CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION (CLCV)

* CLCV 005a, Fakes and Forgeries of the Classical World
Where and why do we draw the boundaries of the "real"? This course studies how the line between the fake and the authentic was established, contested, and employed in ancient Greece and Rome and what role those notions have played after antiquity. Through explorations of major fakes and forgeries, the course offers an introduction to the discipline of Classics as well as a guide to critical assessment of written and visual information. Topics include the relationship between forgery and scholarship, the antiquities market, and the manipulation of the past in the service of the present. Participants improve written and oral communication skills by composing essays and giving class presentations; most importantly, they use primary and secondary sources to make succinct, well-supported arguments. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.

* CLCV 052b, The Myths of Oedipus  Christina Kraus
Study of different versions of the Oedipus myth, beginning with Sophocles' three plays (Oedipus the King, Antigone, and Oedipus at Colonus) and including modern adaptations such as those by Cocteau (The Infernal Machine), Fugard (The Island), and Dove (The Darker Face of the Earth); we also consider filmed adaptations such as Martha Grahame's "Night Journey" (1947), The Gospel at Colonus (1984), and Oedipo alcalde (1996). Secondary material, including works by cultural, psychological, and literary critics, provide background for the literary works. Readings, writing exercises, and discussion aim both to elucidate the original context of the plays in fifth-century Athens and to understand their contested and still vigorous place in the canon and in the western humanities. All readings in English. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.

CLCV 125a / PHIL 125a, Introduction to Ancient Philosophy  Brad Inwood
An introduction to ancient philosophy, beginning with the earliest pre-Socratics, concentrating on Plato and Aristotle, and including a brief foray into Hellenistic philosophy. Intended to be taken in conjunction with PHIL 126.

CLCV 205a / HIST 205a, Introduction to Ancient Greek History  Jessica Lamont
Introduction to Greek history, tracing the development of Greek civilization as manifested in the political, military, intellectual, and creative achievements from the Bronze Age through the end of the Classical period. Students read original sources in translation as well as secondary scholarship to better understand the rise and fall of the ancient Greeks—the civilization at the very heart of Western Civilization.

CLCV 206a / HIST 217a / HUMS 144a, The Roman Republic  Andrew Johnston
The origins, development, and expansion of Rome from the earliest times to the deaths of Caesar and Cicero. Cultural identity and interaction; slavery, class, and the family; politics, rhetoric, and propaganda; religion; imperialism; monumentality and memory; and the perception and writing of history. Application of literary and archaeological evidence.

CLCV 207b / HIST 218b, The Roman Empire  Andrew Johnston
The history of the Roman Empire from its establishment by Augustus to the reign of Justinian. Attention to social, intellectual, and religious changes, as well as to the framework of historical events within which these changes took place, and to the processes by which the Roman Empire was replaced by the institutions of the Western Middle Ages and the Byzantine Empire.

* CLCV 210a / LIITR 239a / MGRK 210a / WGSS 209a, Dionysus in Modernity  George Syrimis
Modernity's fascination with the myth of Dionysus. Questions of agency, identity and community, and psychological integrity and the modern constitution of the self. Manifestations of Dionysus in literature, anthropology, and music; the Apollonian-Dionysiac dichotomy; twentieth-century variations of these themes in psychoanalysis, surrealism, and magical realism.

CLCV 219a / HIST 311a / NELC 311a, Egypt of the Pharaohs  Staff
Egypt was among the first centralized territorial states in the world, and, because Egyptian history offers us 4,000 years of institutional development and change, the focus of this course is on the long-term development of the ancient Egyptian state, its institutions, and its culture. The course introduces students to the history and culture of ancient Egypt from the rise of the central state to the early Christian period. General historical trends, the relationship of Egyptian history to other contemporary ancient cultures, and the legacy of Egypt to the “West” are also considered. At the end of the course, students have an understanding of the material culture and the historical development of ancient Egypt, and an appreciation for the relationship of the ancient sources to the construction of ancient Egyptian history.

CLCV 236b / HIST 225b, Roman Law  Noel Lenski
Basic principles of Roman law and their applications to the social and economic history of antiquity and to the broader history of international law. Topics include the history of persons and things, inheritance, crime and tort, and legal procedure. Questions of social and economic history and the history of jurisprudence from the fifth century B.C.E. to the present.

CLCV 261a / PHIL 200a, Plato  Daniel Ferguson
Focus on the central philosophical themes in the work of Plato and on methodology for studying Plato. Some prior philosophical study of Plato is recommended, such as PHIL/CLCV 125 or DRST 003.

* CLCV 305a / GMAN 489a / HSAR 489a, Pathos-Figures: Affection-Images in the Visual Arts  Nicola Suthor
Images with high pathos inform our perception of human life and define our stance in the world. The seminar wants to foster a critical awareness of the formative power that pathos figures exert on our moral beliefs concerning human behavior. The course covers the
timespan from Antiquity to Modernity in Western culture and deals with historical moments that reflect different attempts to cultivate and temper strong emotions. We discuss the transfer of pathos and how the dissemination of eminent pathos figures of antiquity have shaped the imagery of the Western canon; we tackle with one of the most far-reaching concepts of art history, Aby Warburg’s Pathos formula that encourages us to draw in broad strokes connecting lines of affection over centuries and different cultures; we look into the discourse on human suffering in Medieval times and how it has defined the Christian doctrine of the affective image; we have a close look at treatises of the 17th century that worked on theorizing human passions and discuss the Enlightenment perspective that aimed at interiorizing pathos by dint of the discourse of beauty; we discuss the Modern “close-up” and how it unfolds the moment of pure bodily presence as highly affective entity. We ask if we are in need of new pathos images that reflect our current emotional stakes, and how they might look.  

* CLCV 307a / ANTH 128a / RLST 128a, Emotion and Identity in Antiquity  Daniel An

“You are what you feel.” But how much control do we have over how we feel? Does—or can—everyone experience the world through the same categories of feeling, or “emotions”? To what extent are people’s emotional options constrained or scripted by aspects of identity such as religion, gender, class, and language? This seminar explores the connections between emotions and identity in the context of the ancient Mediterranean world, with reference to modern theories of emotion along the way. Topics covered include (1) ancient theories of what emotions are and how they relate to the”self”; (2) norms concerning which emotions are “proper” and for whom (including humans, animals, and gods; women and men; and “pagans,” Jews, and Christians); and (3) practical methods used to cultivate certain emotions over others.  

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* CLCV 313a / WGSS 316a, Women Who Kill  Ariel Kroeber

Women in ancient Greek mythology are often figured as killers and destroyers: of enemies, husbands, children, and cities. We read the ancient plays and poetry that depict these women, as well as modern reworkings and retellings of these stories. We explore how these texts understand women and femininity, why the connection between women and murder is so ubiquitous in Greek mythology, and what it means that the ancient authors we read—all of whom were men—so often returned to this theme. In addition to ancient authors, we read contemporary works of poetry and fiction that draw on these mythological stories and rework them in new ways. In the ancient sources we see authors reworking still older variations of the same stories, revealing the modern adaptations as a continuation of this process, remaking the stories once again. What can the approaches taken by our contemporary mythmakers to the murderous woman tell us about our own societies?  

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* CLCV 316b, Identity, Power, and Practice in Classical Studies  Staff

To study Greco-Roman antiquity in the twenty-first century is not a neutral proposition. For elementary language-learners and professional scholars alike, “doing Classics” entails close encounters with systems of power and legacies of oppression. Too often the ethical questions provoked by such encounters are sidelined or relegated to forums for graduate students and faculty. This course, a proseminar for undergraduates, aims to create a curricular space for reckoning with the shape and history of the discipline. It takes modern categories of difference, such as race, gender, sexuality, and status, as organizing principles for examining the ancient world, its subsequent receptions, and the politics of its study.  

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* CLCV 319b / HIST 243Jb / MGRK 300b / WGSS 293b, The Olympic Games, Ancient and Modern  George Syrimis

Introduction to the history of the Olympic Games from antiquity to the present. The mythology of athletic events in ancient Greece and the ritual, political, and social ramifications of the actual competitions. The revival of the modern Olympic movement in 1896, the political investment of the Greek state at the time, and specific games as they illustrate the convergence of athletic cultures and sociopolitical transformations in the twentieth century.  

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* CLCV 450a, Two-Term Senior Project for the Major in Classical Civilization  Andrew Johnston

Qualified students may write a two-term senior project under the guidance of a faculty adviser. An appropriate instructor is assigned to each student by the director of undergraduate studies in consultation with the student. In the first term, selected readings compensate for individual deficiencies and help the student achieve a balanced overview. In the second term, students select a topic for research from any area of the literature, history, culture, or philosophy of ancient Greece, Rome, or Hellenistic Egypt, or a topic from the classical tradition.

* CLCV 452a, One-Term Senior Project for the Major in Classical Civilization  Andrew Johnston

A one-term senior project. Students select a topic for research from any area of the literature, history, culture, or philosophy of ancient Greece, Rome, or Hellenistic Egypt, or a topic from the classical tradition. An appropriate instructor is assigned to each student by the director of undergraduate studies in consultation with the student.