

ANCIENT STUDIES

Overview and Contact Information

The major in ancient studies encourages the study of ancient Greek and Roman civilizations from an interdisciplinary and inclusive perspective. Currently, majors may choose from among three concentrations: a) art historical/archaeological, b) historical, c) literary/mythological. On consultation with their advisors, students may select courses from among those offered in classics, art history, history, philosophy, politics, and religion. Through this major students will attain a deeper and more sophisticated knowledge of the ancient world.

The Ancient Studies major and minor are available only to students who entered the College before fall 2024. Students entering fall 2024 or later should instead refer to Classical Studies (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/classical-studies/>). Students who entered before fall 2024 and who will graduate in May 2025 or later are eligible to choose either Ancient Studies or Classical Studies after consulting with the chair of the Classical Studies department.

See Also

- Classical Studies (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/classical-studies/>)
- Classics (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/classics/>)
- Greek (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/greek/>)
- Latin (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/latin/>)

Contact Information

Ombretta Frau, Chair

Geoffrey Sumi, Professor of Classics

Denise Falk, Academic Department Coordinator

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<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/academics/find-your-program/ancient-studies> (<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/academics/find-your-program/ancient-studies/>)

Learning Goals

Learning goals for students of classics and ancient studies are:

- To analyze critically ancient Greek and Roman texts, in their original languages and in translation, within their literary, philosophical, and historical contexts.
- To understand major monuments and artifacts within their historical and cultural settings; to develop a visual literacy of ancient art and sharpen the ability to see and express what one sees.
- To imagine fully and creatively ancient cultural communities when relying on limited written and material remains.
- To deepen the understanding of current problems by studying the responses of ancient Greeks and Romans to questions about the human condition, including, how to live well, and how to govern.
- To write and speak more confidently and effectively, and to develop well-reasoned arguments using primary evidence and/or secondary material, including print and digital resources.

- To expand intellectual breadth through studying the ancient Greek and Roman worlds through different disciplines and modes of inquiry.

Faculty

This area of study is administered by the Department of Classics and Italian. Advisors in Ancient Studies:

Geoffrey Sumi, Professor of Classics

Bruce Arnold, Associate Professor of Classics, Teaching Fall Only

Catherine Baker, Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics

Requirements for the Major

A minimum of 32 credits:

Code	Title	Credits
At least one 4 credit course at or above the level of GREEK-102 or LATIN-102		4
At least one 4 credit art historical or archaeological course focusing on the ancient Mediterranean		4
At least one 4 credit literary or mythical course focusing on the ancient Mediterranean or India		4
At least two 4 credit historical courses:		8
One course on the ancient Greek world		
One course on the ancient Roman world		
At least two 4 credit 300-level courses:		8
One of which is a designated capstone/research seminar		
One of which is in the chosen concentration		
One additional 4 credit course at the 200 level or above		4
Total Credits		32

Additional Specifications

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- At least three (4 credit) courses (12 credits total) must be within the chosen concentration
- Students intending to pursue graduate studies are encouraged to minor in a related area (e.g., art history, classics, history, one of the ancient languages, philosophy, or religion)

Requirements for the Minor

A minimum of 20 credits:

Code	Title	Credits
Two 4 credit courses, each from different areas of concentration		8
At least one 4 credit course at the 300 level		4
8 credits from relevant 4 credit courses in art history, classics, history, Asian studies, philosophy, religion, or politics		8
Total Credits		20

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2024 or later should instead refer to Classical Studies (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/classical-studies/>).

Related Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Art History		
ARTH-290GR	Issues in Art History: 'Greek Art and Archaeology'	4
ARTH-290PE	Issues in Art History: 'Pompeii and the Archaeology of Daily Life in the Roman World'	4
ARTH-290RA	Issues in Art History: 'Roman Art and Archaeology'	4
ARTH-290VA	Issues in Art History: 'Ancient Greek Vases and Vase Painting'	4
Classical Studies		
CLAS-101	Elementary Latin I	4
CLAS-102	Elementary Latin II	4
CLAS-111	Elementary Greek: Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	4
CLAS-112	Elementary Greek: Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	4
CLAS-201	Intermediate Latin I	4
CLAS-202CE	Intermediate Latin II Topics: 'Cicero and the Enemies of the Roman Republic'	4
CLAS-202RC	Intermediate Latin II Topics: 'Roma Ludens: Comedy and Satire in Ancient Rome'	4
CLAS-202VA	Intermediate Latin II Topics: 'Vergil: <i>Aeneid</i> '	4
CLAS-202WR	Intermediate Latin II Topics: 'Myth, Memory, and History: Writing the Past in the Roman Republic'	4
CLAS-216	Ancient Rome	4
CLAS-218	Gods and Mortals: Classical Mythology	4
CLAS-219	Cleopatra: The Not Humble Woman	4
CLAS-226	Bread and Circuses: The Politics of Public Entertainment in Ancient Rome	4
CLAS-227	Ancient Greece	4
CLAS-231	Greek Tragedy, American Drama, and Film	4
CLAS-242	Kingdoms Human and Divine	4
CLAS-247	Knowing God	4
CLAS-250EC	Intermediate Topics in Classical Studies: 'Ecology, Crisis, and Renewal in Ancient Near Eastern Mythology'	4
CLAS-250PE	Intermediate Topics in Classical Studies: 'Pompeii and the Archaeology of Daily Life in the Roman World'	4
CLAS-250PV	Intermediate Topics in Classical Studies: 'The Prophetic Voice from the Bible to the Present'	4
CLAS-250RA	Intermediate Topics in Classical Studies: 'Roman Art and Archaeology'	4
CLAS-250VA	Intermediate Topics in Classical Studies: 'Ancient Greek Vases and Vase Painting'	4
CLAS-295	Independent Study	1-4
CLAS-302	Cicero and the Enemies of the Roman Republic	4
CLAS-307	The Slender Muse	4
CLAS-309	Vergil: <i>Aeneid</i>	4
CLAS-312	Roma Ludens: Comedy and Satire in Ancient Rome	4
CLAS-313	Myth, Memory, and History: Writing the Past in the Roman Republic	4
CLAS-316	Ovid: <i>Metamorphoses</i>	4

CLAS-318	Petronius' <i>Satyricon</i> and the Roman Novel	4
CLAS-320	Bad Roman Emperors	4
CLAS-395	Independent Study	1-8
History		
HIST-226	Bread and Circuses: The Politics of Public Entertainment in Ancient Rome	4
HIST-227	Ancient Greece	4
HIST-228	Ancient Rome	4
HIST-320	Bad Roman Emperors	4
Philosophy		
PHIL-201	Philosophical Foundations of Western Thought: The Greek Period	4
Politics		
POLIT-211	Classical Political Thought	4
Religion		
RELIG-225KG	Topics in Religion: 'Knowing God'	4
RELIG-225KH	Topics in Religion: 'Kingdoms Human and Divine'	4