in the Greek-speaking world beginning in the seventh-century BC down to its full blossoming in classical Athens and Sparta. Students should gain an understanding of the formation and development of

Greek identity, from the Panhellenic trends in archaic epic and religion through its crystallization during the heroic defense against two Persian invasions and its subsequent disintegration during the Peloponnesian war. The class will also explore the ways in which the evolution of political, philosophical, religious, and artistic institutions reflect the changing socio-political circumstances of Greece. The latter part of the course will focus on Athens in particular: its rise to imperial power under Pericles, its tragic decline from the Peloponnesian War and its important role as a center for the teaching of rhetoric and philosophy. Since the study of history involves the analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of the sources available for the culture studied, students will concentrate upon the primary sources available for Greek history, exploring the strengths and weakness of these sources and the ways in which their evidence can be used to create an understanding of ancient Greece. Students should learn how to analyze and evaluate the evidence from primary texts and to synthesize the information from multiple sources in a critical way.

CSTS B206 COSMOS: MYTH, MEDICINE, & LAW IN ANCIENT GREECE (1.0 Credit)

Radcliffe Edmonds

Division: Humanities

The ancient Greek word 'cosmos' means 'order' or 'system'; it also means 'beauty' or 'adornment'. The Greeks thought of the world around them as an orderly system, adorned with beauty, but their imaginings of that order took many different forms, from the most fantastic of myths to elaborate mathematical and physiological models. This course explores the systems of order that the Greeks imagined for the universe - the macrocosm, for the human body - the microcosm, and for society - the the system of laws that brings order to humans in the world. Throughout the course, we examine the ways ideas of generation, justice, and gender inflect the cosmic systems, beginning with early Greek epic and moving through the philosophical texts (especially Plato's Timaeus), Hippocratic medical treatises, and lawcourt speeches. We will explore the discourses of myth, science, and law in the ancient Greek context and their relation to contemporary discourses. Students will gain familiarity with the conceptual schemas of ancient Greek thought that have been fundamental for cosmology, medicine, and law in the Western tradition and will learn to analyze the ways in which these models have shaped ideas of generation, justice, and gender throughout the ages. Students will also improve their skills of critical reading and analytic writing through their work with the readings and writing assignments in the course, and they will hone their skills of reasoned discussion in the class.

(Offered: Spring 2026)

CSTS B211 DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES, GODS FROM MACHINES: INTRO TO GREEK TRAGEDY (1.0 Credit)

Asya Sigelman

Division: Humanities

This course will introduce the student to the world of Greek Tragedy as it flourished in Athens in 5th century BC. We will read the plays of Aeschylus, Sophocles, & Euripides and discuss the playwrights' treatment of myth, the role of the chorus, the relation between text and performance, and the relevance of Greek tragedy for subsequent centuries, down to the present day. Special attention will be given to modern performances of these ancient plays in theater and in film as well as to the themes of choral voice, disability, euthanasia, slavery; the impact of war on women & children; and the relation between mortals and immortals. Please Note: NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANCIENT GREEK IS REQUIRED. ALL TEXTS WILL BE READ IN ENGLISH!

(Offered: Spring 2026)

CSTS B216 MADNESS IN THE ANCIENT GRECO-ROMAN WORLD (1.0 Credit)

Staff

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

How did ancient Greeks and Romans conceive of madness? Was it a deviant behavior, a contagious disease, or a divine punishment? What is the relationship between madness and music, madness and love, or madness and social control? How have understandings of madness changed from antiquity to the modern day? Our inquiries into these questions concentrate on three cultural realms: war, religion, and passion. In each section, we will read from a range of genres to unravel the complex notion of madness in Greco-Roman antiquity. At the same time, we will compare and scrutinize relevant modern phenomena, such as trauma, addiction, and deviance. All readings are in translation.

CSTS B228 UTOPIA: GOOD PLACE OR NO PLACE? (1.0 Credit)

Asya Sigelman

Division: Humanities

What is the ideal human society? What is the role and status of man and woman therein? Is such a society purely hypothetical or should we strive to make it viable in our modern world? This course will address these questions by exploring the historic development of the concept of utopia.

CSTS B229 QUEER AND DEVIANT CLASSICS (1.0 Credit)

Staff

This course investigates the capacity of the ancient past to provide marginalized individuals and groups with a sense of identity and community. Using historical and literary records, we will examine modern countercultural receptions of ancient Greece and Rome, which often invited vehement opposition from academics and the broader public. This dynamic is exemplified by a clique of 1900's Parisian women calling themselves "lesbians" after the ancient poet Sappho; Vietnam veterans finding validation in Homer's portrayal of a war-weary Achilles; the use of Plato's philosophy in a landmark American gay rights case in the 1990's; the embrace of Cleopatra as an empowered African queen by Black American authors. In this endeavor we will amend the popular image of the study of classical antiquity, which is and has always been a diverse and inclusive enterprise.

CSTS B233 MYSTERIES OF THE ANCIENT GRECO-ROMAN WORLD (1.0 Credit)

Radcliffe Edmonds

This course explores the Mysteries of the ancient Greco-Roman world, examining the evidence for the rituals and religious ideas associated with these often secretive and hidden practices. From the Mysteries for Demeter and Persephone in Eleusis, carried out by thousands of Athenians in a multi-day festival, to the Bacchic revels for Dionysos celebrated by mountain-roaming maenads or sedate civic associations, to the secret rites for the Persian god Mithras, performed by Roman soldiers in cave shrines throughout the empire, these mysterious rituals have exercised their fascination over the centuries, playing an outsized role in the depictions of polytheistic religion in the ancient Mediterranean world.

(Offered: Fall 2025)

CSTS B238 CLASSICAL TRADITIONS & SCIENCE FICTIONS (1.0 Credit)

Benjamin Stevens

Division: Humanities

What might ancient classics say about the modern world? In this course we explore intersections between ancient, Greco-Roman texts and the genre that is most characteristic of the modern, technoscientific world, science fiction. Raising questions about genres and traditions; the role of the 'humanities' in relation to 'technology'; and ways of discovering and evaluating 'knowledge', we consider the possibility that, although antiquity and the present day differ, at base ancient literature has given science fiction its profound sense of wonder about the world. Texts from authors such as Sappho, Sophocles, and Plato; Lucretius, Ovid, and Apuleius; Shelley, Borges, Dick, and Eco; Le Guin, Morrison, Atwood, and Edson; Cameron, Cronenberg, and

Demme; and Benjamin, Baudrillard, Haraway, and Hayles.

(Offered: Spring 2026)

CSTS B242 MAGIC IN THE GRECO-ROMAN WORLD (1.0 Credit)

Radcliffe Edmonds

Domain(s): B: Analysis of the Social World
 Bindings and curses, love charms and healing potions, amulets and talismans - from the simple spells designed to meet the needs of the poor and desperate to the complex theurgies of the philosophers, the people of the Greco-Roman World made use of magic to try to influence the world around them. In this course students will gain an understanding of the magicians of the ancient world and the techniques and devices they used to serve their clientele, as well as the cultural contexts in which these ideas of magic arose. We shall consider ancient tablets and spell books as well as literary descriptions of magic in the light of theories relating to the religious, political, and social contexts in which magic was used.

CSTS B245 HORROR "CLASSICS" (1.0 Credit)

Carman Romano

Ancient Greeks and Romans--authors, poets, and their audiences--recognized that narratives could induce fear in their consumers. This course creates an analogy between ancient and contemporary fear-inducing literature, and asks what work the horror elements do in each. To get at this question, we will visit "classic" figures of horror, including: monsters, witches, ghosts, vampires, shapeshifters, and human beings. Prepare to engage with Greek and Latin sources in translation as well as modern theories of horror.

CSTS B246 EROS IN ANCIENT GREEK CULTURE (1.0 Credit)

Carman Romano

Division: Humanities

This course explores the ancient Greek's ideas of love, from the interpersonal loves between people of the same or different genders to the cosmogonic Eros that creates and holds together the entire world. The course examines how the idea of eros is expressed in poetry, philosophy, history, and the romances.

(Offered: Fall 2025)

CSTS B307 GUIDED RESEARCH IN CLASSICAL STUDIES (1.0 Credit)

Carman Romano

This course provides the student with the opportunity to engage in seminar-level work on the topic of another CSTS course being offered in the term. With the guidance of the professor, the student

will participate in the course activities of that course but will also develop a research project that enables the student to pursue aspects of the topic at a deeper level. This course should provide the student with experience in developing research and writing skills appropriate to the discipline. Prerequisite: Declared major in CLAN or CCAS and permission of instructor.

(Offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2026)

CSTS B375 INTERPRETING MYTHOLOGY (1.0 Credit)

Radcliffe Edmonds

Division: Humanities

The myths of the Greeks have provoked outrage and fascination, interpretation and retelling, censorship and elaboration, beginning with the Greeks themselves. We will see how some of these stories have been read and understood, recounted and revised, in various cultures and eras, from ancient tellings to modern movies. We will also explore some of the interpretive theories by which these tales have been understood, from ancient allegory to modern structural and semiotic theories. The student should gain a more profound understanding of the meaning of these myths to the Greeks themselves, of the cultural context in which they were formulated. At the same time, this course should provide the student with some familiarity with the range of interpretations and strategies of understanding that people of various cultures and times have applied to the Greek myths during the more than two millennia in which they have been preserved. Preference to upperclassmen, previous coursework in myth required.

(Offered: Fall 2025)

CSTS B398 SENIOR SEMINAR (1.0 Credit)

Asya Sigelman

Division: Humanities

This is a bi-college seminar devoted to readings in and discussion of selected topics in the various sub-fields of Classics (e.g. literature, religion, philosophy, law, social history) and of how to apply contemporary critical approaches to the primary sources. Students will also begin developing a topic for their senior thesis, composing a prospectus and giving a preliminary presentation of their findings.

(Offered: Fall 2025)

CSTS B399 SENIOR SEMINAR (1.0 Credit)

Catherine Conybeare

Division: Humanities

This is the continuation of CSTS B398. Working with individual advisors from the bi-college classics departments, students will continue to develop the topic sketched out in the fall semester. By the end of the course, they will have completed at least one

draft and a full, polished version of the senior thesis, of which they will give a final oral presentation.

CSTS B403 SUPERVISED WORK (1.0 Credit)

Radcliffe Edmonds

Division: Humanities

(Offered: Spring 2026)

Greek Courses at Haverford

GREK H001 ELEMENTARY GREEK (1.0 Credit)

Matthew Farmer

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Learn Ancient Greek, and open up a vast world that stretches from Homer's epics to Lucian's faked moon landing, from Sappho's burning verses to the manumission inscriptions of freed slaves carved onto the walls at Delphi, from the curse-spells of neoplatonic wizards to the sublime agonies of Sophoclean tragedy. This is the first semester of a year-long language course.

(Offered: Spring 2026)

GREK H002 ELEMENTARY GREEK (1.0 Credit)

Matthew Farmer

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Completion of the basics of ancient Greek, followed by readings in Lysias and Plato. This is the second semester of a year-long course.

(Offered: Fall 2025)

GREK H101 INTRODUCTION TO GREEK LITERATURE: WORLDS OF WONDER (1.0 Credit)

Matthew Farmer

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This intermediate ancient Greek course offers students a chance to develop their skills in reading literary, historical, and philosophical prose. Students will continue to build grammar, vocabulary, and facility with different Greek dialects through the reading of extensive passages from authors including Herodotus, Plato, Plutarch, Lucian, Palaephatus, and others. Readings will be thematically organized around the concepts of wonder, marvel, world-building, travel, ethnography, and cultural identity. Prerequisite(s): GREK 002 or equivalent, or instructor consent

(Offered: Fall 2025)

GREK H102 INTRODUCTION TO GREEK POETRY: HOMER (1.0 Credit)

Ava Shirazi

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course serves both as an intermediate language class (aimed at developing reading fluency in Homeric Greek) and as an introduction to Greek poetry through the work of Homer; we will read selections from the Iliad in Greek (and the poem as a whole in English). Class time will include both translation and discussion, with attention to such topics as narrative structure, the voice of the singer/narrator, the figure of the hero, Homeric society and its values, the treatment of battle and war, and the relationship between gods and humans. We will also consider the "Homeric question," oral composition and its implications, Homeric language, and special features of Homeric style: type scene, ring composition, formula, and simile. We will look at different translations of the Iliad, and at the ways in which the poem has been read (and rewritten) at different times; we will also practice reading aloud in the dactylic hexameter meter of the Iliad. Prerequisite(s): Completion of GREK 002 or equivalent, or instructor consent
(Offered: Spring 2026)

GREK H202 ADVANCED GREEK: TRAGEDY (1.0 Credit)

Ava Shirazi

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

In this course we read two of the surviving works of fifth century Greek tragedy, with selected critical essays and background reading in other plays. Class time will be divided between translation and discussion, with attention not only to themes specific to each tragedy but also to such common topics as: the playwright's treatment of the inherited myth; the way in which the drama tells its story; the role and nature of the chorus; characterization and the connections between characters; the relationship of divine and human; the role of prophecy; choice, justice and retribution; political resonances and the role of gender; performance issues; and the language of dialogue and of choral ode. Class will also include practice reading aloud in the meter of dialogue and in some of the simpler choral meters and discussion of different translations of selected passages. Prerequisite(s): Two Greek courses at the 100 level or above, or instructor consent.
(Offered: Spring 2026)

GREK H480 INDEPENDENT STUDY (0.5 Credit)

Matthew Farmer

(Offered: Fall 2025)

Greek Courses at Bryn Mawr

GREK B010 TRADITIONAL AND NEW TESTAMENT GREEK (1.0 Credit)

Asya Sigelman

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This is the first half of a year-long introductory course to ancient Greek. It is designed to familiarize students with the basic elements of classical Greek grammar and syntax as well as to provide them with experience in reading short sentences and passages in both Greek prose and poetry.

(Offered: Fall 2025)

GREK B011 TRADITIONAL AND NEW TESTAMENT GREEK (1.0 Credit)

Asya Sigelman

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This is the second half of a year-long introductory course to ancient Greek. It is designed to familiarize students with the basic elements of classical Greek grammar and syntax. Once the grammar has been fully introduced, students will develop facility by reading parts of the New Testament and a dialogue of Plato. Prerequisite: GREK B010.

(Offered: Spring 2026)

GREK B101 HERODOTUS (1.0 Credit)

Radcliffe Edmonds

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Greek 101 introduces the student to one of the greatest prose authors of ancient Greece, the historian, Herodotus. The "Father of History," as Herodotus is sometimes called, wrote one of the earliest lengthy prose texts extant in Greek literature, in the Ionian dialect of Greek. The "Father of Lies," as he is also sometimes known, wove into his history a number of fabulous and entertaining anecdotes and tales. His 'historie' or inquiry into the events surrounding the invasions by the Persian empire against the Greek city-states set the precedent for all subsequent historical writings. This course meets three times a week with a required fourth hour to be arranged. Prerequisite: GREK B010 and B011 or equivalent.

GREK B104 HOMER (1.0 Credit)

Carman Romano

Division: Humanities

Greek 104 is designed to introduce the student to the epic poetry attributed to Homer, the greatest poet of ancient Greece, through selections from the *Odyssey*. Since Homer's poetic form is so important to the shape and texture of the *Odyssey*, we will examine the mechanics of Homeric poetry, both the intricacies of dactylic hexameter and the patterns of oral formulaic composition. We will also spend time discussing the characters and ideas that animate this text, since the value of Homer lies not merely in his incomparable mastery of his poetic form, but in the values and patterns of behavior in his story, patterns

which remained remarkably influential in the Greek world for centuries. Prerequisite: One year of college level Greek or equivalent.

(Offered: Spring 2026)

GREK B201 PLATO AND THUCYDIDES (1.0 Credit)

Radcliffe Edmonds

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course is designed to introduce the student to two of the greatest prose authors of ancient Greece, the philosopher, Plato, and the historian, Thucydides. These two writers set the terms in the disciplines of philosophy and history for millennia, and philosophers and historians today continue to grapple with their ideas and influence. The brilliant and controversial statesman Alcibiades provides a link between the two texts in this course (Plato's *Symposium* and Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*), and we examine the ways in which both authors handle the figure of Alcibiades as a point of entry into the comparison of the varying styles and modes of thought of these two great writers. Suggested Prerequisites: At least 2 years of college Greek or the equivalent.

(Offered: Fall 2025)

GREK B202 THE FORM OF TRAGEDY (1.0 Credit)

Asya Sigelman

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course will introduce the student to two of the three great Athenian tragedians—Sophocles and Euripides. Their dramas, composed two-and-a-half millennia ago, continue to be performed regularly on modern stages around the world and exert a profound influence on current day theatre. We will read Sophocles' *Oedipus Tyrannos* and Euripides' *Bacchae* in full, focusing on language, poetics, meter, and performance studies.

GREK B350 TOPICS IN GREEK LITERATURE (1.0 Credit)

Asya Sigelman

Open only to advanced undergraduates, this course includes a weekly seminar and a translation session. Three-quarters of the reading will be from primary sources.

(Offered: Fall 2025)

Latin Courses at Haverford

LATN H001 ELEMENTARY LATIN (1.0 Credit)

Bret Mulligan

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Introduction to the Latin language. Our main focus will be on learning to read classical Latin texts, studying the vocabulary and grammar necessary to read the great works of ancient Latin poetry and prose, as well as familiarizing ourselves with the mythology, history, and culture of the Romans. We'll also spend some time learning to converse and write in Latin, joining a history of conversation that stretches from the early Latin speakers of southern Europe and northern Africa, to the learned humanists of the Renaissance, and down to the present day. This is the first semester of a year-long course. **(Offered:** Fall 2025)

LATN H002 ELEMENTARY LATIN (1.0 Credit)

Bret Mulligan

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Completion of the introduction to the Latin language, with readings in prose and poetry.

(Offered: Spring 2026)

LATN H102 INTERMEDIATE LATIN: ROMAN IDENTITIES (1.0 Credit)

Ryan Warwick

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Our focus in this intermediate language course will be on reading and analyzing selections from two Latin texts, Catullus' Carmina (Poems) and The Passion of Perpetua and Felicity. Through this exercise, we will review various aspects of Latin grammar and develop sound reading strategies as we continue our study of Latin together. Doing so will help us appreciate the cultural, literary, and historical issues that these two texts speak to, particularly those concerning identity (cultural, gender, or religious) and Roman social mores. Prerequisite(s): LATN 002 or placement into LATN 102.

(Offered: Fall 2025)

LATN H104 INTRODUCTION TO LATIN LITERATURE: FRIENDS AND ENEMIES OF ROME (1.0 Credit)

Matthew Farmer

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This is both an intermediate Latin course and an introduction to the study of Latin literature and culture. Readings will span a range of works in prose and poetry, including inscriptions and other material evidence for Roman culture. The focus of inquiry will be on understanding Roman identity—their hopes, fears, achievements, and follies—by studying how they described friendship and their friends, and those enemies who resisted the Roman order, from the founding of the city, through its near destruction

by Hannibal, and its cannibalization during the Civil Wars. The course will conclude with a brief historical simulation in which you will debate the fate of Rome as a Roman senator. Prerequisite(s): LATN 102 or equivalent, or instructor consent **(Offered:** Spring 2026)

LATN H201 ADVANCED LATIN LITERATURE: OVID (1.0 Credit)

Ryan Warwick

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Prerequisite(s): Two semesters of 100-level Latin, or instructor consent

LATN H206 ADVANCED LATIN LITERATURE: POSTCLASSICAL LATIN (1.0 Credit)

Bret Mulligan

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

An investigation of one or more historical, cultural, or literary questions drawn from the 95% of Latin literature that was produced after Classical antiquity. We will read a variety of texts, in different genres and from various times. Recent topics have included: centonic literature, the epistolary exchange between Abelard and Heloise, the Latin of New Spain, and Philadelphia Latin. Prerequisite(s): Two semesters of 100-level Latin, or instructor consent

LATN H211 ADVANCED LATIN LITERATURE: DEAR PETRARCH (1.0 Credit)

Ryan Warwick

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

After rediscovering a collection of letters by Marcus Tullius Cicero, Italian humanist Francesco Petrarca wrote two letter collections in emulation of the ancient scholar: the Epistolae familiares and the Epistolae seniles. In this course, we will read a selection of these early modern Latin letters alongside secondary readings that explore the relevance of the letter form to psychoanalytic thought, the theory of literature, and the intellectual history of the Renaissance. Prerequisite(s): Two semesters of 100-level Latin, or instructor consent **(Offered:** Fall 2025)

LATN H350 SEMINAR IN LATIN LITERATURE: CONSPIRACIES (1.0 Credit)

Bret Mulligan

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Through an investigation of several famed conspiracies in Roman history we will consider how conspiracy narratives expose what is often left unsaid in a society, how they serve to reenforce social order and the expectations for "good" citizens,

and how marginalized figures like women, slaves, and foreigners often play important roles in opening up the private words and deeds of the conspirators to public knowledge. Among our moments of focus will be the Bacchanalian conspiracy of 186 BCE, the Catilinarian conspiracy of 63 BCE, and the Pisonian conspiracy of 65 CE (which led to the deaths of the authors Seneca, Petronius, and Lucan, among others). Contemporary classical scholarship as well as scholarly explorations of criminal conspiracies and conspiracy theories will help contextualize our readings of the original sources. May be repeated for credit.

LATN H460 TEACHING ASSISTANT (0.5 Credit)

Bret Mulligan, Carman Romano

(Offered: Fall 2025)

Latin Courses at Bryn Mawr

LATN B001 ELEMENTARY LATIN (1.0 Credit)

Benjamin Stevens

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Latin 001 is the first part of a year-long course that introduces the student to the language and literature of ancient Rome. The first semester focuses upon the grammar of Latin, developing the student's knowledge of the forms of the language and the basic constructions used. Exercises in translation and composition aid in the student's learning of the language, while readings in prose and poetry from the ancient authors provide the student with a deeper appreciation of the culture which used this language.

(Offered: Fall 2025)

LATN B002 ELEMENTARY LATIN (1.0 Credit)

Benjamin Stevens

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Latin 002 is the second part of a year-long course that introduces the student to the language and literature of ancient Rome. The second semester completes the course of study of the grammar of Latin, improving the student's knowledge of the forms of the language and forms of expression. Exercises in translation and composition aid in the student's learning of the language, while readings in prose and poetry from the ancient authors provide the student with a deeper appreciation of the culture which used this language. Prerequisite: LATN B001.

(Offered: Spring 2026)

LATN B110 INTERMEDIATE LATIN (1.0 Credit)

Carman Romano

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Intensive review of grammar, reading in classical prose and poetry. For students who have had the equivalent of several years of high school Latin or are not adequately prepared to take LATN 101. This course meets three times a week with a required fourth hour to be arranged. Prerequisite: One year of college level Latin or equivalent.

(Offered: Fall 2025)

LATN B112 LATIN LITERATURE (1.0 Credit)

Catherine Conybeare

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

In the second semester of the intermediate Latin sequence, readings in prose and poetry are frequently drawn from a period, such as the age of Augustus, that illustrate in different ways the leading political and cultural concerns of the time. The Latin readings and discussion are supplemented by readings in the secondary literature. This course meets three times a week with a required fourth hour to be arranged. Prerequisite: LATN 101 or 110 or placement by the department.

(Offered: Spring 2026)

LATN B201 TOPICS: ADVANCED LATIN LITERATURE (1.0 Credit)

Carman Romano

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This is a topics course, course content varies. In this course typically a variety of Latin prose and poetry of the high and later Roman empire (first to fourth centuries CE) is read. Single or multiple authors may be featured in a given semester. Suggested Preparation: two years of college Latin or equivalent.

(Offered: Spring 2026)

LATN B350 TOPICS IN LATIN LITERATURE (1.0 Credit)

Benjamin Stevens

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This is a topics course. Course content varies.

(Offered: Fall 2025)