

Department of Classical Studies
Graduate Course Offerings: Academic Year 2024-2025**Fall Term**
September – December 2024**Classics 9000: Core Course****Drs. Brown & Meyer - Thursdays 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: Meyer

Greek 9903A: Greek Lyric Poetry**Dr. Il-Kweon Sir – Wednesdays 2:30-5:30 pm**

What are we going to do with Greek lyric? The history of Greek lyric scholarship is marked by watershed moments of change in methodology and ideology, spurred by the discovery of new texts: since the first publications of lyric texts on papyri, the field has been gripped successively by Romantic naïveté, teleological theories of Geistesgeschichte, the sociological-anthropological paradigm and its historicist and performance oriented approaches, and the latest so-called “literary turn”. At the same time, Greek lyric has been and continues to be central to the study and contextualisation of early Greek history and language. This is an exciting time to be “in” Greek lyric: in 2024, we are at another methodological juncture, where scholars have dug in their ideological heels in the face of uncertainty about which (as yet unproposed?) model will emerge supreme (though one wonders if supremacy is desirable). Beyond resisting the idea of a single way of approaching Greek lyric, this course has twin goals: (1) to become intimately familiar with Greek lyric poetry, and (2) to arrive at potential answers to the question “Where is Greek lyric heading?” by asking “What can Greek lyric offer contemporary Classicists?” through an examination of the interests and benefits of different methodological and ideological perspectives, using primarily Sappho and Alcaeus as our textual “sandbox”. Throughout the course, we will consider what Greek lyric can offer for different sub-disciplines in Classics, approaching the materials as textual critics, literary critics, anthropologists, historians, archaeologists; assignments will reflect the diverse disciplinary interests of the participants.

Latin 9902A: The Age of Nero**Dr. Randy Pogorzelski – Mondays 2:30-5:30pm**

The Neronian period in Rome began with great optimism and saw a remarkable flowering of literary production (including Lucan, Persius, Petronius, and Seneca) 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 Tacitus, Seneca, and Petronius. We will balance interpretive work with work on improving Latin language skills, and evaluation will be based on a combination of research and translation.

Classics 9450A: Sordid Rome: Filth, Pollution, and Disease in the Ancient City**Dr. Kelly Olson – Tuesdays 2:30-5:30 pm**

Dirt: dust, soil, refuse, excrement, bacteria, filth, sleaze, slime, smut-- the word effortlessly changes its meaning from the physical to the moral. Dirt, the cause of pollution, contamination and the taboo, is interpreted according to pre-existing anxieties and social norms, including those of religion, empire, individualism, race, gender, and class: different ideas of how the world works result in different notions of contamination, filth, and how the body is susceptible or impervious to its surroundings. How was pollution policed and controlled in Roman antiquity? How did Roman culture construct and negotiate dirt and filth? Topics to be discussed include toilets and waste disposal methods in Roman antiquity; mortality and disease; poverty; religious pollution and miasma; apotropaism and the evil eye; curse tablets and sexual graffiti; filth and the senses (taste, smell, and sight); and pollution and death.

Winter Term**January – April 2025****Classics 9000: Core Course****Drs. Meyer & Steinbock - 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 II – Greek and Roman Archaeology: Meyer**Part III – Greek and Roman History: Steinbock**

Greek 9902B: Plato's *Republic* Book 1
Dr. Christopher Brown – Tuesdays 2:30 – 5:30pm

A close reading of the first book of Plato's *Republic*. This work is one of the middle dialogues, a group which also includes such masterpieces as the *Symposium* and the *Phaedrus*, and it raises the important question of the nature of justice. That this question is not in fact answered has led some scholars to think that the book was originally an early aporetic dialogue, but it does lay the foundation for the rest of the *Republic*, in which Plato develops his controversial vision of an ideal state that is founded upon the true nature of justice. Plato was arguably the finest writer of classical Greek prose, and, accordingly, the *Republic* stands as a central work of both philosophy and literature in general. This course will place considerable emphasis on Plato's style and use of language, as well as the relation of Plato's thought to the intellectual debates of the fifth and fourth centuries BCE.

Classics 9552B: Greek Sanctuaries and Social Memory
Dr. Gino Canlas – Mondays 2:30-5:30pm

Greek sanctuaries were centres of social interaction—bragging, fighting, politicking, the creation of communities, and the manipulation of memories. This course will look at the development of Greek sanctuaries from the Early Iron Age to the Roman Imperial Period, primarily from an archaeological lens but also examining the literary and epigraphic evidence. It will introduce a range of sanctuaries, not just from mainland Greece but also from the farthest reaches of the Greek world. We will investigate the sanctuaries' roles in the construction of social or collective memory--how they serve as strategic tools through which the peoples that made use of them crafted memories and counter-memories through anachronism and reinvention, to create collective identities, to justify political dominance, or to respond to subjugation.

Latin 9903B: Ovid's *Amores* and Their Reception
Dr. Kyle Gervais – Thursdays 10:30am-12:00pm & 2:30-4:00

In this course we'll explore Ovid's *Amores* and some of their reception in later Latin poetry. We'll spend part of the course reading selections from the *Amores* in Latin and I'll expect you to have read (in English) and be able to discuss the entire work. We'll spend the remainder of the course reading Latin (and maybe some vernacular) elegiac poetry from late antiquity through the early modern period that responds to Ovid's work.