

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

GREEKS AND ROMANS

Courses and Programs Offered at the

University of Virginia



Spring 2026

THE GREEKS AND ROMANS
at the
University of Virginia
SPRING 2026

Each semester the faculty of the Department of Classics and their colleagues in other departments offer a rich program of courses and special events in classical studies. *Greeks and Romans* is published to inform the University community of the wealth of opportunities for study during the Spring Semester 2026. These are described in the next pages under the following headings:

- I. CLASSICS:** Classics courses in translation.
- II. GREEKS:** Courses in Greek language and literature, and in Greek art, ideas, history, and other aspects of Greek civilization.
- III. ROMANS:** Courses in the Latin language and Roman literature, and in Roman art, ideas, history, and other aspects of Roman civilization.
- IV. AFFILIATED:** Courses presenting Classical studies in relation to other subjects.
- V. SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

I. CLASSICS

CLAS 2020	ROMAN CIVILIZATION	MW 1200-1250
Mr. Hays <bg2n>		Warner 104
	Discussions	F 1000-1050
		F 1100-1150
		F 1400-1450

This course serves as a general introduction to the history, literature, social life, institutions, and ideology of ancient Rome, from its origins to the 2nd century AD. We will look especially at the ways in which the Romans constructed a collective cultural identity for themselves, with attention paid also to groups marginal to or excluded from that identity (enslaved people, women, Greeks and other foreigners). Readings will focus on ancient texts and sources, including the comedies of Plautus, historical writing by Sallust, Vergil's epic poem *The Aeneid*, the love poetry of Ovid, letters by Seneca and Pliny, and Petronius's raucous novel *Satyricon*. Requirements include a midterm and final exam and several short papers.

CLAS 2040	GREEK MYTHOLOGY	MW	1000-1050
Ms. Petrovic <ip3k>			Warner 209
Discussions	*Two (2) Sections Available	R	*0830-0920
		R	1400-1450
		R	1830-1920
		F	0900-0950
		F	1000-1050
	*Two (2) Sections Available	F	*1200-1250
		F	1300-1350
	*Two (2) Sections Available	F	*1400-1450
		F	1500-1550

Why was Achilles so angry? How did Medea handle her husband's request for divorce? What trick did Aphrodite use to win a beauty contest? What is the real story behind 'Kaos' and how many children did Zeus really have? In this course, we'll dive into the wild and wonderful world of Greek and Roman mythology, exploring epic, tragic, comic and sometimes downright silly tales of gods, heroes, and mortals. Along the way, we'll see how these myths were told in antiquity, reimagined in art, and reshaped through the centuries up to today. From Chaos at the beginning of the universe to the Netflix series *Kaos*, Percy Jackson, *The Song of Achilles*, and *Circe*, we'll trace the timeless stories that continue to fascinate and delight us.

Quizzes, short writing and creative assignments, midterm, final examination.

CLAS 3160

ANCIENT ATHENIAN DEMOCRACY

TR 1530-1645

Ms. Arthur-Montagne <hvk9ks>

New Cabell 232

This course brings ancient Athens to life through the study and reenactment of the world's first democracy. Beginning with the rise and fall of the Athenian Empire, we will explore key texts and cultural practices that shaped civic life, from assemblies and law courts to festivals and philosophy. Students then step into history through the immersive role-playing game *The Threshold of Democracy: Athens in 403 BCE*. In character as Athenians, they will debate citizenship, justice, and empire, confronting the same challenges that defined democratic politics in the ancient world – and still resonate in ours. This course will include a midterm, final, and two debate papers based on the arguments students present in class.

CLAS 3220

RACE & ETHNICITY IN ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME

MW 1530-1645

Ms. Kuin *<ik6mg>*

Cocke 115

What does it mean to say that Cleopatra was black, or not? Ancient history comes up often in modern debates about race. We will investigate how people understood racial and ethnic differences in the ancient Greco-Roman Mediterranean, and how interpretations of antiquity historically have shaped modern concepts of race. We will study relevant art and literature from the 8th century BCE through the 3rd century CE, and modern responses to both.

CLAS 3350

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE OF THE EARLY CELTS

MWF 1400-1450

Mr. George <chg4n>

New Cabell 107

This introduction to the Celtic inhabitants of Gaul and the British Isles interweaves two approaches, one linguistic, one literary. First, we will explore how the Celtic languages work, focusing on the basics of Old Irish—which includes such exotic features as initial mutations and conjugated prepositions—but also finishing off with some Middle Welsh. Second, we will compare writings about the Celts found in Ancient Greek and Latin authors with readings of Celtic literature in translation, notably Ireland’s closest equivalent to the *Iliad*, the *Táin Bó Cúailnge*, whose Achilles-like hero Cú Chulainn undergoes a monstrous transformation (called the “warp-spasm” by one translator) when he fights: “He sucked one eye so deep into his head that a wild crane couldn’t probe it onto his cheek out of the depths of his skull; the other eye fell out along his cheek.”

II. THE GREEKS

GREE 1020
Mr. Dillery <jdd4n>

ELEMENTARY GREEK II

Discussions

New Cabell 187
TR 1100-1215
MW 1000-1050
MW 1100-1150

In this class the student will complete the study of Elementary Greek, finish the textbook (Chase and Philips) and begin to read passages of connected Greek.

GREE 2020
Mr. Williams <ddk5ad>

INTERMEDIATE GREEK II

MWF 1100-1150
Pavilion VIII-102

In the fourth semester of Greek, we venture forth beyond Attic prose for the first time. We begin with selections from the *Histories* of Herodotus, who pioneered historical and ethnographic inquiry in easy-going Ionic Greek. Afterwards, as an introduction to the language of Greek tragedy, we will read (most of) Euripides' *Medea*, with its tense portrayal of a woman playing the part of a brilliant yet terrifying hero. Particular attention will be devoted to issues of grammar, syntax, meter, and style. Students will complete quizzes, exams featuring unseen passages, short composition assignments, and a final essay.

GREE 2240
Ms. Kuin <ik6mg>

THE NEW TESTAMENT II

MW 1400-1515
Cocke 115

In this course we will consider the earliest beginnings of Christianity in their immediate cultural context. Readings include selections from the gospels of John, Luke, and Matthew, Paul's Letters, Acts, and parts of Chariton's novel *Callirhoe*, written around the same time. The course will include grammar review as necessary, and some Greek composition. Additionally, we will be reading some apocryphal texts, as well as secondary scholarship on the history of early Christianity and the literature and culture of the first and second centuries CE more broadly.

GREE 3040
Mr. Williams <ddk5ad>

ADVANCED READING IN GREEK

MW 1400-1515
New Cabell 485

In this course we will read a selection of Books from Homer's *Odyssey*. We will pay particular attention to language and dialect, poetic technique and style, and archaic society and history. Assignments will include quizzes, exams, and a final paper.

GREE 5559**Mr. Dillery**<jdd4n>**ALEXANDER THE GREAT IN FACT
AND FICTION****TR 1530-1645****Cocke 115**

In this course we will read substantial sections of Arrian, Plutarch's Life of Alexander, and the Alexander Romance. There will be a Midterm and a Final exam, as well as a final paper.

GREE 5559**Ms. Petrovic**<ip3k>**Ms. Spittler**<jes9cu>**RELIGIOUS THINKERS IN ANTIQUITY****WF 1530-1645****New Cabell 485**

For a religion without a dogma or sacred books, as every Handbook of Greek Religion asserts, Ancient Greece did produce a bewildering amount of profound religious thinkers. Starting with Hesiod and his Big Brother version of theodicy, we will investigate why Empedocles was against animal sacrifice, how your upright posture serves as the proof that the gods care for you according to Socrates, why gods can never be persuaded to overlook human injustice according to Plato, and what was the great promise and attraction of the Orphic rituals. We will learn about the way Cleanthes' Stoic Zeus arranges the world and how oracles work according to Plutarch. Turning to Jewish and Christian authors, we will go beyond notions of "influence" and "context," instead reading Philo, Paul, Tatian, Origen, and the anonymous authors of Christian narratives as further representatives of Greek religious thought. How does Philo understand the creation and arrangement of the world? How does Paul's crucified God offer salvation to human beings? When apologists like Tatian explicitly compare Christianity to "pagan" ideas and practices, what elements of each do they emphasize? When, in turn, authors like Porphyry critique Christianity, what aspects do they take up? Finally, we will consider where so-called "gnostic" thinkers fit within this landscape.

We will read the texts in the original Greek. There will be a course booklet with all primary texts available for purchase. Assignments will include quizzes, a midterm exam, discussion moderations, short presentations, and a final paper.

III. THE ROMANS

LATI 1020	ELEMENTARY LATIN II	TR 1230-1345
Mr. Corbeill <apc3m>		Warner 104
	Discussions	MW 900-950
		MW 1200-1250
		MW 1300-1350

This course is a continuation of Latin 1010. We shall finish covering the basic principles of Latin grammar and syntax through elementary exercises in comprehension and composition. The course also includes frequently illustrated lectures highlighting various aspects of the literature and culture of ancient Rome. We conclude the semester by reading unadapted passages of Latin prose and poetry from Roman antiquity. The course prepares the student to enter Latin 2010.

LATI 2010	INTERMEDIATE LATIN I	MWF 1100-1150
Ms. Kuin <ik6mg>		Cocke 115

Readings from Ovid's poem *Metamorphoses*, including the stories of Daedalus and Icarus and Apollo and Daphne, and from Nepos' biography of Hannibal the Carthaginian general. Grammar and vocabulary review as necessary. Students will complete quizzes, exams featuring unseen passages, and short composition assignments.

LATI 2020	INTERMEDIATE LATIN II	MWF 1100-1150
Mr. Celotto <gc4fw>		MWF 1200-1250
Mr. Nichols <wn3rp>		MWF 1300-1350
Mr. Celotto <gc4fw>		New Cabell 315

In this course you will continue your study of Latin through the translation of ancient authors in prose and poetry. This class will focus on reading the works of Cicero and Catullus. Students in this course must have completed Intermediate Latin I (2010) with a minimum grade of D-. Successful completion of this course will complete the Intermediate Latin sequence and meet the language requirement for the College of Arts & Sciences.

LATI 3030	CICERO	MWF 1100-1150
Mr. George <chg4n>		Cocke 101

Everyone remembers that Caesar was assassinated on the Ides of March, 44 BC. But what happened afterwards? In this class we'll read two important speeches of Cicero's, the first two *Philippics*, composed later that year when the orator was growing increasingly alarmed at the actions of Mark Antony in the aftermath of Caesar's death. We'll consider in the course how these works not only shed light on a historically crucial period, but also represent the pinnacle of Cicero's oratorical prowess, as noted already by no less a critic than Juvenal.

LATI 3160
Mr. Celotto<gc4fw>

LUCRETIOUS

MWF 1500-1550
New Cabell 107

This course is designed to introduce you to Lucretius' *De Rerum Natura*. The goal of this didactic poem is to explain Epicurean philosophy to a Roman audience. Lucretius focuses on topics such as the principles of atomism, the nature of the soul, and the functioning of sensation. In this course we will engage in close reading of some of the most famous and significant passages of the poem. Particular attention will be devoted to issues of grammar, syntax, meter, and style.

LATI 4559
Ms. Myers<ksm8m>

ROMAN ELEGY

TR 1530-1645
New Cabell 287

This course will focus on the Latin Elegiac Poetry of Tibullus, Propertius, and Ovid. We shall aim to read selections from these poets very closely (translation and literary analysis). Intertextual connections between the three poets will be traced. We will explore the poets' negotiations with the various ideologies and cultural discourses of Augustan Rome, literary, political, social, and sexual. There will be grammar review. Class time will be divided between translation and discussion. Students will be required to present short in-class reports on selected poems and secondary materials. There will be midterm exam and final exam (translation and scansion) and a final paper (c.7 pages).

LATI 5040
Mr. Corbeill<apc3m>

ADVANCED LATIN PROSE
COMPOSITION

TR 1400-1515
New Cabell 042

This class will combine Latin prose composition exercises with close analysis of the style of Cicero, with the goal of actively recognizing, understanding, and using key characteristics of literary prose style from the Late Republic. We will work through exercises designed to make us comfortable in writing Latin, lectures on topics in Latin syntax, word order, and style, and culminate in the composition of extended passages of Latin prose. There will also be a brief foray into verse composition.

LATI 5559
Mr. Hays<bgh2n>

LATIN DECLAMATION

MW 1400-1515
Cocke 101

The construction of imaginary speeches (*controversiae* and *suasoriae*) was a staple of Roman education from the early empire on. Long an object of contempt, in recent years the genre has been reevaluated as an intellectual sandbox in which elite Romans could play with ideas ranging from freedom to fatherhood. This course will center on the surviving corpus of imperial declamations (Calpurnius Flaccus and the longer and shorter declamations ascribed to Quintilian) and the declamatory compilation of the elder Seneca. We will look at comparable exercises in Greek and follow the form into late antiquity with Ennodius and the verse declamations of Dracontius and the Latin Anthology. We will also examine the influence of declamation on other genres, including the poetry of Ovid, Lucan, Seneca, and Juvenal.

LATI 9995

DISSERTATION SEMINAR

IV. AFFILIATED COURSES

ARTH 2054 **ROMAN ART & ARCHAEOLOGY** **TR 1100-1215**
Ms. Kreindler<waf5tg>

Following an overview of Etruscan art, the course examines the development of Roman architecture, urbanism, sculpture and painting from the Republic to Constantine. A focus is Rome itself, but other archaeological sites, such as Pompeii, in Italy and throughout the empire are also considered. Themes, such as succession, the achievements of the emperor, the political and social role of art, and the dissolution of classical art, are traced.

ARTH 2055 **INTRODUCTION TO** **TR 1400-1515**
Ms. Kreindler<waf5tg> **CLASSICAL ARCHAEOLOGY**

This course introduces the history, theory, and field techniques of classical archaeology. Major sites of the Bronze Age (Troy, Mycenae) as well as Greek and Roman cities and sanctuaries (e.g., Athens, Olympia, Pompeii) illustrate important themes in Greek and Roman culture and the nature of archaeological data.

HIEU 2041 **ROMAN REPUBLIC AND EMPIRE** **MW 1200-1250**
Mr. Lendon<jel4c> **Gibson 211**

Surveys the political, social, and institutional growth of the Roman Republic, focusing on its downfall and replacement by an imperial form of government, the subsequent history of that government, and the social and economic life during the Roman Empire, up to its own decline and fall.

HIEU 4511/5011 **LATE ARCHAIC GREECE** **M 1500-1730**
Mr. Lendon<jel4c> **New Cabell 287**

Examines the history of Greece in the late archaic age down to the end of the Persian wars. Prerequisite: HIEU 2031 or equivalent.

V. SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

The Arthur F. Stocker Lectureship

The Arthur F. Stocker Endowment Fund for Classical Lectures was established in 1984 by colleagues, friends, and former students of Arthur F. Stocker, in recognition of his contributions to the field of Classics. This year the Stocker Lecture will be held February 13, 2026. The speaker will be Michele Lowrie, University of Chicago.

The James S. Constantine Lectureship

The James S. Constantine annual lectureship was established in 1987 by colleagues, friends, and former students of James S. Constantine, in recognition of his contributions to the teaching and study of the Classics. The Constantine Lecture usually takes place every fall semester. This year, the Constantine Lecture is November 6, 2025. The speaker is Professor Jeremy McInerney of the University of Pennsylvania.

The Classics Graduate Association

The Classics Graduate Association sponsors an annual colloquium, at which graduate students from the University of Virginia and other universities, and a distinguished senior scholar, present papers on a selected theme. The next CGA Colloquium will be held in Spring 2026.

Friday Luncheons

Friday Luncheons during the academic year will include students, faculty of the Classics Department, and other persons with classical interests presenting and discussing papers relevant to the Classics.

The Virginia Senior Classical League

The Virginia Senior Classical League is a statewide organization of college students who are interested in the ancient world. The VSCL assists the Virginia Junior Classical League at the VJCL Convention each fall. Each year the VSCL also runs two *Certamina* (academic competitions for high school Latin students) for the VJCL. Students interested in joining should e-mail *president@vscl.org*.

The Classics Club at UVA

The purpose of the Classics Club is to promote community both among Classics Majors and other interested undergraduates through the facilitation of educational, social, and service-related activities. For further information send an e-mail to:

classicsclub@virginia.edu.

The Archaeological Institute of America

The Archaeological Institute of America is an educational and scientific society of archaeologists and others interested in archaeological study and research. There is a chapter of the AIA in Charlottesville, and those interested in joining should contact Professor Tyler Jo Smith <*tjs6e*>. The AIA sponsors a series of lectures, which are free and open to the public.