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  Much of Western culture finds its basis in the ideas of the ancient Greeks. In this highly intensive course, students acquire Greek grammar, syntax, and vocabulary, the basics for learning the language in which Homer, Plato, and other foundational writers expressed their thoughts. By the end of the month, students will be prepared to enroll in Greek 112. Learning goals include the ability to translate sentences, developing critical and analytical faculties, and gaining knowledge of some of the structural principles that underlie European languages from English to Russian.  Three credit hours.  H. ROISMAN

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.  H. ROISMAN

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.  H. ROISMAN

[GK239]  Revenge and Cowardice: Euripides’s Electra  In the Euripidean version of the myth of Electra, the playwright asks his audience what happens when one parent murders the other. How does one reconcile the imperative to avenge a father’s murder with matricide? Prerequisite: Greek 131.  Four credit hours.  L.

GK251f  Husbands and Wives: Euripides’s Alcestis  Alcestis agrees to die instead of her husband, Admetus. Why? And why does Admetus let her? Is there a tragic character in the play? Prerequisite: Greek 131.  Four credit hours.  L.  H. ROISMAN

[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.

[GK351]  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.

[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.

GK359s  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.  H. ROISMAN