

# Classical Studies

## Faculty

### Jenn Cianca,

B.A. (Bishop's), M.A., Ph.D. (Toronto); Professor  
Chair of the Department

### Catherine Tracy,

B.A. (Dalhousie, University of New Brunswick), M.A. (Dalhousie),  
Ph.D. (Southern California), Associate Professor

## Program Overview

*Socrates; Julius Caesar; Gladiators; The Olympic Games; Cleopatra; The Sphinx...*

A student in the Classical Studies (a.k.a. Classics) department will enter the world of the ancient Mediterranean. We focus especially on the civilizations of Greece and Rome and offer courses in their literature, mythology, history, culture, art, and archaeology. Students have the opportunity to learn Latin (the language of Roman emperors and Christian popes) and Greek (the language of philosophy, tragedy, and the New Testament). The courses offered by the faculty of the Classics department are also supplemented by related courses in the departments of Philosophy, Religion, Society & Culture, and the Liberal Arts program. Many of our classes do not have prerequisites and thus we welcome students from all disciplines. In this regard, most of the 200-level courses are suitable for students in their first year. All you need are interest and enthusiasm to begin your journey into the Classics.

## Programs

### Honours in Classical Studies

(60 credits)

HONCLA

#### Requirements:

An overall average of 70% or more in courses counting towards the honours.

A minimum of 24 credits in Latin and Greek.

A minimum of two third-year courses.

CLA 400 and CLA 401 (thesis)

The remaining credits may be taken in any combination of CLA, GRE, or LAT courses.

### Major in Classical Studies

(42 credits)

MAJCLA

#### Requirements:

Majors must take CLA 100 or CLA 101 in their first or second year, as well as a minimum of two third-year courses during their degree. Six credits in LAT or GRE are strongly encouraged. The remaining credits may be taken in any combination of CLA, GRE, or LAT courses.

### Minor in Ancient Mediterranean Studies

(24 credits)

MINCLA

#### Requirements:

Credits in CLA, GRE, and/or LAT count towards the Minor in Greek and Roman Civilization.

### Minor in Classical Languages

(24 credits)

MINCLL

#### Requirements:

Credits in at least two of the following ancient languages: Hebrew, Greek, or Latin. At least 12 credits in either Greek or Latin.

### Minor in Classical Art and Archaeology

(24 credits)

MINCAA

#### Requirements:

One of: Cat I: CLA 120, CLA 238, and CLA 240;

Four of Cat II: CLA 110, CLA 205, CLA 206, CLA 207, CLA 208;

One of Cat III: CLA 309, CLA 328, CLA 335, CLA 350, CLA 365, CLA 366; Two of Cat IV: any other CLA, LAT, or GRE courses.

Students may also choose to fulfil CAT IV by taking any of the following courses: HIS 240, HIS 277, HIS 236, HIS 239, HIS 275, HIS 298.

## List of Courses

**CLA 100 Food, Community and Culture in the Greek and Roman World 3-3-0**

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome. We will explore language, literature, art, religion, myth, history, politics, geography, science, and technology as we investigate the many aspects of food production and consumption, from cannibalism in Greek tragedy to the best way to stuff a dormouse. At the end of the course, we will cook a meal and celebrate the Classical world.

**CLA 101 Travellers, Tourists, and Foreign Wars: Getting About in the Ancient Mediterranean World 3-3-0**

Odysseus' epic voyage home from the Trojan War; the Greek colonization of brave new worlds; the spice trade routes; the long marches of Roman soldiers; ancient maps for adventurous tourists: these and other Classical examples of travel will introduce students to the fascinating world of the ancient Mediterranean. At the end of the course, we will hold a colourful and flavourful Classical Food Fair to celebrate ancient exotic vacation destinations.

**CLA 102 Ancient Greece: History and Culture 3-3-0**

The alphabet; the Olympic Games; philosophy; democracy; tragedy and comedy; history: was there anything the Greeks didn't invent? This course introduces students to the cultural, intellectual, political and literary achievements of the ancient Greeks.

**CLA 109 / RSC 109 Egypt and Mesopotamia: From the Rise of Civilization to the Persian Conquest 3-3-0**

The geographical region of Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) saw the development of the first complex urban society more than 5,000 years ago. At the same time, a second complex society, Egypt, was forming along the banks of the Nile River in Africa. Employing a mixture of historical texts and archaeological research, this course will give an overview of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia covering the time from the Neolithic Period (generally said to have begun ca. 10,000 BCE) to the Persian conquest in the sixth century BCE. The course will begin with the development of seed agriculture and animal domestication, followed by the formation of early complex societies (civilizations), including the formation of

the first cities, the first writing systems, and major building projects in the form of temples and pyramids. In addition to examining the lives and the political careers of important historical characters, the course will also explore the religious beliefs and the techniques of astronomy, medicine and warfare prevalent at the time.

**CLA 110 The Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt 3-3-0**

A survey of the art and architecture of ancient Egypt, from the Pyramids to the Valley of the Kings, and an introduction to the archaeological discoveries made in Egypt in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

**CLA 112 /**

**RSC 120 Ancient Greek Mythology 3-3-0**

The origin and development of Greek mythology, and the importance of myths in understanding ancient literature and religion: theories of myth, cult and ritual, mystery religions, the epic tradition. Greek sources are read in translation.

**CLA 113 Classical Mythology: The Greek Influence on Rome 3-3-0**

Myth and tragedy, myth and history, lyric poetry, Roman mythology. Greek and Latin sources are read in translation.

**CLA 120 An Introduction to Classical Archaeology 3-3-0**

A survey of the history of classical archaeology from the discoveries of Schliemann at Troy and Evans at the Palace of Knossos to a study of the techniques of modern field archaeology.

**CLA 130 Sports and Games in the Ancient World 3-3-0**

The Olympic Games in ancient Greece and the chariot races in Rome's Circus Maximus allowed athletes to compete and spectators to enjoy themselves under the hot Mediterranean sun. Athletic training was useful in preparing men for war, but women also trained and competed in sports events. People of the ancient past liked to amuse themselves just as we do today, but dramatic festivals and even gladiatorial combat had religious origins. In this course we will use the sporting and recreational activities of the Greeks and Romans and their Mediterranean neighbours as a lens to reveal aspects of these ancient societies.

**CLA 150 The Ancient World in Film and Television 3-3-0**

Movies and television have shaped our ideas about Greek and Roman myth, history and civilization. In this course we will study "sword and sandal" films and television as popular art forms and their relation to the ancient literary and visual sources.

**CLA 160 Rome: The Republic 3-3-0**

The social, political and cultural events of the Roman Republic, including the exploits of Hannibal, Julius Caesar, Cleopatra, and others.

**CLA 170 Greek and Latin Terminology for Medicine and the Life Sciences 3-3-0**

This course teaches the Latin and Greek roots of scientific terminology in order to help students understand the technical vocabulary of medicine, biology, and other life sciences. Better understanding of the scientific terms also improves students ability to communicate with specialists and with the general public.

**CLA 201 /**

**HIS 201 Ancient Slavery and its Legacy 3-3-0**

Slavery was ubiquitous in ancient Greece and Rome due largely to frequent warfare. This course will examine the ways that the institution of slavery influenced societal and class structures, the economies, and the moral attitudes of ancient Greek and Roman societies. We will also examine how ancient slavery influenced modern attitudes around slavery, and the differences between ancient and modern slavery.

*Open to first-year students.*

**CLA 202 The Classical Influence on Shakespeare 3-3-0**

Despite Ben Jonson's claim that Shakespeare had "small Latine and lesse Greek" the bard had a strong background in the Classics. The Greek biographer Plutarch, the Roman poet Ovid, and the Roman comic playwright Plautus are among the Classical sources that profoundly influenced his plays and poems. Students will read select works of Shakespeare alongside their Classical influences (read in English translation).

*Open to first-year students.*

**CLA 204 /**

**RSC 204 Women in Religion 3-3-0**

An investigation of the religious lives of early pagan, Jewish, and Christian women in the context of the Greco-Roman world. Literary and epigraphical sources from the fourth century BCE to the third century CE are analyzed in order to determine women's roles, rites and practices, with special attention to constructions of gender in the Graeco-Roman world.

*Open to first-year students.*

**CLA 205 Greek Art and Architecture 3-3-0**

Western art and architecture begin in ancient Greece. From miniature vases to monumental statues of ivory and gold, we will explore the creations of potters and painters, sculptors and architects, and study Greek art from the Bronze age to the time of Alexander the Great.

*Open to first-year students.*

**CLA 206**

**RSC 203 Early Christian Art and Architecture 3-3-0**

This course examines the ways in which the Christians adapted elements from Greek, Roman, and Near Eastern art and architecture to their religious beliefs and requirements and also studies the development of this new Christian art in the Byzantine Empire. Major topics include: Catacomb art, early Christian and Byzantine architecture, mosaic and painting, manuscript illumination, textiles and decorative arts.

*Open to first-year students.*

**CLA 207 Early Roman Art 3-3-0**

In this course we will begin with a study of the colourful wall paintings of Etruscan tombs, where men and women drink and dance, and panthers and lions guard the dead. Once rulers of Rome, the Etruscans and their art declined as the Roman Republic grew powerful. We will examine how the Romans developed an innovative art and architecture which expressed the values of their society.

*Open to first-year students.*

**CLA 208 Art and Architecture of Imperial Rome 3-3-0**

A survey of Roman art and architecture from the first century CE to the fourth century CE. The course examines the use of art as propaganda and the tension between tradition and innovation in Roman Art.

*Open to first-year students.*

**CLA 217 The Ancient Epic 3-3-0**

This course introduces students to the best epic poetry of the Greeks and Romans (poetry will be read in English translation). Sources to be studied may include the Iliad, Odyssey, Argonautica, Aeneid, and Metamorphoses.

*Open to first-year students.*

**CLA 219 Origin and Development of the Greek Tragic Theatre 3-3-0**

Myth and tragedy in the Greek theatre, using representative tragedies of Aeschylus and Sophocles (in translation).

*Open to first-year students.*

**CLA 223 /**

**POL 223 Democracy in the Ancient World 3-3-0**

The idea of government by the people is highly valued today, but it was first given the name of "demokratia" (democracy) in ancient Greece. The most famous example in Greece is Classical Athens, but democratic elements appeared in many other ancient states, including republican Rome. The course will examine popular participation in Athens, Rome, and various other ancient societies: how it began, who could participate, who was left out, and what ancient writers thought of it.

*Open to first-year students.*

**CLA 229 War and Society in the Greek and Roman World 3-3-0**

War, omnipresent in the ancient Mediterranean, will be used to reveal socio-economic, religious, and cultural aspects of ancient Greek and Roman societies. Was war waged for economic motives (plunder, booty, supply in slaves, exploitation of local resources...)? Were there sacred wars? How did war affect art and architecture? How did encounters with other societies change the perception of war and bring about an evolution in warfare? How was war declared? What is known of diplomacy, peace-talks and treaties between allies or former enemies? This course is not about wars but about the impacts war had on society and how society changed the ways to wage war.

*Open to first-year students.*

**CLA 236 /**

**RSC 236 Death and Dying in the Ancient World 3-3-0**

This course explores the myths, rituals and beliefs associated with death and dying in antiquity. Topics to be covered include myths associated with the afterlife; books of the dead; magic and death rituals; and understandings of heaven, hell and judgement.

*Prerequisite: RSC 100 or RSC 101 or permission of instructor*

*Open to first-year students.*

**CLA 238 / FIH 238 /**

**RSC 238 Greece, Land of the Gods 3-3-0**  
 The allure of ancient Egypt has gripped outsiders since the Greek historian Herodotus travelled to Egypt and wrote about their strange and impressive customs. This course examines the sacred art and architecture of ancient Greece from Mycenae to Byzantium on site in Greece, and is offered in the Spring or Summer semester. After preliminary lectures on campus, students will spend two weeks traveling to the major sacred sites of mainland Greece. American students on US Federal aid cannot enrol in this course for credit. Open to first-year students. Instructor's permission required.

**CLA 239 Exploring Ancient Egypt 6-3-0**  
 The allure of ancient Egypt has gripped outsiders since the Greek historian Herodotus travelled to Egypt and wrote about their strange and impressive customs. This course proposes that the best way to understand the ancient Egyptians is by learning as you travel. Major themes of Egyptian civilization will be explored while visiting some of the most significant archaeological sites such as the cemetery at Saqqara, Giza, Karnak Temple and the Valley of the Kings. American students on US Federal aid cannot enrol in this course for credit. Open to first-year students. Instructor's permission required.

**CLA 240 Signs of the Past: Archaeological Interpretation 3-3-0**  
 A continuation of CLA 120 with the emphasis on the techniques and methodology of archaeology. Topics include the use of artifacts in creating chronologies and theories, preservation and conservation of sites, ethical questions and problems relating to archaeological excavation. Open to first-year students.

**CLA 250 Sex and Gender in the Ancient World 3-3-0**  
 This course will look at the ways that women and men of the ancient Mediterranean world interacted with each other, and at how ideas about sexuality and gender roles affected people's lives. Topics to be examined will include marriage and divorce, conception and contraception, masculine and feminine ideals, gender and the law, sex and social class, the effects of gender on religious expression, homosexuality, private versus public life, what ancient doctors knew about sex, how to use magic to get a lover, and deviations from ancient sexual and gender norms. Open to first-year students.

**CLA 261 Rome: The Emperors 3-3-0**  
 The social, political and cultural events under the emperors, featuring the Roman army, gladiatorial combat, religion, and other topics. Open to first-year students.

**CLA 271 / PHI 271 Philosophy of Socrates & Plato 3-3-0**  
 A study of the character and teaching of Socrates as portrayed in Plato's early and middle dialogues. Emphasis will be on theory of education.

**CLA 272 / PHI 272 Philosophy of Aristotle 3-3-0**  
 A study of selected works of Aristotle with special emphasis on logic, metaphysics, and the concept of substance.

**CLA 280 / RSC 280 Roman Religion 3-3-0**  
 This course examines the religion of the ancient Roman people, following the traditions and changes from the 8th century BCE to the Imperial period. Roman religion was very different from the monotheistic religions with which many of us are familiar today, but it was also significantly different from the mythology of the ancient Greeks, despite the Romans' willingness to absorb and adapt the Greek myths. Topics to be studied in this course will include the Roman concept of divinity, beliefs about the dead, religious and cult ritual, senatorial and imperial control of religion, emperor worship, divination and prophecy, festivals, and Roman responses to the introduction of foreign religions. Open to first-year students

**CLA 309 Study Abroad in the Mediterranean 6-6-0**  
 While studying abroad, students will examine the societies that occupied the ancient Mediterranean world. Through visits to archaeological sites, museums, and/or work on archaeological field projects, they will study the societies' religious and mortuary practices, economy, transportation routes, politics, and public and private life. Moreover, students will explore how these patterns evolved throughout time in response to landscape and environmental change that impacted movement, access, settlement occupation, and land use. American students on US Federal aid cannot enrol in this course for credit. Instructor's permission required

**CLA 320 The Roman Family 3-3-0**  
 This seminar course examines the characteristics and influences of the Roman "familia" (which included not only the extended family but also slaves and freed slaves) within Republican and Imperial Roman society. We will read primary sources (in translation) as well as modern scholarship. Prerequisite: a previous Classics course or permission of the instructor

**CLA 321 Laws and Outlaws in Ancient Rome 3-3-0**  
 This seminar course will focus on Roman law and order, and on those who broke the law or challenged Roman hegemony. A series of case studies will cover some of the well-known villains of Roman history, as well as those who perpetrated private crimes. We will study Rome's response to threats to public order, how the city of Rome was policed, and which elements of Roman society were most likely to become victims of crime. Readings will include ancient sources in translation (legal, literary, and epigraphical texts) as well as modern scholarship. Prerequisite: At least two Classics courses or permission of the instructor.

**CLA 325 The Classical Tradition: the Use and Abuse of Classics 3-3-0**  
 The influence of ancient Greece and Rome on western culture has been powerful and enduring, but not always for the best reasons. This course will examine how a better understanding of the Classical world can help us reject some of the modern justifications for White supremacy and gender-based violence that endure today. Prerequisites: At least one first-year Classics and one second-year Classics course, or permission from instructor

**CLA 332 / RSC 332 Magic and Divination in the Ancient Near East 3-3-0**  
 Since the 19th century, magic and divination have been subjects of great scholarly interest. This seminar course will examine how these phenomena were manifested in the region of what is today called the Middle East. We will also look at the supposed polemic against magic and divination in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), where calling someone a magician or diviner was a strategy for social control and definition, serving as an element in the construction of views about legitimate and illegitimate religious authority.

**CLA 335/ RSC 335 Sacred Space in the Ancient World 3-3-0**  
 How did the ancients experience their surroundings? How did their conceptions of space and place affect their relationships with their deities, their ancestors, and each other? From lofty temples to humble shrines, sacred mountains to grottoes, we will explore the intimate connection between sacred places and the development of ancient identity. Archaeological and literary data, as well as modern theories of space and place, will be examined. Prerequisites: At least two Classics courses or permission of the instructor.

**CLA 336 Greeks, Romans, and Others 3-3-0**  
 "Hoi barbaroi" ("barbarians") was what the ancient Greeks called non-Greek foreigners, which originally included the Romans until the latter conquered Greece. At that point the term was redefined to mean neither Greek nor Roman. This seminar course will examine the ancient evidence for the peoples who came into contact with the Greeks and Romans. We will examine the ways in which Greek and Roman ethnocentrism and imperialism influenced their attitudes about foreigners, and how ancient prejudices relate to modern racism. Prerequisites: At least two Classics courses or permission of the instructor.

**CLA 350/ RSC 350 The Goddess: History, Cult and Myth 3-3-0**  
 From Diana's bow to Athena's shield, from the fearsome wail of the Erinyes to the dulcet tones of the Muses, the sacred feminine in all its manifestations has fueled the imagination. How we in the modern world perceive the female divine, however, also reflects our own changing attitudes towards women. In this seminar course, we will examine the sacred feminine in art, archaeology, and literature, from Paleolithic Europe to contemporary America, with a view to understanding the construction of tropes of femininity both in ancient cultures and our own. Topics may include Near Eastern and Graeco-Roman goddesses, Hindu goddesses, gendered archaeology, the virgin Mary, modern goddess movements, and more! Prerequisite: At least two Classics courses or permission of the instructor.

**CLA 365 Topics in Classical Art and Archaeology 3-3-0**  
 This seminar course will explore topics and problems in Classical Art and Archaeology. Possible topics include: Roman provincial art and archaeology; Greek vase painting; gender and sexuality in ancient art; the archaeology of Periclean Athens; Aegean Bronze Age archaeology; Classical relief sculpture. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**CLA 380 Topics in Greek and Roman Drama 3-3-0**  
 This seminar course will concentrate on the nature of ancient drama, and will involve discussion of a selection of tragedies and/or comedies from the ancient Greek and Roman world.

**CLA 400 Honours Thesis Preparation 3-3-0**  
The student will work with faculty advisors and complete a proposal, outline and bibliography and give an oral research progress report. Students must achieve a 70% or higher in order to register in CLA 401.

**CLA 401 Honours Thesis 3-3-0**  
The student will continue to work with faculty advisors, complete a written thesis, and give a public presentation of the year's research.  
*Prerequisite: CLA 400*

## Independent Studies

The department offers opportunities to study independently for senior students who wish to pursue in-depth exploration of their research interests, under the direction of faculty members. Independent studies are available in all areas covered by the department, including upper-level or advanced Classical language study (Greek and Latin), history, and archaeology. Students wishing to undertake an independent study must secure permission of the instructor.

## Classical Languages

**GRE 101F Beginners' Greek 6-3-0**  
Introducing the ancient Greek language to the beginning student.

**GRE 200 Intensive Intermediate Greek 6-6-0**  
This intensive 6-credit-1-semester course (6 hours/week) may be offered either Fall or Winter instead of GRE 201 and GRE 202, with the mutual agreement of students and professor. The course will work on grammar, vocabulary and reading comprehension of ancient Greek.  
*Not open to students with credit in GRE 201 and/or GRE 202.*  
*Prerequisite: GRE 101*

**GRE 201 Intermediate Greek I 3-3-0**  
Selections from Greek authors.  
*Not open to students with credit in GRE 200, except to replace the earlier grade.*  
*Prerequisite: GRE 101*

**GRE 202 Intermediate Greek II 3-3-0**  
Selections from Greek authors.  
*Not open to students with credit in GRE 200, except to replace the earlier grade.*  
*Prerequisite: GRE 101 and GRE 201*

**GRE 300 Intensive Advanced Greek 6-6-0**  
This intensive 6-credit 1-semester course (6 hours/week) may be offered either Fall or Winter instead of GRE 301 and GRE 302, with the mutual agreement of students and professor. Students will read selections of Greek authors while improving grammar and vocabulary.  
*Not open to students with credit in GRE 301 and/or GRE 302.*  
*Prerequisite: two years of Ancient Greek*

**GRE 301 Advanced Greek I 3-3-0**  
Selections from Greek authors.  
*Not open to students with credit in GRE 300 except to replace the earlier grade.*  
*Prerequisite: two years of Ancient Greek*

**GRE 302 Advanced Greek II 3-3-0**  
Selections from Greek authors.  
*Not open to students with credit in GRE 300 except to replace the earlier grade.*  
*Prerequisite: two years of Ancient Greek*

**GRE 401 Advanced Greek III 3-3-0**  
Selections from Greek authors.  
*Prerequisite: three years of Ancient Greek*

**GRE 402 Advanced Greek IV 3-3-0**  
Selections from Greek authors.

**LAT 101F Beginners' Latin I 6-3-0**  
Introducing the Latin language for the beginning student. The course covers basic Latin grammar, Latin vocabulary, and English etymology (the Latin origins for English words), and provides sufficient background to translate simplified Latin passages.

**LAT 200 Intensive Intermediate Latin 6-6-0**  
This intensive 6-credit 1-semester course (6 hours/week) maybe offered either Fall or Winter instead of LAT 201 and LAT 202, with the mutual agreement of students and professor. The course will work on grammar, vocabulary and reading comprehension of Latin.

*Not open to students with credit in LAT 201 and/or LAT 202.*  
*Prerequisite: LAT 101*

**LAT 201 Intermediate Latin I 3-3-0**  
Selections from Roman authors  
*Not open to students with credit in LAT 200, except to replace the earlier grades.*  
*Prerequisite: LAT 101*

**LAT 202 Intermediate Latin II 3-3-0**  
Selections from Roman authors  
*Not open to students with credit in LAT 200, except to replace the earlier grades.*  
*Prerequisite: LAT 101 and LAT 201*

**LAT 300 Intensive Advanced Latin 6-6-0**  
This intensive 6-credit 1-semester course (6 hours/week) may be offered either Fall or Winter instead of LAT 301 and LAT 302, with the mutual agreement of students and professor. Students will read selections of Roman authors while improving grammar and vocabulary.  
*Not open to students with credit in LAT 301 and/or LAT 302, except to replace the earlier grades.*  
*Prerequisite: two years of Latin.*

**LAT 301 Advanced Latin I 3-3-0**  
Selections from Roman authors  
*Not open to students with credit in LAT 300, except to replace the earlier grade.*  
*Prerequisite: two years of Latin*

**LAT 302 Advanced Latin II 3-3-0**  
Selections from Roman authors  
*Not open to students with credit in LAT 300, except to replace the earlier grade.*  
*Prerequisite: two years of Latin*

**LAT 401 Advanced Latin III 3-3-0**  
Selections from Roman authors.  
*Prerequisite: three years of Latin*

**LAT 402 Advanced Latin IV 3-3-0**  
Selections from Roman authors.  
*Prerequisite: three years of Latin*

## Independent Studies in Classical Languages

The department wants to facilitate language study, and therefore offers independent study courses in Greek and Latin for dedicated students who are unable to take the regularly scheduled language classes. Students wishing to undertake an independent study in Greek or Latin must secure permission of the instructor.

## Cognate Courses

The following courses in Classical Studies are recognized as cognate in other departments:

CLA 102, CLA 120, CLA 160, CLA 223, CLA 261 in History  
CLA 112, CLA 113, CLA 219, CLA 220 in English

CLA 219, CLA 220 in Drama

CLA 120, CLA 110, CLA 205, CLA 206, CLA 207, CLA 208 in Fine Arts

CLA 250, CLA 350 in Gender, Diversity, and Equity Studies  
CLA 110, CLA 113 in Religion, Society and Culture

CLA 321 in Pre-Law

The following course is recognized as cognate in Classical Studies:

**LIB 303**