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Classical Languages

Saint Mary's College of California

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CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

The ancient Greeks and Romans left a legacy of values and ideas that continue to inform the way we view the changing world around us. The Classical Languages department enables students to go beyond the translations and engage directly with the extant Greek and Roman texts, while at the same time acquiring knowledge about their context. In this way, students can attain a clearer understanding of the Greco-Roman component in modern-day world views as they continue to reflect on the universal human condition.

Whether you major in Classics or not, the linguistic approaches and strategies you will develop with us are highly transferable. Familiarity with the etymology of the Greek and Latin roots in English makes the study of science much more effective. There is no better preparation for the pitfalls of legalese than the meticulous, logical approach to Greek and Latin texts. Students who plan to enter graduate studies in Classics, philosophy, art history, theology, archaeology, etc., will be able to satisfy one or more of the language requirements in those programs. No matter what career you choose, students tell us, the overall cultural enrichment you get along the way is one of the great benefits of Classical studies.

Classical Languages majors write a Senior Thesis based on one of their upper division courses on a major author.

FACULTY

Michael Riley, Ph.D., *Professor, Chair*

Brother S. Dominic Ruegg, FSC, Ph.D.,
Professor Emeritus

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Our focus is on your learning. We actively communicate with you in the course of your studies. We rely on your input as you progress toward linguistic proficiency in Greek and/or Latin.

Upon successful completion of the **ELEMENTARY LATIN/GREEK SEQUENCES**, you will be able to:

- Engage in simple interactions in Latin and/or ancient Greek;
- Read and understand simple texts with the help of dictionaries and textbook materials;
- Translate simple English sentences into idiomatic Latin and/or Greek;
- Develop a stable understanding of grammar as a vehicle for logic;
- Acquire reliable strategies for approaching sentences in both Latin/Greek and English;
- Begin to develop strategies for sight-reading Latin and/or Greek texts (without the help of dictionaries and textbook materials); and
- Understand the basic cultural, historical, political, philosophical and mythological background of the texts you read.

Upon successful completion of the **INTERMEDIATE LATIN/GREEK SEQUENCES**, you will be able to:

- Engage in more complex interactions in Latin and/or ancient Greek;
- Read relatively complex texts with occasional help from dictionaries and textbook materials;
- Sight-read basic texts;
- Distinguish between writers' styles and develop specific reading strategies for dealing with each author;
- Translate sentences into idiomatic Latin and/or Greek in a specific writer's style;
- Appreciate the metric and rhythm of Greek and Roman poetry;
- Discuss the cultural, historical, political, philosophical and mythological background of the texts you read;
- Understand the logical and rhetorical complexities of ancient texts;
- Appreciate the creative distortions inevitable in translation; and
- Perform basic evaluation of selected official translations from Latin and Greek.

UPPER-DIVISION COURSES IN LATIN AND/OR GREEK

hone the intermediate skills you've acquired:

- Your reactions to the linguistic aspects of the Latin/Greek text should become more or less automatic;
- You will sight-read most Latin and Greek texts;
- You will be able to read some very difficult texts without losing sight of their non-linguistic dimensions; and
- Your proficiency in analyzing the hidden dimensions of any text—English or ancient—will increase dramatically, along with your expanded vocabulary and interpretive sophistication.

Curriculum Classical Languages

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

LOWER DIVISION CLASSICS MAJOR

By arrangement.

GREEK MAJOR

Greek 3 and **4** or an acceptable equivalent are prerequisite to all upper-division courses, except for **Greek 163** and **166**.

LATIN MAJOR

Latin 3 and **4** or an acceptable equivalent are prerequisite to all upper-division courses, except for **Latin 163**.

UPPER DIVISION CLASSICS MAJOR

Eight upper-division courses combining study of Latin and Greek.

GREEK MAJOR

Eight upper-division courses focused on Greek.

LATIN MAJOR

Eight upper-division courses focused on Latin.

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

*The minor in Latin requires **Latin 101, 102, 110** and two electives in Latin. The minor in Greek requires **Greek 101, 102, 106** and two electives in Greek.*

PREREQUISITE GRADE

Any course listed in this department with a prerequisite assumes a grade of C- or better in the prerequisite course.

C O U R S E S

CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

LOWER DIVISION

1 Etymology: The Greek and Latin Roots in English (.25)

A course in vocabulary-building and word-power. Students learn how to decode a wide range of complicated English vocabulary, to make better and more precise vocabulary choices, and to improve oral and written communication skills. Over 60 percent of all English words have Greek or Latin roots. In the sciences and technology, the figure rises to over 90 percent. This course surveys Greek and Latin derivatives in English and examines the contexts in which the original meanings have changed. Students learn to interpret correctly the semantic range of Greek and Latin roots in English. The English language emerges as a dynamic system intricately linked to historical, social, and cultural realities.

UPPER DIVISION

100 Classical Mythology

Classical Mythology is a study of the highly flexible narrative content of Greek and Roman myths, the underlying thought patterns behind it, and the ancient attitudes to myth in our main sources, the literary works of Greek and Roman writers. Classical myths and mythological references in both Classical and non-Classical literature and art emerge in historical contexts. *Prerequisites: **English 5** or instructor's approval. This course satisfies the Common Good requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

GREEK

1 Elementary Greek

Beginner's course. Morphology, syntax, introduction to the reflective and scientific analysis of language. (Cross-listed as **Integral 51**.)

2 Elementary Greek

Continuation of **Greek 1**. Reading of texts of Plato and Aristotle. *Prerequisite: **Greek 1**.* (Cross-listed as **Integral 52**.)

3 Intermediate Greek

Reading of selected authors, study of various types of discourse. Reading of Plato, Aristotle, lyric poetry and drama. Discussion of logic, rhetoric and dialectic. *Prerequisite: **Greek 2**.* (Cross-listed as **Integral 53**.)

4 Intermediate Greek

Continuation of **Greek 3**. *Prerequisite: **Greek 3**.* (Cross-listed as **Integral 54**.)

LATIN

1 Elementary Latin

Beginner's course. Morphology, syntax, exercises in composition and translation.

2 Elementary Latin

Continuation of **Latin 1**. *Prerequisite: **Latin 1**.*

3 Intermediate Latin

Reading of prose. Deepened study of language. *Prerequisite: **Latin 2**.*

4 Intermediate Latin

Reading of poetry. *Prerequisite: **Latin 3**.*

GREEK

101 Plato

A reading of a shorter and a longer dialogue with consideration of the contemporary background, and the range of philological and philosophical questions. A number of the dialogues that are lesser-known are read and considered in translation. An attempt is made to view the totality of Plato's work and life.

102 Homer

A study of epic dialect and technique of composition; methods of historical and literary interpretation. The nature of myth and a comparison of the diverse forms of ancient epic in various cultures are topics.

103 Greek Historians

The history of Greek historiography is studied by examples of the methods of Herodotus, Thucydides, Xenophon and Polybius from their texts.

105 Greek Orators

Why rhetoric was the major science of antiquity is investigated. Examples are taken from the canon of Attic orators.

106 Greek Dramatists

Greek playwrights are studied in as broad a representation as possible: the tragedians, Aristophanes and Menander.

107 Aristotle

A study of Aristotle's scientific method and its relationship to metaphysics as exemplified in the *Physics* and *Metaphysics*, as well as of his concept of dialectic as opposed to that of Plato.

110 New Testament Greek

A sampling of Hellenistic Greek is studied as background, and the course then concentrates upon the Gospels and Paul in selection.

115 Greek Lyric Poets

Special attention is accorded Pindar. The history of Greek lyric is studied in examples.

160 Greek Literature in Translation

Texts of epic, dramatic, lyric, and historical and philosophical genres are presented and discussed, and their relationships to modern literature considered.

163 Greek History and Civilization

A study of the religious, social, political and economic conditions of Ancient Greece (2000–250 B.C.) through history and archaeology. Selected ancient authors are read in their historical context. The course is the first half of a study of ancient history. (Cross-listed as **History 181**.) Offered in alternate years.

166 Classical Archaeology

A study of the topography and monuments of Greece and Rome. Methods of archeological research.

199 Special Study – Honors

An independent study or research course for upper-division majors with a B average in Greek. Permission of the instructor and department chair is required. Course normally requires Greek composition. On an individual basis, students work with composition textbooks to submit for revision their own renderings into Classical Greek.

LATIN

101 Cicero

The full variety of Cicero's texts is sampled, and he is located within the history of the Roman Republic.

102 Roman Historians

A study of representative texts of Sallust, Livy and Tacitus, with attention to the widest range of interpretative problems.

103 Patristic Latin

Texts of Tertullian, Augustine and Boethius are read, with special attention to *Confessions*.

104 Roman Comedy

A study of the plays of Plautus and Terence, with attention to contemporary social history and the traditions of the stage.

108 Horace

A study of Horace's major lyrics, with admission of various methods of interpretation for discussion.

109 Roman Law

The nature and history of Roman law is studied in translation. Its theoretical and historical relation to common law is examined.

110 Virgil

The entire corpus of Virgil's writing is sampled. Philosophical and literary problems are examined.

161 Latin Literature in Translation

Texts of all genres are considered. Historical background and mythological tradition are presented as well as connections to modernity.

163 Roman History and Civilization

A study of pre-Roman Italy and the growth of Rome into a worldwide empire (1000 B.C.–450 A.D.) through history and archaeology. Selected ancient authors are read in their historical context. The course is the second half of a study of ancient history. (Cross-listed as **History 182**.) Offered in alternate years.

199 Special Study – Honors

An independent study or research course for upper-division majors with a B average in Latin. *Permission of instructor and department chair is required. Course normally requires Latin composition. On an individual basis, students work with composition textbooks to submit for revision their own renderings in Classical Latin.*