

## School of Arts and Sciences

## CLASSICS

[www.pitt.edu/~classics/index.html](http://www.pitt.edu/~classics/index.html)

Classics is a multi-disciplinary program devoted to the study of the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations. Our program will appeal especially to those who enjoy reading the "classics" of ancient literature, whether in the original Greek or Latin (or Sanskrit) or in English translations. Besides the elementary, intermediate, and advanced language sequences, the Department offers literary classes in epic and lyric poetry, mythology, tragedy, comedy, historiography, and oratory taught in English translation. Non-literary Classics courses include art and archaeology, history, linguistics, philosophy, and science.

Two tracks are available within the Classics major: Classics and Classical Civilization. The Classics track approaches the classical experience through the medium of the ancient languages. The civilization track is designed for students interested in the wide sweep of Greek and Roman antiquity but who do not wish to take as much language study as is required for the Classics track.

Classics courses, above and beyond their own intrinsic interest and value, provide a background for the study of the Romance and other modern languages, assist in the proper use of English, and necessarily underlie any understanding of the civilization of the West because they address the foundations on which it was built.

Graduates of the Department of Classics are prepared to pursue a Master of Arts or Doctorate in Classics. A master's degree with emphasis in Latin may, in combination with a teaching certificate, qualify a graduate for teaching in public or private secondary schools. Study of Greek, Latin, and classical civilization may also contribute significantly to post-graduate work in Romance languages and literature, ancient or medieval history, art history, linguistics, philosophy, and religious studies, as well as providing a more general preparation for business, communications, education, law, library and information science, and the ministry.

#### Requirements for the Major

The requirements for the major, specific to the major track chosen, are:

#### Classics Language Track: Greek and Latin

The Classics track requires a minimum of 30 credits in Greek and Latin languages (with the possibility of substituting Sanskrit upon consultation with the undergraduate advisor). Classics majors may emphasize one language more than the other if they wish, but every student is required to take at least one year of Greek and one year of Latin. Over and above the 30 required credits, the Department highly recommends its own and other departments' courses in art and archaeology, language and literature, philosophy and science, religion, and women's studies, as well as courses about culture – medieval, Renaissance, and modern – that were influenced by the classical tradition.

#### Classical Civilization Track

The civilization track is designed for students who are interested in the wide range of the Greek and Roman experience, but do not wish to study the ancient languages intensively. The civilization major consists of at least 30 credits, distributed as follows: three courses (9 credits) in a single area of concentration from among art and archaeology, history, language, literature, religion, philosophy, and science; three courses (9 credits) in three different areas other than the area of concentration; two courses (between 6 and 10 credits) in either Greek or Latin or both; and the two survey courses Greek and Roman Civilization (6 credits). Students pursuing this major may take a total of four credit-no entry courses while fulfilling the requirements.



### **Minor in Classics and Classical Civilization**

Two minors are offered by the Department, one in Classics, the other in Classical Civilization. The Classics minor consists of at least 15 credits in Greek and/or Latin courses. The Classical Civilization minor consists of at least 15 credits in the Department's courses, but must include either the Greek or Roman civilization survey and one course with a literary or textual component. Except in the case of the survey(s), Greek or Latin courses may count towards any or all of the credits required for this minor. For additional details regarding the Classics minors, please contact the undergraduate advisor or obtain "The Minor in Classics" information sheet from the Department.

### **Departmental Honors**

Majors who have reached the junior year with a quality point average in classics courses of 3.5 or higher may, in conjunction with a senior-level course, write an honors essay. Acceptance of the essay by the department will qualify the student for an honors baccalaureate degree in classics or classical civilization.

### **Double Majors**

In the past, students have combined a major in Classics with a second major or certificate in another department or program. Such second majors have included anthropology, biology, communication, computer science, history, history of art & architecture, history & philosophy of science, non-classical languages and literatures, psychology, and women's studies.

## **A Sample of Classics Department Course Offerings**

### **Classical Civilization Courses**

Greek Civilization 0010. An overview of the principal achievements of ancient Greece, with special attention to the art and architecture, literature, philosophy, and historical events and personages of classical Athens—ancient Greece's Golden Age.

Classics 0030 Mythology in the Ancient World. The main myths of the Greeks and Romans in their cultural context, with emphasis of social institutions, gender, sexuality, religious cult, psychology, and the great theories from antiquity to the present day.

Classics 1130 Classical Mythology and Literature. The classical myths retold in the great works of Greek and Roman literature—Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Virgil, and Petronius, among others.

Classics 1220 Roman History. The ancient world's greatest city from its origins to its final collapse two millennia later—the world of the Gracchi, Julius Caesar, the Roman emperors, and their influential women.

Sanskrit 1710, 1720, 1730, 1740. The classical language of ancient India, providing access to great works of poetry and literary points of contact with the related traditions of Greece and Rome.

### **Greek Courses**

Greek 0010 and 0011. The beginning sequence covering all grammar and syntax required for reading of Greek texts in their original.

Greek 0210 Intermediate Prose. Students in their third term of study read Plato's Apology (the trial of the philosopher Socrates) or other mainstream work of classical Attic prose.

Greek 0220 Intermediate Verse. Reading of a masterpiece of Greek poetry such as selections from Homer's Iliad and Odyssey.

### **Latin Courses**

Latin 0010 and 0011. The beginning sequence covering all grammar and syntax required for reading of Latin texts in their original.

Latin 0210 Intermediate Prose. Third term students read in its original form a classical writing of Cicero, Caesar, or Pliny the Younger.

Latin 0220 Intermediate Verse. Selections from a masterpiece of Roman poetry such as Virgil's Aeneid in its original form.

**For more information on the classics and classical civilization majors, contact:**

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University of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
412-624-4475  
E-mail: [nfjones@pitt.edu](mailto:nfjones@pitt.edu)  
[www.pitt.edu/~classics/index.html](http://www.pitt.edu/~classics/index.html)

**For information about other majors, contact:**

Office of Admissions and Financial Aid  
4227 Fifth Avenue, Alumni Hall  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260-6601  
412-624-PITT  
E-mail: [oafa@pitt.edu](mailto:oafa@pitt.edu)  
[www.oafa.pitt.edu](http://www.oafa.pitt.edu)

## Special Programs and Opportunities

### **Classics Honors Society: Eta Sigma Phi**

The University of Pittsburgh Department of Classics has a local chapter of the National Classics Honors Society, Eta Sigma Phi. The Society is for students enrolled in a third or higher semester of Latin and/or Greek, who have an average of "B" or better in the language(s). Membership is not restricted to Classics majors. The club offers opportunities for scholarships, prizes, and studying abroad at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens and the American Academy in Rome.

### **Study Abroad**

Studying abroad is an exciting way to add an international perspective to your undergraduate education and strengthen your credentials as a graduate. Since only four percent of American students have studies abroad, this experience distinguishes you as a candidate in the job market. While earning credits toward your degree, you also broaden your personal experience and gain an appreciation of other cultures. Scholarships are available, and financial aid is applicable.

Following are a few of the study abroad programs that are specially suited to classics students.

#### **College Year in Athens**

This program in Athens, Greece lasts for six weeks during the summer, and students can study anthropology, archaeology, art, civilization/culture, classics, drama/theatre, Greek language, or history. Courses are taught in English. The program also offers excursions.

#### **Pitt Exchange Program with the University of Newcastle**

Students study at the University of Newcastle, Australia, voted "Best Australian City" by *Business Review Weekly*. Students can study for one semester or the length of a Pitt or Newcastle academic year. A full curriculum is available, including courses in classical civilization, and housing is on or off-campus. The cost for tuition and fees is the same as at the University of Pittsburgh, and scholarships are applicable.

#### **Northwest Interinstitutional Council on Study Abroad (NICSA)**

Students study at the Scuola di Lingua e Cultura Italiana in Siena, Italy for one or two semesters between September to June. Available fields of study are classics, architecture, art history, civilization/culture, Italian language (beginning/intermediate/advanced), medieval studies, and political science. Courses are taught in English. The program offers a home stay housing option and field trips are available.

### **Certificate Programs**

Certificate programs allow students to complete a concentrated area of study in addition to their major. They consist of eighteen to twenty-four credits of coursework and in many cases can be used to fulfill the "related area" requirement of the School of Arts and Sciences (A&S) degree. Certificate programs in Asian, Latin American, Russian and East European, European Union, Global, and West European Studies are offered through the **University Center for International Studies**. Certificate programs are also available in African Studies, American Sign Language, Children's Literature, Conceptual Foundations of Medicine, Film Studies, Geographic Information Systems, German Language, History and Philosophy of Science, Historic Preservation, Jewish Studies, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Photonics, Structural Engineering for Architectural Studies majors, Public and Professional Writing, and Women's Studies.

