In the Department of Classics

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

Course Offerings

GK111f  Introductory Greek  Western civilization and culture finds its basis in the ideas and thoughts of the ancient Greeks. Students acquire the basic principles of ancient Greek grammar, syntax, and vocabulary while learning to translate simple and some compound sentences from Greek to English and from English into Greek. The grammatical and syntactical aspects also bring an appreciation for and understanding of a radically different culture, separated from us by time and space. Other learning goals include developing reading comprehension skills, enhancement of critical and analytical faculties, and attention to detail.  

Three credit hours.  GILLUM, LESSER

GK112s  Intermediate Greek  Students continue to acquire the basic principles of ancient Greek through grammar, syntax, and vocabulary, and thus come closer to the ideas and thoughts of the ancient Greeks. Students will acquire the elementary knowledge of tools necessary to read original Greek text. Various passages in the original Greek bring students an appreciation of ancient Greek literature. Learning goals include developing reading comprehension skills, enhancement of critical and analytical faculties, attention to detail. Satisfies the second semester of language requirement. Prerequisite: Greek 111.  

Four credit hours.  LESSER

GK131f  Introduction to Greek Literature  Introduction to the reading of original ancient Greek text. The choice of text varies from year to year and consists of either poetry or prose. Focus on applying the concepts of syntax and grammar learned in previous semesters. It includes textual and literary analysis of the selected work. Learning goals include decoding of ancient text, further development of reading ancient Greek and comprehension skills, enhancement of critical and analytical faculties, improvement of oral argumentational structuring skills. Prerequisite: Greek 112.  

Four credit hours.  L.  LESSER

GK235  The Defense of Socrates: Xenophon's and Plato's Apology  What was Socrates's defense against the charge of impiety? Why was he willing to die? Plato and Xenophon give two different accounts of Socrates's pleas. Prerequisite: Greek 131.  

Four credit hours.  L.

GK239f  Desire, Deceit, and Murder: Euripides's Medea  Medea has already given up everything for the man she loves. Now Jason betrays her for a young princess. How far will this brilliant, independent, and powerful woman go to get her revenge, and does she have right on her side? Prerequisite: Greek 131.  

Four credit hours.  L.  LESSER


Four credit hours.  L.

GK258  Politics of Revenge: Sophocles's Electra  Electra's own inaction in the face of her mother's crime is examined in this drama. Each of Greece's great tragedians confronted this horrifying tale of conflicting duties and responsibilities. The differing emphases and perspectives of Euripides and Sophocles will receive particular scrutiny. Prerequisite: Greek 131.  

Four credit hours.  L.

GK351s  Homer's Odyssey 19-20  Odysseus returns to his palace on Ithaka disguised as a wandering beggar, concealing his identity even from his wife Penelope. Why does he lie to her? Does Penelope suspect the truth? How are we to judge her fidelity as she prepares to marry one of the suitors? Prerequisite: Greek 131.  

Four credit hours.  L.  LESSER

GK356  Homer, Iliad 1: Hero's Rage  Achilles's quarrel with Agamemnon followed by his decision not to fight caused the Greeks and their allies many casualties and led to the deaths of Patroclus and Hector. The episode described in Iliad 1 questions the values of authority, hierarchy, bravery, gratitude, loyalty, and arrogance, as well as the attitude of the Homeric Greeks toward their wives and concubines. The description of events allows us to analyze the emotions of anger and restraint, as well as forgiveness. Learning goals include further development of Greek reading and comprehension skills, familiarity with the Homeric epic, enhancement of critical and analytical faculties, improvement of oral and argumentational structuring skills, and refinement of writing skills. Prerequisite: Greek 131.  

Four credit hours.  L.

GK359  Homer's Iliad 3: Menelaos and Paris  In preparation for the combat between Menelaos and Paris, Helen shows herself on the walls of Troy. Will the two heroes, rivals for her hand, fight to the death? If not, what will happen next? Prerequisite: Greek 131.  

Four credit hours.  L.