Spring 2017 Courses in Classics

Greek
1002. Greek 2. TTh 12:30-1:50. Robin Mitchell-Boyask, Professor of Classics. The exciting continuation of Greek 1! Students will encounter passages of increasing complexity, with readings from the New Testament, early Greek philosophy, Homer, the Hippocratic Oath and Lucian.


Latin

1002. Latin 2. (01) MWF 10:40-11:50. Eleanor Mulhern, Assistant Professor of Instruction in Classics (02) MWF 12-110. Karen Hersch, Associate Professor of Classics. The exciting continuation of Latin 1!


3002/4001. Latin 6/Cicero. MWF 12-12:50. Alex Gottesman, Associate Professor of Classics.

Greek and Roman Classics (texts read in English translations)
0803. Sacred Space (Gen Ed Arts). MWF 11-11:50. Karen Hersch, Associate Professor of Classics. We will investigate Roman interpretations of sacred spaces, the activities performed in them, and the works of art created to honor them, with a view to identifying, approaching and discussing aspects of the sacred. By learning about the Roman world, we will also begin to learn how to recognize and appreciate sacred spaces in the modern world and what these may represent and contain.

0804. Race in the Ancient Mediterranean. TTh 9:30-10:50 (Gen Ed Race). Elizabeth Palazzolo, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Classics. 0904. Honors Race in the Ancient Mediterranean. MWF 10-10:50. Alex Gottesman, Associate Professor. An introduction to ancient thinking about race and ethnicity and to consider how ancient thinking remains current and influential today; how categories of race and ethnicity are presented in the literature and artistic works of Greece and Rome. Our case studies pay particular attention to such concepts as: notions of racial formation and racial origins; ancient theories of ethnic superiority; and linguistic, religious and cultural differentiation as a basis for ethnic differentiation. We will also examine ancient racism through the prism of a variety of social processes in antiquity: slavery, trade and colonization, migrations, imperialism, assimilation, native revolts, and genocide.
0811 Greek Theater and Society. MWF 12-12:50, Kyle Mahoney, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Classics. Through close readings of surviving texts, through viewings of modern productions of ancient theatrical works, and classroom recreations of Greek performative media, we will examine and experience ancient Greek drama both as a product of its own historical period and as a living art form. We will ask fundamental questions about the nature and purpose of theater in the ancient world: is this art just entertainment or does it engage and comment on the problems of Athens? How and why did this society invent theater in the Western world? We will also investigate how Greek drama relates to the modern world.

0829 Ancient War Games: Sports and Spectacles in Greece and Rome (Gen Ed Human Behavior). TTh 11-12:20. Robin Mitchell-Boyask, Professor of Classics. Every four years the world stages athletic contests that are based on the practices of ancient Greece. Every year the NFL assigns a Roman numeral to the Super Bowl and suggests its players are modern gladiators. Greek athletic games and Roman gladiatorial battles developed from the practice of warfare in their societies. American sports may be viewed as the descendants of these ancient “war games.” This class examines the similarities and differences in such sports and the societies that enjoyed (and enjoy) them. The Greek games replaced the blood of the battlefield with dramatic displays of military physicality, while the Roman games replicated this blood with armed combat before crowds of thousands. We begin by examining the origins, events, architecture, and rules of the Greek games, from Homer’s funeral contests to the development of the circuit of athletic festivals. Next we look at the “re-foundation” of the modern Olympics and its romanticized mythology in several important films. Then we turn to Roman blood-sports (animal fights, gladiatorial contests and spectacular criminal punishments) and chariot-racing, considering also the filters of modern Hollywood (Spartacus, Gladiator).

2102. The Romans. MWF 9-9:50. Eleanor Mulhern, Assistant Professor of Instruction in Classics. This interdisciplinary course examines who the ancient Romans were, what they did, how they lived and what they believed. Students are to read a sampling of works by Roman historians, poets, politicians, and novelists. We shall also study Roman religion, philosophy, and the physical and artistic culture of Rome, with a view to understanding the Romans' beliefs about themselves and their world. Classes, which include readings from primary and secondary sources, will focus on the many aspects of Roman daily life, history and society. This course is designed for both the beginner who seeks a broad background in ancient Roman civilization and for those who seek an introduction to this subject before pursuing more advanced work in Classics.

3311. Ancient Greek Historians. MWF 1-1:50. Jaclyn Neel, Assistant Professor of Instruction in Classics. This course will survey Greek history from the Stone Age until the death of Alexander the Great (323 BCE), but its core focus will be Greece in the Archaic and Classical Period (8th-4th centuries BCE). We will study in particular two of the most important Greek historians: Herodotus and Thucydides. A major component of the course will be an examination of the historiographical methods of the latter two writers, but attention will also be paid to the other types of sources, such as comedies, tragedies, speeches, and various archaeological materials. (X-list History 3311)

3696. Ancient City Alexandria. MWF 3-3:50 WI. Eleanor Mulhern, Assistant Professor of Instruction in Classics. At the death of Alexander his general Ptolemy moved the capital of Egypt from Memphis to Alexandria, which soon became renowned for buildings such as the Library and the Lighthouse, and as a center for commerce and arts. We will survey the art, literature, philosophy, social and economic foundations, and urban problems of this largest of Greek cities. (X-list History 3496)