ANCIENT HISTORY

In the Department of Classics

The Classics Department offers courses listed in this catalogue under “Ancient History,” “Classics,” “Greek,” and “Latin.”

Course Offerings

[AN145]  Between Revolution and Tradition: Julius Caesar and Augustus  Listed as Classics 145.  Two credit hours.

AN154s  Roman History  Survey of ancient Roman history and civilization from foundation of Rome to the reign of Augustus, its first emperor. Covers major political, social, and cultural trends and events that made ancient Rome one of the most influential civilizations in history. The course deals with the origins and development of the Roman state, social and political institutions, major political and military developments, gender relations, Roman Games, comedy, expansion in the Mediterranean, transition from monarchy to republic to one-man rule, and influence on other civilizations including our own. Students will develop analytical and interpretative skills. A second paper is required for the fourth credit.  Three or four credit hours.  H. WELSER

AN158f  Greek History  Probably no single civilization has had such a decisive impact on world history as that of ancient Greece. In the Archaic and Classical periods (ca. 800-323 BCE), the Greeks established the foundations of much of modern thought in politics, philosophy, science, literature, education, and the arts. A survey of Greek History from its prehistoric beginnings through the conquests of Alexander the Great, focusing not only on important revolutions in society and culture but on the means by which ancient historians reconstruct the past. Topics include the rise of city-states (particularly Athens and Sparta), the evolution of Greek cultural values, the birth of democracy, and the development of history, drama, and philosophy. An additional paper is required for the fourth credit.  Three or four credit hours.  H. WELSER

[AN234]  In Search of a Strong Man: Greece in the Fourth Century  Listed as Classics 234.  Four credit hours.  H, I.

[AN342]  The Good, the Bad, and the Mad: Early Imperial Rome  Seminar to familiarize students with major aspects and characters of the first emperors of Rome and their impact on their contemporaries. Covers ancient sources for early imperial Rome, transition from Republic to monarchy, Augustus’s moral legislation and Roman slavery, Tiberius and the politics of accession and treason trials, conflicting views of Gaius Caligula, Caligula and Claudius and the Jews of Alexandria, Claudius and the ‘rule’ of imperial women, Nero, the great fire and the Christians, and the first Jewish war. Students will develop analytical and interpretative skills through oral presentations and argumentation and by writing an in-depth research paper.  Four credit hours.  H.

[AN356]  Alexander the Great  Listed as Classics 356.  Four credit hours.  H.

AN398s  Getting Schooled in Antiquity: Education in Greece and Rome  What does it mean to be educated? In the ancient world, answers to that question ranged from the legendary rigors of the Spartan agoge to the artificial controversiae of Roman rhetoric, from music and athletics to mathematics and philosophy, from grammar schools based on rote memorization and regular beatings to the arcane intellectualism of Plato’s Academy. As we survey Greek and Roman educational practice from Homer to the rise of Christianity, we will examine the educational ideas of thinkers including Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, and Quintilian and attempt to formulate our own ideas of what a worthwhile education should be.  Four credit hours.  H. WELSER