



Department of Classical Studies
Graduate Course Offerings: Academic Year 2020-21

Fall Term September – December 2020

Classics 9000: Core Course

Drs. Brown & Greene - Wednesdays 2:30-5:30 pm

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the major scholarly approaches and questions of the discipline of Classics and to provide a broad perspective on the discipline as a whole, through the examination of selected texts and objects drawn from material culture. Students will be exposed to the theoretical framework for each subject, while engaging in a close scrutiny of selected examples (texts and artifacts).

Part I – Greek and Latin Literature: Brown

Part II – Greek and Roman Archaeology: Greene

Classics 9450A: Urbanism and Social Rituals in Ancient Rome

Dr. Kelly Olson – Fridays 1:30pm-4:30pm

This course looks at urban life in the city of Rome, exploring questions of urban identity, the uses of social space, and the construction of social rituals. We will cover such topics such as the conceptualization of urban space; streets and patterns of urban movement; suburbs, hills and neighborhoods; Rome as a museum; smellscapes and soundscapes; baths, spectacles, and triumphs; the retail economy; dying, burial, and cremation; and religious life in the ancient city. We will look at the benefits to city life, such as gardens and other public spaces, as well as malfunctions of the city: diseases, pollution, crowding, and crime.

Greek 9903A: Greek Historiography

Dr. Bernd Steinbock – Thursdays 2:30-5:30pm

In this course we will read substantial portions of Thucydides' gripping account of the Sicilian Expedition (Book 6 and 7). Our goal is two-fold, to gain familiarity with the characteristics of the genre of Greek historiography and to learn to appreciate the historical and literary dimensions of Thucydides' endeavor.

History has three integral elements and can be defined as the past, as practice, and as narrative (cf. Jonathan Hall 2007: 8-11). Consequently, we will approach Thucydides' history of the Sicilian Expedition from all these different angles and examine, among other things, Thucydides' historical method (e.g. sources, historical reliability, use of speeches, etc.) and his narrative art (i.e. influence of other literary genres and employment of particular literary techniques such as vivid description, focalization, analepsis, sideshadowing, etc.). Ultimately, we seek to understand Thucydides' view of history and his objectives in narrating the Athenians' Sicilian Expedition in this particular way.

Latin 9155A: Latin Epigraphy**Dr. Alexander Meyer – Mondays 2:30-5:30pm**

This course will introduce students to the fundamental resources, concepts and techniques of Latin Epigraphy. Throughout the term we will read many epigraphic texts, including tombstones, legal texts, imperial decrees, military diplomas, metrical inscriptions, graffiti and writing tablets, as well as secondary literature focused on epigraphy as a discipline and research that is based on epigraphic evidence. Each meeting will be centered on a major epigraphical text and readings related to it. By the end of the term students should be familiar with some of the most important surviving inscriptions, be able to read epigraphic texts with some facility, be comfortable with the primary periodicals and corpora associated with Latin Epigraphy, and be conversant in current debates surrounding the use of epigraphic evidence.

Winter Term January - April 2021

Classics 9000: Core Course

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Part II – Greek and Roman Archaeology: Greene

Part III – Greek and Roman History: Steinbock

Classics 9532B: Bronze Age Aegean

Dr. Catherine Pratt – Mondays 2:30-5:30pm

This course is a topic-based approach to the Bronze Age Aegean world. Each week will address a particular topic (Palace, House, Sanctuary/religion, Language, Trade/economy, Intercultural connections, Collapse, and Reception) using complementary archaeological theory, anthropological comparisons, and contemporary case studies. Specifically, most weeks will focus on juxtaposing Minoan and Mycenaean-era case studies to interpret similarities and differences through informed theoretical and anthropological models. By taking a topic-based approach, students will have the opportunity to focus on a particular theme that fits well with their own research specialties and preferences. Grading will be based on participation (20%), two presentations/discussion leadership (30%), an annotated bibliography (20%), and a research paper (30%).

Meetings will be held online.

Greek 9902B: Hesiod

Dr. Christopher Brown – Fridays 1:30-4:30pm

A close reading of the two main surviving poems ascribed to Hesiod, the Theogony and the Works and Days. Although sometimes dismissed as a 'didactic' poetry, the Hesiodic poems are in fact central texts, replete with important versions of crucial myths and other passages that shed much valuable light on the world-view of the early Greeks.

Latin 9902B: The Age of Nero

Dr. Randall Pogorzelski – Online - Thursdays 2:30-5:30pm

The Neronian period in Rome began with great optimism and saw a remarkable flowering of literary production (including Seneca, Lucan, Petronius, and Persius) as well as impressive military success. The young emperor inspired hope that the principate could be a beneficial form of government under the right man. By the time Tacitus' narrative cuts off, Nero has killed his mother; Seneca, Lucan, and Petronius have all died by suicide in the wake of a failed assassination plot; and Nero's own death is looming. This course examines the history and literature of the Neronian period, with a particular focus on Lucan and Seneca.