

Classics Minor

Classics is the study of ancient Greece and Rome, which stand among the world's most exciting, important, and influential civilizations.

GVSU's program in Classics spans the many different aspects of the Greek and Roman world—its languages and literatures, its art and archaeology, its history, its religious and philosophical traditions, its social and legal forms—from the Bronze Age to the period of the late Roman Empire and early Christianity.

For students who pursue a major or minor in the field, Classics provides a broad and solid liberal arts education that will be useful in many careers and vital to the development of their full human capacity.

For students in other disciplines, Classics offers a valuable opportunity to investigate at first hand the works and traditions that have provided much of the intellectual background of their own chosen fields. Many find that working with the classical languages improves their grasp of English and their skills as readers and writers.

Classics courses share an emphasis on encountering the classical world through primary sources, both textual and material. Complementing this emphasis is the study of the living tradition that has shaped—and continues to shape—the ways in which we understand our world today.

Ancient Greek and Latin

Training in the classical languages represents the kind of serious mental rigor and discipline that is an excellent training for a variety of careers.

Greek is the language of Homer and Sappho, of Aeschylus and Aristophanes, of Herodotus and Thucydides, of Plato and Aristotle, and (in its koine or "common" form) of the Christian New Testament.

Latin was the language of ancient Rome. Even after the Roman Empire collapsed, Latin continued as the language of literature, science, philosophy, medicine, law, and religion for over a thousand years: John Milton, Isaac Newton, Baruch Spinoza, and Thomas Aquinas all wrote in the same language as Cicero, Virgil, Caesar, and Plautus.

Career Options

Classics students:

- Profit from a practical education that offers valuable pre-professional training and marketable job skills.
- Acquire and refine analytical and communications skills that make them better able to approach any problem creatively and successfully.
- Distinguish themselves as scholars, work on archaeological excavations, participate in cultural events, demonstrate leadership and committed citizenship, and travel and study abroad.
- Develop the study habits and work ethic needed for success in demanding graduate and professional programs and in real-world careers.

GVSU Classics graduates have gone on to careers as varied as:

- Public service and nonprofit administration
- Teaching
- Law
- The ministry
- Information technology
- Business
- Library and museum work
- Writing and publishing

Requirements for a Minor in Classics (at least 21 credits)

Core Courses (at least 6 Credits)

Distributed Classical Civilization (DCC) requirement:

Students minoring in Classics complete at least 6 credits of instruction in Distributed Classical Civilization (DCC) courses. DCC courses are intended to introduce students to the interdisciplinary dimension of Classics and to provide detailed instruction in selected methods of inquiry and particular aspects of Greco-Roman civilization. Most DCC courses also fulfill certain general education requirements.

Students have two options for fulfilling the DCC Requirement:

Option 1 (6 Credits)

Complete one course from each of the following lists:

List A:

- CLA 201 - Classical Literature Credits: 3
- CLA 275 - Ancient Drama Credits: 3
- CLA 367 - Thinking Like a (Roman) Lawyer Credits: 3
- CLA 311 - Ancient Great Philosophers Credits: 3

List B:

- CLA 250 - Classical Art and Archaeology Credits: 3
- CLA 315 - Ancient Religion Credits: 3
- CLA 320 - Women in the Classical World Credits: 3
- CLA 350 - Issues in Classical Archaeology Credits: 3

Option 2 (12 Credits)

- HNR 211 - Classical World I Credits: 3
- HNR 212 - Classical World I Credits: 3
- HNR 221 - Classical World II Credits: 3
- HNR 222 - Classical World II Credits: 3

Emphases (at least 15 Credits)

Students minoring in Classics complete either the Classical Tradition, Greek, or Latin emphasis.

Classical Tradition Emphasis

The Classical Tradition Emphasis focuses upon the legacy of the classical world and specifically investigates the relationship between Greek and Roman civilizations and the literary, artistic, intellectual, social, and political traditions of other cultures.

Classical Tradition Emphasis, continued:

Requirements in addition to the Core:

- At least 6 credits of instruction in either ancient Greek or Latin at 200 level or above.
- At least 9 additional credits, of which at least 6 must be departmental courses, selected from the following list:
 - Any CLA course at the 200 level or above, OR:
 - ANT 215 - Origins of Civilization Credits: 3
 - ANT 350 - Archaeology of Mid-East Credits: 3
 - COM 203 - Argument and Analysis Credits: 3
 - HNR 300 - Classical Mythology Credits: 3
 - HNR 324 - Worlds of Late Antiquity Credits: 3
 - HST 345 - Silk Roads Credits: 3
 - HST 350 - Ancient Greece Credits: 3
 - PHI 220 - Aesthetics Credits: 3
 - PLS 231 - Classical Political Thought Credits: 3

Greek Emphasis

The GREEK and LATIN EMPHASES stress the languages and literature of the classical world. Students electing either the Greek or the Latin emphasis focus upon that language exclusively.

Requirements in addition to the Core:

- At least 15 credits of instruction in ancient Greek at the 200 level or above, including at least 9 credits at the 300 level or above.

Latin Emphasis

The GREEK and LATIN EMPHASES stress the languages and literature of the classical world. Students electing either the Greek or the Latin emphasis focus upon that language exclusively.

Requirements in addition to the Core:

- At least 15 credits of instruction in Latin at the 200 level or above, including at least 9 credits at the 300 level or above.

Suggested Order of Coursework for a Minor in Classics

Declaring Classics as a minor is an effective way of enhancing one's transcript and drawing the attention of employers and postgraduate programs.

In order to ensure timely progress toward graduation, commencing study in either Ancient Greek or Latin at an early stage is key.

Contact the Department of Classics in order to receive individualized advising.

Contacting the Department of Classics

The Department of Classics is a unit of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and participates in the interdepartmental Minor in Archaeology. Classics faculty hold joint appointments in the Meijer Honors College and contribute to other programs.

The Department offers a complete preparation for students seeking a wide range of post-graduate and career opportunities. Yet it remains small enough to allow our faculty to get to know all of our students individually and to work with them closely.

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