

Classics

Website: Classics (<https://new.sewanee.edu/programs-of-study/classical-studies/>)

Following the premise that a thorough and nuanced understanding of Greece and Rome and the formation of Western civilization can only be achieved through knowledge of the ancient languages, Sewanee offers majors in Greek, Latin, and classical languages. Apart from the intellectual discipline, many students benefit from studying the foundational languages of the legal and medical professions and the hard sciences.

Classics students read ancient authors and modern works bearing on the languages, literatures, and civilizations of ancient Greece and Rome and are tested on those readings during the comprehensive examination.

Departmental Programs and Opportunities

The University is a member of the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome, and majors are encouraged to study there for one semester. The James M. Fourmy, Jr., Scholarship is awarded annually to a qualifying graduate of this University for graduate study in classical languages. The Charles M. Binnicker Endowment Fund for foreign study of classical languages provides aid to classics students who wish to study abroad.

Faculty

Professors: McCarter, McDonough, Papillon

Associate Professor: Holmes (Chair)

Majors

Majors

- Classical Languages (<http://e-catalog.sewanee.edu/archives/2024-2025/arts-sciences/departments-interdisciplinary-programs/classics/classical-languages-major/>)
- Greek (<http://e-catalog.sewanee.edu/archives/2024-2025/arts-sciences/departments-interdisciplinary-programs/classics/greek-major/>)
- Latin (<http://e-catalog.sewanee.edu/archives/2024-2025/arts-sciences/departments-interdisciplinary-programs/classics/latin-major/>)

Minors

Minors

- Classical Languages (<http://e-catalog.sewanee.edu/archives/2024-2025/arts-sciences/departments-interdisciplinary-programs/classics/classical-languages-minor/>)
- Greek (<http://e-catalog.sewanee.edu/archives/2024-2025/arts-sciences/departments-interdisciplinary-programs/classics/greek-minor/>)
- Latin (<http://e-catalog.sewanee.edu/archives/2024-2025/arts-sciences/departments-interdisciplinary-programs/classics/latin-minor/>)

Courses

Classical Studies Courses

CLST 101 Classical Mythology (4)

Survey of the principal Greek and Roman myths with selected readings in English from ancient and modern sources.

CLST 121 Explorations in Ancient Society and Its Legacy (4)

This special topics course consider the ancient world through the lens of history, culture, politics, and other such frameworks. This course may be repeated once for credit when the topic differs.

CLST 122 Explorations in Ancient Literature (4)

This special topics course focuses on a key literary theme, author, genre, or time period and introduces students to the interpretation and close reading of ancient texts. This course may be repeated once for credit when the topic differs.

CLST 123 Explorations in Antiquity and the Arts (4)

This special topics course introduces students to the study of Classical art, performance, and/or material culture. This course may be repeated once for credit when the topic differs.

CLST 124 Explorations in Ancient Ethics, Religion, and Belief (4)

This special topics course considers moral, ethical, and religious questions formulated and prompted by the Greco-Roman world. This course may be repeated once for credit when the topic differs.

CLST 150 Classics in Cinema (4)

The course focuses on portrayals of Greek and Roman culture in film, with readings from classical and later literature in translation as well as criticism.

CLST 160 Greek and Roman Private Life (4)

This course examines Greek and Roman private life using primarily archaeological but also literary evidence. Topics include the family, marriage and divorce, domestic architecture, sport, religion, and food.

CLST 170 Slavery in the Greco-Roman World (4)

This course will offer an overview of slavery as a political, legal, economic, social, and cultural phenomenon in the ancient Greek and Roman worlds.

CLST 180 Empire and Resistance: Roman Britain (4)

This course offers a study of Britain under Roman rule, from the first invasion by Julius Caesar to the early fifth century A.D. Political and military matters are considered, and literary as well as archaeological evidence is employed.

CLST 181 Classical Tradition in Britain (4)

This course offers an on-site consideration of the Greco-Roman tradition in modern Britain, and will include field trips in London and other archaeological sites. *Prerequisite: Only open to students admitted to the Sewanee Summer-in-England program.*

CLST 200 Classical Drama (4)

This course, with texts read in translation, examines Greco-Roman drama of various sorts: the works of the Athenian tragedians, Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides; the Greek comedies of Aristophanes and Menander; the Roman comedies of Plautus and Terence; and the Roman tragedies of Seneca.

CLST 202 Ancient Lyric Poetry in Translation (4)

This course examines lyric poetry from Greco-Roman antiquity ranging from the 8th century BC to the 1st century AD. Authors include Archilochus, Alcaeus, Sappho, Pindar, Catullus, and Horace. Consideration is also paid to the influence of ancient lyric upon the later poetic tradition and matters of translation. Taught in English.

CLST 204 Studies in Classics (2 or 4)

This course examines a topic of the Greco-Roman classical world. The subject matter and themes vary according to instructor.

CLST 205 Epigraphy Field School (2)

The Epigraphy Field School, part of the Ancient Graffiti Project, aims to document and digitize ancient graffiti from Herculaneum and Pompeii. Students receive training in archaeological field methods as well as digital applications used to study ancient inscriptions. Fieldwork on-site is enhanced by field trips to surrounding sites and guest lectures. *Prerequisite: Only open to students who have completed one course in Latin numbered 104 or above and been admitted to the Epigraphy Field School program.*

CLST 207 Greek Archaeology (4)

An introduction to the archaeology of ancient Greece and Rome.

CLST 208 Roman Archaeology (4)

An introduction to the archaeology of ancient Greece and Rome.

CLST 210 Ancient Epic in Translation (4)

This course focuses on the epic poetry of the Greco-Roman worlds. These works, which form the foundation of the western literary tradition, engage readers with a wide range of literary, mythological, historical, and cultural approaches. Possible readings include texts by Homer, Hesiod, Apollonius, Ennius, Lucretius, Vergil, Ovid, Lucan, Statius, Valerius Flaccus, and Silius Italicus.

CLST 220 Archaeology of Pompeii and Herculaneum (4)

Buried and preserved by Mount Vesuvius, Pompeii and the nearby city of Herculaneum are two of the most well-known and complete cities of the ancient Roman world. The material culture of both sites serves as a microcosm in which to survey Roman history, religion, society, art, and daily life. This course examines several categories of archaeological evidence including wall paintings, epigraphy, artifacts, and architecture.

CLST 250 The Golden Age of Athens (4)

This course examines the historical and literary sources that provide us with knowledge about the development of Athens in the Archaic and Classical periods culminating in the Peloponnesian War. Emphasis is placed on examining the methods, biases, and goals of the historians, Herodotus and Thucydides. Other authors considered include Sophocles, Aristophanes, the Sophists, Xenophon, Plato, and Aristotle. Not open for credit to students who have previously taken HIST 301.

CLST 322 Exploring Rome and the Bay of Naples (4)

In this extended on-site study in Italy, students examine the public and private life of people of various socio-economic classes in classical antiquity. The focus is on the material culture of Rome and the towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum. From the grand aristocratic villas and urban imperial palaces to the more modest quarters of the poor and enslaved, students explore at first hand the settings of the private lives of individuals in both the capital city of the Empire as well as the towns covered by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD.

CLST 349 Sex and Sexuality in Classical Antiquity (4)

This course examines sexual practices and the construction of sexuality in Greco-Roman antiquity. Drawing on both literary and artistic evidence, the course explores a wide range of topics, including sexual stereotypes, marriage, prostitution, pederasty, rape, adultery, and homoeroticism. Considerable attention is paid to the intersections of sex with gender, power, and social status.

CLST 350 Women and Gender in Classical Antiquity (4)

This course examines the lives of women in the ancient world and their representation in the literature of Greece and Rome. It explores how the Greeks and Romans constructed both female and male gender and what behavioral and sexual norms they assigned to each. Reading assignments include wide-ranging selections from Greek and Roman poetry (epic, drama, lyric, and elegy) and prose (philosophy, history, and oratory). Subjects addressed include gender stereotypes and ideals, power-relations of gender, the social conditions of women, familial roles, and male and female sexuality.

CLST 353 Latin Literature in Translation (4)

Survey of Latin literature in English translation treating Roman comedy, epic, history, and satire. Special emphasis in the first semester is on Vergil's *Aeneid*.

CLST 354 Sacred Spaces in and around Rome (2)

This three-week interdisciplinary course focuses on the relationship of the human to the divine in Italy, and Rome especially, from its earliest pagan manifestations, through the rise of Christianity in the first century, to the reform of spiritual life associated with St. Benedict and St. Francis of Assisi. The emphasis of the course is on the sense of place in these religious experiences of how location affected belief and behavior. Students explore ancient temples, Christian churches and catacombs in Rome, and follow in the footsteps of St. Benedict and St. Francis in Umbria.

CLST 355 Special Topics (4)

Though its content will vary from semester to semester, this class always focuses on a special topic in classical literature or culture not fully covered in existing courses. Examples might include courses on a single author, a literary movement or tradition, a genre, or a theme. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic differs. *Prerequisite: One course in CLST, GREK, or LATN or one course with attribute CLLG.*

CLST 444 Independent Study (2 or 4)

For students who offer an acceptable proposed course of study. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic differs. *Prerequisite: Instructor prerequisite override required.*

Greek Courses**GREK 103 Elementary Greek I (4)**

An intensive, introductory course in classical and *koine* Greek emphasizing forms and syntax and with extensive readings. Four class hours per week.

GREK 104 Elementary Greek II (4)

An intensive, introductory course in classical and *koine* Greek emphasizing forms and syntax and with extensive readings. Four class hours per week. *Prerequisite: GREK 103 or placement.*

GREK 203 Intermediate Greek (4)

A continuation of the study of grammar with readings from a variety of classical authors. Four class hours per week. *Prerequisite: GREK 104 or placement.*

GREK 301 Homer I (4)

Selected books of the *Iliad* with supplementary reading. *Prerequisite: GREK 203 or higher or placement.*

GREK 302 Homer II (4)

Selected books of the *Odyssey* with supplementary reading. *Prerequisite: GREK 203 or higher or placement.*

GREK 303 Greek Historians I (4)

Portions of Herodotus are read. *Prerequisite: GREK 203 or higher or placement.*

GREK 305 Greek Lyric Poets (4)

Selections from the elegiac, iambic, and melic poets are read. *Prerequisite: GREK 203 or higher or placement.*

GREK 308 Greek Orators II (4)

Reading of selections from the Attic orators. *Prerequisite: GREK 203 or higher or placement.*

GREK 310 New Testament (4)

One gospel and one epistle are read. *Prerequisite: GREK 203 or higher or placement.*

GREK 315 Greek Tragedy I (4)

Selected plays of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides are read. *Prerequisite: GREK 203 or higher or placement.*

GREK 318 Greek Comedy (4)

Selected plays of Aristophanes and Menander are read. *Prerequisite: GREK 203 or higher or placement.*

GREK 440 Directed Reading (2 or 4)

Specific readings for advanced students. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic differs. *Prerequisite: Instructor prerequisite override required.*

GREK 444 Independent Study (2 or 4)

For students who offer an acceptable proposed course of study. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic differs. *Prerequisite: Instructor prerequisite override required.*

Latin Courses**LATN 103 Elementary Latin I (4)**

An intensive, introductory course in Latin emphasizing forms and syntax and with extensive readings. Four class hours per week. *Prerequisite: Placement.*

LATN 104 Elementary Latin II (4)

An intensive, introductory course in Latin emphasizing forms and syntax and with extensive readings. Four class hours per week. *Prerequisite: LATN 103 or placement.*

LATN 113 Accelerated Beginning Latin (4)

An accelerated introductory course in Latin emphasizing forms and syntax and with extensive reading, intended as a refresher for those who have studied Latin previously. *Prerequisite: Placement.*

LATN 203 Intermediate Latin (4)

A continuation of the study of grammar with readings from a variety of authors. Four class hours per week. *Prerequisite: LATN 104 or placement.*

LATN 300 Caesar (4)

This course examines Caesar's presentation of the Civil Wars, including famous events such as the crossing of the Rubicon, the Battles of Dyrrhacium and Pharsalus, and the death of Pompey. Attention is also given to how these events are depicted in passages from Suetonius' *Life of Julius Caesar* and Lucan's epic poem, *Pharsalia*. The course aims not only to improve reading comprehension of Latin literature, but also to evaluate major sources for this critical period of Roman—indeed, all Western—history. It concludes with study of how Caesar's assassination is variously depicted. Not open for credit to students who have completed LATN 409. *Prerequisite: LATN 203 or higher or placement.*

LATN 301 Introduction to Latin Epic (4)

A study of selected passages from Latin epic poetry. *Prerequisite: LATN 203 or higher or placement.*

LATN 302 Cicero (4)

A study of Cicero as seen in selections from his various types of writing. Not open for credit to students who have completed LATN 404. *Prerequisite: LATN 203 or higher or placement.*

LATN 303 Catullus (4)

A reading of the poems of Catullus. *Prerequisite: LATN 203 or higher or placement.*

LATN 304 Special Topics (4)

This course examines a topic in Latin literature/culture for advanced Latin language students. The subject matter and themes vary according to instructor. *Prerequisite: LATN 203 or higher or placement.*

LATN 305 Love Elegy (4)

A study of Roman elegy through selections from one or more of the following authors: Tibullus, Sulpicia, Propertius, and Ovid. *Prerequisite: LATN 203 or higher or placement.*

LATN 306 Roman Satire (4)

Reading of selected satires of Horace and Juvenal. *Prerequisite: LATN 203 or higher or placement.*

LATN 307 Ovid (4)

Readings from one or more of the works of Ovid. *Prerequisite: LATN 203 or higher or placement.*

LATN 308 Sallust (4)

This course focuses on the work of the Roman historian Sallust. *Prerequisite: LATN 203 or higher or placement.*

LATN 309 Livy (4)

This course focuses on the work of the Roman historian Livy. *Prerequisite: LATN 203 or higher or placement.*

LATN 310 The Roman Novel (4)

This course examines the genre of prose fiction in Latin, with particular attention to the *Satyricon* of Petronius and the *Metamorphoses* (or "Golden Ass") of Apuleius. *Prerequisite: LATN 203 or higher or placement.*

LATN 313 Lucretius (4)

This course is devoted to close study of the Latin text of *De Rerum Natura* (*On the Nature of Things*) by the Roman poet Lucretius. *Prerequisite: LATN 203 or placement.*

LATN 320 Horace's Lyric Poetry (4)

This course focuses on the lyric works of Horace, especially the Odes. *Prerequisite: LATN 203 or higher or placement.*

LATN 321 Horace: Satires and Epistles (4)

This course focuses on Horace's hexameter works, the Satires and/or Epistles. *Prerequisite: LATN 203 or higher or placement.*

LATN 336 Roman Philosophers (4)

This course examines the philosophical prose writings of Cicero and Seneca. Special attention is given to Stoicism. *Prerequisite: LATN 203 or higher or placement.*

LATN 337 Vergil (4)

Readings in the *Eclogues*, *Georgics*, and *Aeneid*. *Prerequisite: LATN 203 or higher or placement.*

LATN 401 Roman Comedy (4)

A study of Roman comedy through a reading of at least one play by Plautus or Terence. *Prerequisite: LATN 203 or higher or placement.*

LATN 403 Prose of the Roman Empire (4)

This course focuses on the historical works of Tacitus, the letter of Pliny the Younger, and the biographies of the Caesars by Suetonius. *Prerequisite: LATN 203 or higher or placement.*

LATN 404 Poetry of the Roman Empire (4)

Selections from the poetry of the post-Augustan imperial period, with readings from one or more of the following authors: Seneca, Lucan, Statius, and Martial. *Prerequisite: LATN 203 or higher or placement.*

LATN 440 Directed Reading (2 or 4)

Specific readings for advanced students. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic differs. *Prerequisite: Instructor prerequisite override required.*

LATN 444 Independent Study (2 or 4)

For students who offer an acceptable proposed course of study. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic differs. *Prerequisite: Instructor prerequisite override required.*