In the Department of Classics

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

Course Offerings

LT111f Introductory Latin Latin was the language of Virgil, Ovid, Cicero, and Tacitus, giants in the Western literary tradition, and, for centuries Latin remained the lingua franca of the educated. It also gave rise to the Romance languages and to a vast proportion of English vocabulary. Combines lucid explanations of grammar with cultural information and readings in simplified Latin of major classical texts. Prerequisite: Latin 111. Four credit hours. BARRETT

LT112s Intermediate Latin The history, literature, and culture of the Western tradition can be traced through Rome, and many of the great ideas and texts of the ancient and premodern world were formulated in Latin. Builds on the foundations laid in Latin 111. Learning goals include continuing the assimilation of Latin grammar and syntax, equipping students with the tools to read Rome's greatest authors in their original tongue, and fostering greater familiarity with broader Roman culture. Prerequisite: Latin 112, or appropriate score on the College Board Latin SAT Subject Test, AP Latin exam, or placement test administered during new student orientation. Four credit hours. L. O'NEILL

LT131f Introduction to Latin Literature Having mastered Latin grammar and syntax, students now take on the challenges and rewards of reading an unsimplified Latin text. They will learn to translate most Latin texts with the aid of a dictionary, to accomplish a literary, historical, and cultural analysis of any complex text, and to satisfy the rigorous requirements of a demanding work schedule. Prerequisite: Latin 112, or appropriate score on the College Board Latin SAT Subject Test, AP Latin exam, or a higher level Latin course. Four credit hours. L.

[LT232] Catullus and Tibullus In works ranging from brief epigrams to epyllia, from impassioned love poems to scurrilous abuse, Catullus demonstrates his mastery of meter, mythology, and language. His poems about the beautiful Lesbia provided a model for the elegiac poets to follow, while his long poems demonstrate the learning of this scholar-poet. Whether bitterly assailing a false friend or tearfully bidding farewell at his brother's graveside, Catullus exhibits a mastery of poetic language. Tibullus is a poet of deceptive complexity who writes exclusively in the elegiac meter but shares many themes with Catullus: love, death, and passion in between. Prerequisite: Latin 131, or appropriate score on the College Board Latin SAT Subject Test, AP Latin exam, or a higher level Latin course. Four credit hours. L.

[LT233] Apuleius: Africa's Naughty Genius Apuleius's life is as fascinating as his writing. His origins in Africa and his post-classical dates have left him on the margins of the classical canon, but his ribald wit, his narrative flair, and his inventive genius make him well worth reading. We shall read his account of the Festival of Laughter from The Golden Ass, paying special attention to his debt to Satire and Aristophanic Comedy. Prerequisite: Latin 131, or appropriate score on the College Board Latin SAT Subject Test, AP Latin exam, or a higher level Latin course. Four credit hours. L.

[LT251] Ovid and the Censored Voice Ovid is perhaps the most famous victim of censorship in classical antiquity, but even banishment could not silence him. We will read selections from the Metamorphoses, Tristia, and Ars Amatoria that explicitly address the suppression of the poet's speech, figuratively present the poet's response to censorship, or possibly constitute the reason for his exile. Through reading Latin texts and secondary literature, and performing original research, students will develop familiarity with the genius of Ovid. They will enhance their abilities in language; literary, historical, and cultural analysis; and oral and written communication. Prerequisite: Latin 131, or appropriate score on the College Board Latin SAT Subject Test, AP Latin exam, or a higher level Latin course. Four credit hours. L.

[LT255] The Aeneid, Vergil's Epic of Migration Vergil sends Aeneas on a fantastic journey between imaginary homelands: a Troy that no longer stands, a Rome that does not yet exist. Even the Rome revealed to us through prophecy, necromancy, and divine decree does not seem recognizable. Who was Aeneas: exile or immigrant, refugee or colonizer? What can he tell us about Roman identity? Studying selections from the Aeneid and secondary literature will develop your abilities in language and in literary, historical, and cultural analysis. Together, students will create a website to present their original research and enhance their communication skills. Prerequisite: Latin 131, or appropriate score on the AP or SAT Subject Latin exam, or a higher-level Latin course. Four credit hours. L.

LT271f Nature in Horace's Epodes Horace is one of Rome's greatest and most influential poets, but often textbooks focus on his blandest poems for fear of offending anyone. A selection from The Epodes, a book of often scurrilous abuse in poetic form focusing in particular on Roman presentations of nature (real and idealized), love, and witchcraft. Human/Nature theme course. Prerequisite: Latin 131, or appropriate score on the College Board Latin SAT Subject Test, AP Latin exam, or a 200-level or 300-level Latin course. Four
[LT354] Seneca’s Medea This Roman version of Medea’s terrible revenge on the guilty and innocent alike warns us that injustice begets injustice and asks how divine power can permit evil to triumph. The play draws on contemporary dilemmas of imperial Rome but explores them in the safe context of a Greek tragedy. Learning goals include enhanced analytical skills, improved translation abilities, and improved written, oral, and visual communication skills. Prerequisite: Latin 131 or higher-level course. Four credit hours. L.

[LT357] Myth and History at Rome: Cicero’s De Re Publica Set in 129 BCE and written in the late 50s BCE, Cicero’s De Re Publica is a dramatic dialogue like those of Plato. Addressing the ideal state, it contains both Scipio Aemilianus’s dream of the afterlife and an account of early Roman history, from Romulus and Remus to the early kings. Triangulating these three historical periods—early Rome, the late second century, and the mid first century—the dialogue poses questions about Rome’s origins as a key to Roman identity, the role of Greece in Roman self-fashioning, the representation of the past in Roman political discourse, aristocratic values in crisis, and philosophy as a form of politics. Prerequisite: Latin 131. Four credit hours. L.

LT359s Nature of Things: Lucretius’s De Rerum Natura A contemporary of Cicero, Caesar, and Catullus, Lucretius explains the workings of the cosmos, the nature of love and death, and the rewards of thinking freely. A masterpiece of Latin poetry, De Rerum Natura is a scathing critique of ancient religion, a scientific tour de force, and a monument in the intellectual history of Europe. Human/Nature theme course. Prerequisite: Latin 131 or higher. Four credit hours. L. BARRETT

[LT362] Lovers, Exiles, and Shepherds: Virgil’s Eclogues The Eclogues have exerted a tremendous influence on later poets across Europe and the Americas. Virgil’s bucolic poetry draws on ancient learning, contemporary politics, and his own artistic sensibility. Prerequisite: Latin 131 or higher-level course. Four credit hours. L.