CLASSICS

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M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

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Professors Egbert Bakker, Kirk Freudenburg, Emily Greenwood (Classics; African American Studies), Verity Harte (Classics; Philosophy), Brad Inwood (Classics; Philosophy), Diana Kleiner (Classics; History of Art), Christina Kraus, Noel Lenski (Classics; History), J.G. Manning (Classics; History)

Associate Professors Milette Gaifman (Classics; History of Art), Pauline LeVen, Irene Peirano Garrison, Andrew Johnston

Assistant Professor Jessica Lamont

Lecturers Ann Hanson, Timothy Robinson, Barbara Shailor (Senior Research Scholar), Joseph Solodow

Affiliated Faculty and Secondary Appointments Harold Attridge (Divinity School), Adela Yarbro Collins (Divinity School; Emerita), John J. Collins (Divinity School), John Hare (Divinity School), Susan Matheson (Curator of Ancient Art, Yale University Art Gallery), David Quint (English), Kathryn Slanski (Humanities; Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations), George Syrimis (Hellenic Studies)

FIELDS OF STUDY
The degree programs in Classics seek to provide an overall knowledge of Greek and Roman civilization, combined with specialized work in a number of fields or disciplines within the total area of classical antiquity.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
A minimum of three years (four preferred) of college training in one of the classical languages and two years (three preferred) in the other. Applicants are required to submit official scores from the General Test of the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE).

GRADING AND GOOD STANDING
In addition to the Graduate School’s requirement of Honors grades in at least one yearlong course or two term courses, students must have a High Pass average in the remaining courses. Admission to candidacy for the Ph.D. is granted upon completion of all predissertation requirements not later than the end of the seventh term of study.

The faculty considers experience in the teaching of language and literature to be an important part of this program. Students in Classics typically teach in their third and fourth years of study.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE IN CLASSICAL PHILOLOGY
1. Diagnostic sight translations in Greek and Latin; these are taken before the beginning of the first and third terms and are meant to assess the student’s proficiency and progress in both languages.
2. A proseminar offering an introduction to the discipline of Classics and its various subdisciplines.
3. Departmental reading examinations in French (or Italian) and German. The first (in either language) is to be passed by the end of the first year, the second by the end of the second year in residence.
4. A minimum of fourteen term courses: (i) two yearlong survey courses in the history of Greek and Latin literature (four courses in total); (ii) at least four seminars, of which two have to be literary seminars in one language, and one in the other; (iii) one course in historical or comparative linguistics; (iv) one course in ancient history (either an 800-level seminar or a 600-level materials course), and one in classical art and archaeology; (v) of these fourteen courses, twelve must be taken in the first two years of study; the last two, which must be 800-level seminars, are to be taken in the third year, normally one in each term.
5. Greek and Latin composition (this requirement may but need not be satisfied by courses taken under [4] above).
6. Oral examinations in Greek and Latin literature, based on the syllabus covered by the survey courses, drawn from the Classical Philology Ph.D. reading list. These are to be taken closely following the surveys in the respective literatures, as follows: the first, at the end of the second term (May of the first year), the second at the end of the fourth term (May of the second year).
7. Translation examinations in Greek and Latin, based on the Classical Philology Ph.D. reading list, by the beginning of the fifth term in residence.
8. Special fields oral examinations will occur at the beginning of the sixth term, and consist of four areas of special concentration selected by the candidate in consultation with the DGS. One of the special fields should be related to the student’s chosen dissertation topic;
the three other fields are in each of the two ancient languages/cultures; one historical topic, or a topic with historical potential, is advised. In addition to the oral exam, the student will be asked to write a short summary of the dissertation topic and submit this summary and a working dissertation title to the special fields examiners and to the dissertation adviser (who may or may not have worked on the project as a "special topic" with the student). The summary should discuss where the student's work stands at the beginning of the term and how the student expects the research will progress over the course of the sixth term as the student writes the formal dissertation prospectus.


10. A dissertation. Once dissertation writing has begun, students will present work in progress from the dissertation at least once per academic year. Research presentations will normally take the form of pre-circulation of a selection of work from the dissertation and a discussion of it with interested faculty, or some other research presentation experience approved by the DGS. This is a requirement for remaining in good standing; exemptions from the requirement require support of the dissertation adviser and the approval of the graduate committee.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE IN CLASSICAL ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

The program is designed to give a general knowledge of the development of art and architecture in the classical world from the Bronze Age to Late Antiquity, combined with a detailed study of one particular period and area; and an acquaintance with the contribution made by field archaeology. The program has a strong art historical component, and it is expected that each student will take advantage of available opportunities to visit the major sites and monuments.

1. Diagnostic sight translations in Greek and Latin; these are taken before the beginning of the first and third terms and are meant to assess the student's proficiency and progress in both languages.

2. A proseminar offering an introduction to the discipline of Classics and its various subdisciplines.

3. Departmental reading examinations in Italian (or French) and German. The first (in either language) is to be passed by the end of the first year, the second by the end of the second year in residence.

4. A minimum of fourteen term courses: (i) a minimum of six courses should be in Greek and/or Roman art and/or archaeology (at least four must be seminars); (ii) a minimum of two courses should be in a related field of the history of art, for example Medieval or Renaissance; (iii) a minimum of two courses should be in Greek or Roman history, numismatics, or papyrology; (iv) students must demonstrate a competence in Greek and Latin, usually by passing at least one 400/700-level course in each language; (v) of the remaining four courses, at least two should be seminars in Greek or Latin literature.

5. A written examination in classical art and archaeology, by the beginning of the sixth term. The examination consists of identifications of works of art and architecture, essays, and a twenty-four-hour research paper, followed by an oral exam in four areas of Greek and Roman art and architecture (time period, locale, genre, free choice), with specific topics within those categories agreed upon in advance by the candidate, adviser, and the DGS in Classics. Consideration is normally given to the probable dissertation topic and the way in which preparation for the orals might enhance the writing of the dissertation prospectus.

6. A dissertation prospectus, normally by the end of the sixth term in residence.

7. A dissertation. Once dissertation writing has begun, students will present work in progress from the dissertation at least once per academic year. Research presentations will normally take the form of pre-circulation of a selection of work from the dissertation and a discussion of it with interested faculty, or some other research presentation experience approved by the DGS. This is a requirement for remaining in good standing; exemptions from the requirement require support of the dissertation adviser and the approval of the graduate committee.

COMBINED PROGRAMS

Classics and Comparative Literature

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisites for admission through the Department of Classics: same as for Classical Philology. (For admission requirements in the Department of Comparative Literature, consult the DGS of that department.) After admission to the Department of Classics, qualified students may apply to be admitted to this combined program, normally during the first term of residence; the directors of graduate studies of both departments should be consulted before application to the combined program is made.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE IN CLASSICS AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

1. Diagnostic sight translations in Greek and Latin; these are taken before the beginning of the first and third terms and are meant to assess the student's proficiency and progress in both languages.

2. A minimum of fourteen term courses: (i) at least seven in Classics, which includes two yearlong surveys (four courses) in the history of Greek and Latin literature, two 800-level seminars, and the proseminar in Classics; (ii) at least six courses in Comparative Literature; of these at least four courses should be on postclassical European literature; (iii) of these fourteen courses, twelve must be taken in the first two years of study; the last two, which must be Classics 800-level seminars, are to be taken in the third year, normally one in each term; (iv) the course work across the two programs should include at least two courses on literary theory or methodology, and at least one course each in poetry, narrative fiction, and drama.

3. Literary proficiency in German and in one other modern language, to be demonstrated by the end of the second year in residence.
4. Oral examinations in Greek and Latin literature, based on the syllabus covered by the survey courses, drawn from the Classical Philology Ph.D. reading list. These are to be taken closely following the surveys in the respective literatures, as follows: the first, at the end of the second term (May of the first year), the second at the end of the fourth term (May of the second year).

5. Translation examinations in Greek and Latin, based on the Classical Philology Ph.D. reading list, by the beginning of the fifth term in residence.

6. An oral examination in the Comparative Literature department on six topics appropriate to both disciplines, selected in consultation with the two directors of graduate studies, balancing a range of kinds of topics and including poetry, narrative fiction, and drama, and at least one significant cluster of postclassical texts, by the middle of the sixth term. One of the topics studied will be related to the student’s dissertation topic.

7. A dissertation prospectus, by the end of the sixth term in residence. The prospectus must be approved by the DGS in each department (and by the Comparative Literature prospectus committee) by the end of the sixth term in residence. At least one dissertation director must come from the Comparative Literature core faculty.

8. A dissertation. Once dissertation writing has begun, students will present work in progress from the dissertation at least once per academic year. Research presentations will normally take the form of pre-circulation of a selection of work from the dissertation and a discussion of it with interested faculty, or some other research presentation experience approved by the DGS. This is a requirement for remaining in good standing; exemptions from the requirement require support of the dissertation adviser and the approval of the graduate committee.

Classics and History

The combined degree program in Classics and History, with a concentration in Ancient History, is offered by the Departments of Classics and History for students wishing to pursue graduate study in the history of the ancient Mediterranean and western Eurasia. Prospective students may apply through either the Department of History or the Department of Classics.

The combined degree in Classics and History offers students a comprehensive education in the fundamental skills and most current methodologies in the study of the ancient Greek and Roman Mediterranean and its interaction with Eurasian and African cultures and landscapes. Its object is to train leaders in research and teaching by preparing them to handle the basic materials of ancient history through mastery of the traditional linguistic and technical skills. At the same time the combined degree in Classics and History encourages students to rediscover, reshape, and repurpose traditional and nontraditional source materials using the most up-to-date and sophisticated tools at the historian’s disposal.

Students are called on to complete course work in two ancient languages, historical theory, intra- and interdisciplinary skills, and fundamental research seminars. Interdisciplinary expertise is fostered through the annual seminar coordinated through the Yale Program for the Study of Ancient and Premodern Cultures and Societies (Archaia) and through required study in ancillary fields. Exams are rigorous and aimed at helping students hone skills and explore new terrain in ancient studies. Students are encouraged to take advantage of Yale’s superior collections and library resources in order to explore new avenues in their learning and approaches to historical problems. Yale’s outstanding faculty in Classics, History, and related disciplines, such as Near Eastern languages and cultures, religious studies, art history, and anthropology, work together to ensure broad and deep learning that will enable our students to become world leaders in the field.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisites for admission through the Department of Classics are the same as for admission to the Classics degree program, i.e., the equivalent of three years (four preferred) of college training in one of the classical languages and two years (three preferred) in the other. Prerequisites for admission through the Department of History are the equivalent of three years (four preferred) of college training in one of the classical languages and two years in another ancient language, not necessarily Greek or Latin.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COMBINED PH.D. DEGREE IN CLASSICS AND HISTORY

1. A minimum of fourteen term courses, including: (i) the historical methods and theory course, Approaching History (HIST 500); (ii) Archaia core seminar (CLSS 815 or equivalent); (iii) two graduate-level courses in two separate ancient languages. For students who are admitted in Classics, these must be Greek and Latin. Students who are admitted in History must study either Greek or Latin, and they may study both but may also choose another ancient language to fulfill this requirement. The surveys of Greek and Latin literature offered by Classics are encouraged but not mandatory for fulfillment of this requirement; (iv) two skills courses. These may include topics selected from epigraphy (epigraphy courses may be used to fulfill the language requirement concurrently); archaeology; art history; papyrology; numismatics; digital data, GIS, digital humanities, vel sim.; an advanced course in a non-classical ancient language (no more than one such course may be used in fulfillment of this requirement). Students are also encouraged to take advantage of educational opportunities outside of Yale (American Numismatic Society Summer Seminar; an archaeological excavation, e.g., the Gabii project); (v) four courses (at least two of which must be research seminars) in the history of the ancient Mediterranean world; historical courses that have a heavy skill component may be used concurrently to fulfill the skills requirement; (vi) two courses outside of ancient Mediterranean history that cover two separate disciplinary areas. These courses will be in the history of different periods or different regions, or in other disciplines of the humanities or social sciences outside of history, or in the physical sciences. Possibilities include (but are not limited to): social sciences (economics, anthropology, sociology, environmental science, statistics); religion (religious studies, Divinity School, Jewish studies); law (history of law, comparative law,
international law); Near Eastern languages and civilizations (Egyptian language, Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac, Arabic); anthropology and archaeology (cultural anthropology, archaeological sciences); physical and biological sciences (paleoclimatology, ecology and forestry, genetics, medicine).

2. Diagnostic sight translations in Greek and/or Latin, depending on which languages are required for the student's program; these are taken before the beginning of the first and third terms and are meant to assess the student's proficiency and progress in both languages.

3. Classics proseminar offering an introduction to the discipline of Classics and its various subdisciplines, to be taken in the first year in residence (not for credit).

4. Reading examinations in German, and in either French or Italian. The first (in either language) is to be passed by the end of the second term in residence, the second by the end of the fourth term in residence.

5. Translation examinations in two ancient languages. For students admitted through Classics, these must be Greek and Latin. For students admitted through History, at least one must be either Greek or Latin. Greek and Latin examinations will be based on the Ancient History Greek and Latin reading lists and will consist of four passages in each language, one of which will be verse, one a documentary text (epigraphy/papyrology), and two will be prose texts from literary sources. Some History students may find that expertise in another language – such as Hebrew, Aramaic/Syriac, Demotic, Coptic, Classical Armenian, or Sanskrit – is most beneficial for their research and teaching trajectory. Reading lists for these non-classical languages will be devised by the student in collaboration with the faculty adviser and other relevant member(s) of the Yale faculty, and fixed in writing no later than the end of the fourth term in residence. Examinations in these languages will also consist of four passages to be set and evaluated by faculty expert in the given language. Translation exams in all languages must be taken at the beginning of the fifth term in residence.

6. A general examination in Ancient History during the third year and no later than the end of the sixth term in residence. This is to be broken into one major and two minor fields. For the major field students must prepare an 8,000-word essay in advance of the oral examination. For each of the minor fields, students must prepare a syllabus for an undergraduate class. The written essays and syllabi must be submitted by a fixed date, typically on the Friday before Thanksgiving or spring break. Oral exams will be completed shortly afterward to ensure time for the completion of the dissertation prospectus.

7. A dissertation prospectus by the end of the sixth term in residence.

8. A dissertation. By the end of their ninth term, students are required to submit a chapter of their dissertation, which will be discussed with the student by the committee in a chapter conference.

Classics and Philosophy

The Classics and Philosophy Program is a combined program, offered by the Departments of Classics and Philosophy, for students wishing to pursue graduate study in ancient philosophy. Suitably qualified students may apply for entry to the program either through the Classics department for the Classics track, details of which are given below, or through the Philosophy department for the Philosophy track, details of which may be found at http://philosophy.yale.edu/graduate-program/classics-and-philosophy-program. Applicants to the combined program are strongly encouraged to submit a writing sample on a topic in ancient philosophy.

Applicants for the Classics track of the combined program must satisfy the general requirements for admission to the Classics graduate program, in addition to the requirements of the Classics track of the combined program. Applicants for the Philosophy track of the combined program must satisfy the general requirements for admission to the Philosophy graduate program, in addition to the requirements of the Philosophy track of the combined program.

The combined program is overseen by an interdepartmental committee currently consisting of Verity Harte, David Charles, and Brad Inwood together with the DGS in Classics and the DGS in Philosophy.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE CLASSICS TRACK OF THE CLASSICS AND PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM

1. Diagnostic sight translations in Greek and Latin; these are taken before the beginning of the first and third terms and are meant to assess the student's proficiency and progress in both languages.

2. A proseminar offering an introduction to the discipline of Classics and its various subdisciplines.

3. Departmental reading examinations in French (or Italian) and German. The first (in either language) is to be passed by the end of the first year, the second by the end of the second year in residence.

4. A minimum of fourteen term courses, of which (i) at least four should be in ancient philosophy, including at least two involving original language work; (ii) of ten remaining courses, five should be in Classics, five in Philosophy, including (a) of five in Classics, either two terms of history of Greek literature or two terms of history of Latin literature are required, and two courses at 700/800-level in Greek or Latin; and (b) of five in Philosophy, one in history of philosophy other than ancient philosophy, three in nonhistorical philosophy. It is recommended that students without formal training in logic take a logic course appropriate to their philosophical background.

5. Translation examinations in Greek and Latin, based on the Classics and Philosophy Ph.D. reading list for the Classics track of the program, by the beginning of the fifth term in residence.

6. Oral examinations in Greek and Latin literature, based on the Classics and Philosophy Ph.D. reading list for the Classics track of the program, by the end of the fifth term in residence and consisting of one hourlong oral examination on nonphilosophical Greek and Latin works from the list (which may be taken in two parts, one half-hour exam on Greek and one half-hour exam on Latin) and
one hourlong oral examination on philosophical Greek and Latin works from the list, to be completed by the end of the fifth term in residence. Students may choose to take the nonphilosophical Greek and/or Latin half-hour component of their oral examination in conjunction with taking the history of Greek or Latin literature, along with the Classical Philology cohort, in May of the year in which the corresponding history is taken.

7. One of the two qualifying papers required for the Ph.D. in Philosophy by the end of the sixth term in residence; this paper should be on a philosophical topic other than ancient philosophy.

8. Oral examinations/special fields in two areas of concentration selected by the candidate in consultation with the DGS in Classics and the program committee, one of which must be in ancient philosophy and which will in addition include a written component, while the other must cover a classical topic other than ancient philosophy, by the end of the sixth term in residence.


10. A dissertation. For students on the Classics track: once dissertation writing has begun, students will present work in progress from the dissertation at least once per academic year. Research presentations will normally take the form of pre-circulation of a selection of work from the dissertation and a discussion of it with interested faculty, or some other research presentation experience approved by the DGS. This is a requirement for remaining in good standing; exemptions from the requirement require support of the dissertation adviser and the approval of the graduate committee.

Classics and Renaissance Studies

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Same as for Classical Philology. Applications should be submitted directly to Classics with an indication that the student wishes to apply for the combined degree in Classics and Renaissance Studies.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE IN CLASSICS AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES

1. Diagnostic sight translations in Greek and Latin; these are taken before the beginning of the first and third terms and are meant to assess the student’s proficiency and progress in both languages.

2. A proseminar offering an introduction to the discipline of Classics and its various subdisciplines.

3. Sixteen term courses, divided equally between Classics and Renaissance Studies: (i) eight courses in Classics; (ii) including two yearlong surveys (four courses) of Greek and Latin literature; (iii) at least three seminars; (iv) eight courses in Renaissance Studies; (v) two terms of the Renaissance Studies Core Course; (vi) six additional term courses to be taken in at least two disciplines (such as literature, history, history of art, music, religious studies, etc.); one of these courses should meet the normal Classics requirements of a course in classical art or archaeology; (vii) of these sixteen courses, fourteen must be taken in the first two years of study; the last two, which must be Classics 800-level seminars, are to be taken in the third year, normally one in each term.

4. Literary proficiency in Italian, as examined by Renaissance Studies, and in a second language, normally German or French.

5. Oral examinations in Greek and Latin literature, based on the syllabus covered by the survey courses, drawn from the Classics and Renaissance Studies Ph.D. reading list. These are to be taken closely following the surveys in the respective literatures, as follows: the first, at the end of the second term (May of the first year), the second at the end of the fourth term (May of the second year).

6. Translation examinations in Greek and Latin, based on the Classics and Renaissance Studies Ph.D. reading list, by the end of the fifth term in residence.

7. Oral examinations on special fields appropriate to both disciplines, by the beginning of the sixth term. Seventy-five minutes on three or four topics in classical Greek and Latin literature; and forty-five minutes (three fifteen-minute questions) on Renaissance topics to be divided between at least two disciplines, i.e., literature, history, history of art, etc., selected in consultation with the directors of graduate studies in both disciplines. One of the fields studied will be related to the student’s dissertation topic. In addition to the oral exam, the student will be asked to write a short summary of the dissertation topic and submit this summary and a working dissertation title to the special fields examiners and to the dissertation adviser (who may or may not have worked on the project as a “special topic” with the student). The summary should discuss where the student’s work stands at the beginning of the term and how the student expects the research will progress over the course of the sixth term as the student writes the formal dissertation prospectus.


9. A dissertation. Once dissertation writing has begun, students will present work in progress from the dissertation at least once per academic year. Research presentations will normally take the form of pre-circulation of a selection of work from the dissertation and a discussion of it with interested faculty, or some other research presentation experience approved by the DGS. This is a requirement for remaining in good standing; exemptions from the requirement require support of the dissertation adviser and the approval of the graduate committee.

THE CLASSICAL NEAR EAST

For information about the Ph.D. specialization in the Classical Near East, please contact Professor Kevin van Bladel in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.
ARCHAIA GRADUATE QUALIFICATION
The Yale Program for the Study of Ancient and Premodern Cultures and Societies (Archaia) offers a graduate qualification. For further information, see Archaia, under Non-Degree-Granting Programs, Councils, and Research Institutes.

MASTER’S DEGREES
M.Phil. See Degree Requirements under Policies and Regulations.

M.A. The Department of Classics does not admit students for a terminal master’s degree, nor does it award an M.A. en route to the Ph.D. degree. If, however, a student admitted for the Ph.D. leaves the program prior to completion of the doctoral degree, the student may be eligible to receive a terminal master’s degree upon completion of eight courses, ordinarily with a High Pass average in two successive terms.

Program materials are available upon request to the Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Classics, Yale University, PO Box 208266, New Haven CT 06520-8266.

COURSES
CLSS 602b / MDVL 563b, Advanced Latin Paleography  Barbara Shailor
The challenges of using hand-produced Latin manuscripts in research, with an emphasis on texts from the late Middle Ages. Gothic cursive scripts and book hands ca. 1200–ca. 1500; fragments of unidentified codices; complex or composite codices with heavy interlinear and marginal annotations. Manuscripts and fragments selected largely from collections in the Beinecke Library. Prerequisite: CLSS 601 or permission of the instructor.

CLSS 724a / PHIL 724a, Choice and the Voluntary in Aristotelian Ethics  Brad Inwood and David Charles
The class reads, analyzes, and discusses central texts from Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics and Eudemian Ethics dealing with the themes of voluntary action and choice. It also addresses the reception of Aristotle’s theory and its relationship to questions of free will. This is a core course for the combined Ph.D. program in Classics and Philosophy. Open to all graduate students in Philosophy or Classics who have suitable preparation in Attic Greek and some prior knowledge of ancient philosophy. Others interested in taking or attending the class must have prior permission of the instructors. Undergraduates are not normally admitted.

CLSS 796b / PHIL 696b, Plato’s Gorgias  Verity Harte
Plato’s Gorgias contains the most sustained and dramatic encounter between Socratic philosophical conversation and rhetoric. This encounter sets the stage for some of Plato’s richest philosophical reflections on moral psychology and on the philosophy of philosophy. The course focuses on careful reading of the Gorgias with a view to engaging these philosophical topics. All readings are in translation, though a Greek reading group may be added for interested and suitably qualified students. Engaged, active student participation is expected. Class discussion typically starts from student questions circulated in advance. Prerequisite: some background in ancient philosophy.

CLSS 812b, Sympotic Culture  Egbert Bakker
This seminar is a study of the symposium and its place in Archaic and Classical Greek culture. The course looks in detail at sympotic poetry as discursive practice (e.g., its role in “proto-philosophical” debate, in the symposium being an occasion for praise or censure, and in language games); and the symposium as microcosm of the polis and the world as macrocosm of the symposium. There is also attention to the symposium as a vehicle for learned or philosophical discourse, as evidenced in the prose works of Plato and Xenophon and, much later, Plutarch. Prerequisite: this graduate seminar reads Greek texts (poetry and prose) in the original and is open only to Classics graduate students as well as to qualified undergraduates who have access to L5-level Greek language courses.

CLSS 819a, Ecocultures of Antiquity: Studies in the Ecocriticism of Ancient Greece and Rome  Kirk Freudenburg
This seminar examines how the Greeks and Romans exploited their natural surroundings not only as physical resources, but also as resources for human thought. The focus is on how ancient thinkers, living lives that were largely city-bound and detached from nature, structured their thoughts about the lives they lived (and about human existence more generally) by reference to their nonhuman surroundings: creatures, plants, and places, some of which existed in the real world (in places far off, largely unknown and elsewhere; in places penetrated, explored, and/or told of), others of which existed entirely in the imagination, whether as inherited lore, or as places and creatures invented ad hoc by individuals and groups to get certain kinds of cultural work done. We look not only at the how and what, but at the why of nature’s encoding via culture, and vice versa (their symbiosis), paying special attention to ancient Rome (though with a short first glance at Homer, Hesiod, and Aristotle). We begin by scrutinizing the categories themselves, attempting to find historically appropriate ways to connect modern ecocritical concerns and ways of thought to the ancient world. The readings are highly varied, ranging from cosmological lore, histories, treatises on politics, natural history, agriculture, medicines, and diet (Hesiod, Aristotle, Livy, the Elder Pliny, Celsus, Cato, and Columella) to poems on human work (in the fields of war and on farms), rivers, wine, banquet halls, bees, and flowers (Homer, Virgil, Horace, Martial, Statius, Juvenal). Among the main topics explored are: the cosmos, the heavens, and the first humans (and first peoples in their places); humans in their “kinds,” and animals wild and tame; mountains, rivers, the sea, and the undersea; human and animal foods, farming, and food ways; wine and fermentation; groves, forests, and trees; gardens, flowers, vegetables, and fungi; birds, fish, weasels, and snakes; earthquakes, floods, and natural disasters; pollution, dirt, and the city of Rome; the ecocultural lives of others.
CLSS 845b / HSAR 641b / MDVL 520b / NELC 659b / RLST 633b, Images of Cult and Devotion in the Premodern World  Jacqueline Jung

This seminar explores the use of shaped materials, mostly figural but sometimes aniconic, in the formal rituals and private devotional practices of premodern people. Various religious traditions are represented, including ancient Near Eastern and Greek polytheism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, and early and medieval Christianity. We look at both the distinctive features of image use in these cultures and the links among them, including the connection of sacred images to the dead, the numinous presence of relics, the importance of concealment and revelation, the instrumental power of votive objects, the role of images in sacrificial rites, and problems of idolatry and iconoclasm.

CLSS 846a / ARCG 749a / HSAR 570a, Becoming Hadrian: Autobiography and Art in the Second-Century A.D.  Diana Kleiner

Marguerite Yourcenar's famed fictional Memoirs of Hadrian serves as the starting point for an exploration of Hadrian and the art he commissioned in Rome and abroad. Hadrian's passion for life, quest after peace, romantic wanderlust, veneration of Greek culture, and craving for love, along with his acceptance of death's inexorableness, led him to commission some of Rome's greatest monuments. The emperor's flair for leadership and talent as an amateur architect inform student projects on the sculpture, mosaics, and buildings of the age, among them the portraiture of Hadrian's lover Antinous, the Pantheon, and Hadrian's Wall in Britain. Qualified undergraduates who have taken HSAR 250a and/or HSAR 352a may be admitted with permission of the instructor.

CLSS 888a / HIST 512a, Problems in the Social History of the Ancient World: Family Archives from Greco-Roman Egypt  Joseph Manning

An introduction to techniques in papyrology, reading and discussing the structure and content of family archives, and stressing socioeconomic and legal aspects of the texts.

CLSS 884b / HSAR 561b, Art and Ritual in Greek Antiquity  Milette Gaifman

The relationship between art and ritual has received much scholarly attention in various fields, particularly classics, history of art, religious studies, and anthropology. Greek antiquity offers an ideal context for considering the intricate ties between visual culture and religious practices, for much of what is known today as ancient Greek art and architecture was originally related to rituals; artifacts and architectural monuments such as painted pottery, sculptural reliefs, and temples served as settings for worship and ceremonial events and featured representations of activities such as libations and sacrifices. The seminar explores how works of art and architecture shaped ancient practices and theologies. While examining closely ancient artifacts and monuments, students consider the most recent theoretical frames related to the subject from various schools of thought such as the Paris school, British anthropology, and Bildwissenschaft.

CLSS 881a, Proseminar: Classical Studies  Milette Gaifman

An introduction to the bibliography and disciplines of classical scholarship. Faculty address larger questions of method and theory, as well as specialized subdisciplines such as linguistics, papyrology, epigraphy, paleography, and numismatics. Required of all entering graduate students.

CLSS 882b, Graduate Works in Progress Colloquium  Christina Kraus

Students precirculate work-in-progress material from their prospectus or dissertation and present it to the class. Open to all students in years 3 and above.

CLSS 895b / HIST 504b, Survey of Greek and Latin Historical Sources  Noel Lenski

Familiarizes students with the major sources for Greek and Roman history in the original languages. Covers material to be tested on comprehensive examinations for the Ph.D. in the combined program in Classics and History.

CLSS 898a, Graduate Latin Survey I  Christina Kraus

A survey of Latin literature from the earliest texts to the sixth century C.E., with the main focus on the period from the second century B.C.E. to the second century C.E. Diachronic, synchronic, generic, and topical models of organization. Prepares for the comprehensive examinations in Classics for those majoring in both literatures or concentrating on Latin. Prerequisite: at least two term courses in Latin numbered in the 400s.

CLSS 899b, Graduate Latin Survey II  Irene Peirano

A continuation of CLSS 898.

GREK 719a, Helen after Troy  Pauline LeVen

Focus on the representation of Helen of Troy in Homer, Sappho, and other lyric poets. Readings from Gorgias's Encomium of Helen, Euripides' Helen, and Longus. Attention to problems of aesthetics, rhetoric, and poetic.

LATN 710a, Livy's Rome  Christina Kraus

We read Books 5 and 21 of Livy's Ab Urbe Condita in Latin and selected other books in English. Discussion focuses on close reading of passages selected from a larger weekly assignment and on discussion of interpretative and historiographical issues, including the nature of representation; Augustan elements in Livy's work; themes and plots of Livian history; Livy and other Roman historians.

LATN 724a / CPLT 594a, Latin Lyric  Irene Peirano

Reading and analysis of selections from the canon of Latin lyric poetry. Focus on Horace's Odes, with some attention to his Epodes and to works by Catullus and lesser-known Republican poets. Emphasis on literary interpretation.