

GREEK

Overview and Contact Information

Ancient Greek is very much alive, not just in the medical and technical terms that pervade modern life, but in the numerous works that still speak to audiences today. Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, Greek tragedies, Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War* and, of course, the *New Testament* are just some of the names on Greek's list of "Greatest Hits."

These works, of course, can be read in translation, and the department offers a wide array of courses approaching the culture and history of Greek antiquity through readings entirely in English. But juxtapose any two translations of a work in Ancient Greek and you will quickly realize how much the translator stands between you and the original. For this reason, our language program is designed to allow students to read Homer's *Iliad* in Greek as soon as possible—and to help them learn to use the tools needed for learning Greek on their own. Beyond the first year, we offer a range of courses at all levels.

The Greek major (or minor) complements well the study of philosophy, religion, politics, ancient art history, and archaeology, and in some cases Greek is necessary for advanced study in these areas. It is also excellent preparation for law school, while some of our majors have completed their pre-med course work and gone on to medical school. Most important, the study of Greek (Latin, too) provides a strong foundation in the liberal arts, one that challenges students to think deeply about difficult questions and to value the power of language.

In addition to Greek the department offers majors in Latin, classics, and ancient studies. Classics combines the study of both ancient languages with courses in ancient history, art, philosophy, politics, or religion. Ancient studies approaches Greek and Roman civilizations from an interdisciplinary perspective with less emphasis on the ancient languages. There are also minors related to each of these majors.

Study Abroad

The department encourages study abroad. In recent years, students in the department have spent part of their junior year at Oxford, Saint Andrews, and other institutions in Great Britain. College Year in Athens also offers a one-semester program in Greece. Students who anticipate taking an advanced degree in archaeology, ancient art history, ancient history, or classics can apply to summer sessions of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

See Also

- Ancient Studies (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/ancient-studies>)
- Classics (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/classics>)
- Latin (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/latin>)

Contact Information

Bruce Arnold, Chair

Denise Falk, Academic Department Coordinator

112 Ciruti Center

413-538-2885

<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/classics>

Faculty

This area of study is administered by the Department of Classics and Italian. Advisors for Greek:

Paula Debnar, Professor of Classics

Geoffrey Sumi, Professor of Classics

Bruce Arnold, Associate Professor of Classics

Requirements for the Major

A minimum of 32 credits:

At least 12 credits at the 300 level in the language of concentration	12
20 additional credits in approved courses at the 200 level or above. These may be courses in Latin or Greek and/or a variety of courses in art history, classics (in English), history, philosophy, politics, or religion. ¹	20
Total Credits	32

¹ These courses should be selected after consulting with her advisor.

Additional Specifications

- Courses at the 100 level normally do not count toward the major; however, in the case of second (or third) languages, 8 credits of Greek, Latin, or Sanskrit at the 100 level may count toward the major.

Requirements for the Minor

A minimum of 16 credits:

12 credits above the 100 level in the Greek language	12
At least 4 credits at the 300 level in the Greek language	4
Total Credits	16

Course Offerings

GREEK-101 Elementary Greek: *Homer's Iliad*

Fall. Credits: 4

This course introduces the ancient Greek language and epic meter through the study of the *Iliad*. The grammar of the *Iliad*, originally an oral poem, is relatively uncomplicated, so that by the middle of the first semester students will begin to read the poem in Greek. By the end of the year they will have read a portion of *Iliad*, Book I.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language

P. Debnar

GREEK-102 Elementary Greek: *Homer's Iliad*

Spring. Credits: 4

An introduction to the ancient Greek language and epic meter through the study of the *Iliad*. The grammar of the *Iliad*, originally an oral poem, is relatively uncomplicated. By the middle of the first semester, therefore, students will begin to read the poem in Greek. By the end of the year they will have read a portion of *Iliad*, Book I.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language

P. Debnar

Prereq: GREEK-101. Coreq: GREEK-102L.

GREEK-222 Classical Greek Prose and Poetry

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

This course focuses on Attic Greek, the dialect in which the tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, the comedies of Aristophanes, Thucydides' *History*, and Plato's dialogues were composed. Each year the readings will focus on a particular theme as it is treated in prose and poetry. Possible topics: Socrates (Plato, Xenophon, Aristophanes); Athenian law courts (Lysias, Plato, Aristophanes); Medea (Euripides and Apollonius); Alcibiades (Thucydides, Plato, Plutarch).

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
M. Landon

Prereq: GREEK-201 or GREEK-250.

Notes: Repeatable for credit. Greek 222 may be taken at the 300 level (see Greek 322).

GREEK-250 Intermediate Greek Tutorial

Fall and Spring. Credits: 2 - 4

Studies in Greek lyric and elegy, pastoral poetry, the dialogues of Plato, the Greek novel, the use of myth in literature, or other authors, topics, or genres.

Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement

P. Debnar, The department

Instructor permission required.

Notes: Repeatable for credit. Meets Humanities requirement if taken for 4 credits

GREEK-295 Independent Study

Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 4

The department

Instructor permission required.

GREEK-322 Classical Greek Prose and Poetry

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

This course focuses on Attic Greek, the dialect in which the tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, the comedies of Aristophanes, Thucydides' *History*, and Plato's dialogues were composed. Each year the readings will focus on a particular theme as it is treated in prose and poetry. Possible topics: Socrates (Plato, Xenophon, Aristophanes); Athenian law courts (Lysias, Plato, Aristophanes); Medea (Euripides and Apollonius); Alcibiades (Thucydides, Plato, Plutarch).

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
M. Landon

Prereq: GREEK-350.

Notes: Repeatable for credit. Students in this course attend class meetings for Greek 222.

GREEK-350 Advanced Greek Tutorial

Fall and Spring. Credits: 2 - 4

Studies in Greek lyric and elegy, pastoral poetry, the dialogues of Plato, the Greek novel, the use of myth in literature, or other authors, topics, or genres.

Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement

G. Sumi, The department

Instructor permission required.

Prereq: GREEK-222 or above.

Notes: Repeatable for credit. Can meet the Humanities requirement, but only if taken for 4 credits.

GREEK-395 Independent Study

Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 8

The department

Instructor permission required.