DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

Classics concerns itself with the languages and cultures of the ancient Greeks and Romans, whose civilizations had a central role in shaping the basic conceptual categories of our present cultural, intellectual, professional, and civic lives. Study of Classical languages and cultures fosters broad and deeply informed critical perspectives on the human experience and develops excellent analytical, problem-solving and communication skills.

Highlights

UW's Department of Classics is known nationally and internationally as a place where innovative research, excellent instruction, and active mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students are ensuring the preservation and expansion of knowledge of the Classical world for the next generation.

Faculty and students work collaboratively with colleagues across the University in areas including Asian Languages and Literature; Art History; Comparative Literature; Cinema and Media; Comparative Religion; Drama; English; French and Italian Studies; Germanics; Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies; History; the Honors Program; Jewish Studies; Music; Near Eastern Literatures and Civilizations; the Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity; Philosophy; the Walter Chapin Simpson Humanities Center; Spanish and Portuguese Studies; and the UW Libraries.

We also serve as a local hub for the teaching of Classics and offer engaging annual events for teachers of Latin and Classics at all levels.

Education

The humanities, with their critically informed and historically grounded explorations of fundamental human experiences, are integral to the public good. The Department cultivates a strong sense of stewardship and embraces opportunities to provide access to education in Classical languages and cultures as widely as possible.

The Department offers four undergraduate majors: Classics, Greek, Latin, and Classical Studies. The majors in Classics, Greek, and Latin emphasize the development of expertise in the Classical languages and literatures. The Bachelor of Arts in Classical Studies is for students wishing to explore the literature, history, art, archaeology, and philosophy of Classical Antiquity primarily through English translations. Undergraduate majors deepen and consolidate their explorations of the ancient world in a culminating project, the Senior Essay. Many of our graduates have gone on to become distinguished teachers and scholars; others have pursued successful careers in business, journalism, law, medicine, the arts, and a variety of other fields.

The Department's graduate programs, leading to the MA in Greek, Latin, or Classics and the PhD in Classics, ensure comprehensive and thorough training in the disciplines needed for teaching and for producing original research in the field of Classics. Students may also do supporting work in other departments in such areas as ancient philosophy, ancient and medieval history, art history, literary theory, and linguistics.

Opportunities for study abroad include the quarter-long Classical Seminar in Rome, two-week intensive programs in Rome, and participation in archaeological excavations and field schools.
Faculty

Faculty bring a global perspective to the study of Classics, with recent formal and informal collaborations on seven continents. Awards and honors received by Department of Classics faculty include:

1. Departmental Professional Equity Award from the Women’s Classical Caucus
2. Departmental Gold Star Award from the Graduate and Professional Student Senate
3. UW Distinguished Teaching Awards
4. Simpson Center Humanities Scholars
5. Lockwood Professorships in the Humanities
6. Solomon Katz Distinguished Lecturer
7. UW Royalty Research Fund Awards
8. Getty Foundation Grant
9. Loeb Classical Library Foundation Awards
10. American Philosophical Society Fellowship
11. Center for Hellenic Studies Fellowships
12. NEH Fellowships for University Teachers
13. NEH Summer Stipend
14. NEH Albright Institute of Archaeological Research Fellowship
15. Martin Lectureship, Oberlin College
16. J. H. Gray Lectureship, Cambridge University
17. Postdoctoral Rome Prize, American Academy in Rome

Research & Scholarship

Faculty engage in critical analysis of texts, artifacts, and culture from across the whole range of ancient Greek and Roman civilization, including projects focusing on archaeological, art historical, topographical, historical, historiographical, philosophical, folkloric, and literary studies.

Recent faculty publications include: Ruby Blondell, Helen of Troy: Beauty, Myth, Devastation; James J. Claus and Daniel P. Harmon, translators, Filippo Coarelli, Rome and Environments, and Archeological Guide; Alain Gowing, Empire and Memory; Alexander Hollmann, The Master of Signs: Signs and the Interpretation of Signs in Herodotus’ Histories; Deborah Kamen, Status in Classical Athens; Olga Levaniouk, Eve of the Festival: Making Myth in Odyssey 19; Sarah Culpepper Stroup, Catullus, Cicero and a Society of Patrons; and Kathryn Topper, The Imagery of the Athenian Symposium.

In addition to pursuing their own research projects in Senior Essays and in graduate work, students have the opportunity to participate in the production of the first complete digital edition of the oldest manuscript of Homer through a local chapter of the international Homer Multitext project.

Outreach

The Department’s activities that serve the local community include:

- offering Latin 103 in select high schools for UW college credit, through the UW in the High School Program;
- an annual Classics conference for K-12 teachers, featuring faculty and teacher presentations and discussions;
- K-12 activities including presentations at high schools and at the Junior Classical League’s annual convention and after-school enrichment classes in Latin;
- public lectures at various venues for local associations and programs, such as the Frye Art Museum, Temple Beth Am, and local theaters; and
- co-sponsorship, with the University of Puget Sound, of the local chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America, which brings noted scholars to campus for public lectures on archaeological topics.

FACULTY (Autumn 2015)

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<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
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AREAS OF SCHOLARSHIP

Classical Archaeology
Greek and Roman Historiography
Greek and Roman Linguistics
Greek and Roman Medicine
Greek and Roman Philosophy
Greek and Roman Religion
Greek and Roman Social and Cultural History
Greek Epic, Lyric Poetry, and Drama
Hellenistic Poetry
Literary Theory and Criticism
Roman Literature of All Periods
Roman Topography
The Ancient Novel
The Reception of Classical Texts in the Medieval and Renaissance Periods

ENDOWMENTS

Jim Greenfield Endowed Classics Scholarship
John and Mary McDiarmid Lectureship
Thomas and Joyce Morgan Endowment for Classics
DeLacy Classics Endowment
Harvey Bruce Densmore Memorial Fund
Classics Department Endowment Fund
Nesholm Graduate Fellowship
Classics Student Travel Fund

last update: January 2016