

Faculty and Their Fields

Scott Bradbury teaches Greek and Latin courses at all levels as well as Classical Mythology and Western Classics from Homer to Dante. His scholarly work focuses on the late Roman Empire, especially in the Greek East.

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Thalia Pandiri, Chair, holds a dual appointment in Classics and World Literatures. She has published in the areas of ancient and modern Greek literature, refugee survivor narratives, medieval Latin, and modern drama.

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Nancy Shumate teaches Greek and Latin language and literature as well as courses in translation. Her main areas of interest are the Roman novel, Roman satire, and the literature and culture of the early Empire.

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Rebecca Worsham teaches the languages, literatures, and material cultures of ancient Greece and Rome. Her research is particularly concerned with the domestic architecture and social structures of the Bronze Age Mediterranean.

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Cicero on Studying Literature

"Other occupations are not suited to every time, nor every age or place; but these studies are the food of youth, the delight of old age; the ornament of prosperity, the refuge and comfort of misfortune; a delight at home, and no hindrance abroad; they are companions by night, on the road, and in the country."

Department of Classical
Languages and Literatures
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Smith College
2020-2021



*Studying
Classics
at Smith*

Why Study Classics ?

- Because the civilizations of ancient Greece and Rome deserve our attention not only in their own right, but for their contemporary significance.
- Because classics offers you a complete education. It combines in-depth study of languages and literature with exposure to many other fields (archaeology, art, history, philosophy, political theory, religion).
- Because the skills learned through studying classics (logical analysis, close attention to detail, clear thinking and writing, not to speak of perseverance and self-discipline) are transferable to a host of other endeavors.

Why Study Classics at Smith ?

- Because the department is like a family! The students are a close-knit and enthusiastic bunch. Throughout the year activities (lectures, trips to museums and the theater, dinners, movie nights) bring faculty and students together.
- Because you have so many choices. You can major or minor in Classics, Classical Studies, Latin, or Greek— or just sample selected courses.
- Because Rome and Athens beckon for your junior year (or Paris, or Edinburgh, or Oxford).
- Because the professors can use their national and international connections to point you toward archaeological digs, museum internships, graduate programs, and other opportunities.

Courses of Interest To First-Year Students

LAT 100Y Elementary Latin

Fundamentals of grammar, with selected readings from Latin authors in the second semester. Enrollment limited to 30. (Full year course)

LAT 212 Introduction to Latin Prose and Poetry

Practice and improvement of reading skills through the study of a selection of texts in prose and verse. Systematic review of fundamentals of grammar. Prerequisite: LAT 100Y, or the equivalent. (Offered in the fall)

LAT 214 Introduction to Latin Literature in the Augustan Age

An introduction to the “Golden Age” of Latin literature, which flourished under Rome’s first emperor. Reading and discussion of authors exemplifying a range of genres and perspectives such as Virgil, Ovid, and Horace, with attention to the political and cultural context of their work and to the relationship between literary production and the Augustan regime and its programs. Practice in research skills and in reading, evaluating, and producing critical essays. Prerequisite: LAT 212, or the equivalent. (Offered in the spring)

GRK 100Y Elementary Greek

A year-long introduction to ancient Greek through the language of Homer’s *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, the two 8th-century epics that represent the culmination of a long and rich tradition of oral poetry. (Full year course)

GRK 214 Greek Poetry in the Archaic Age

An exploration of the poetic masterpieces of the Archaic period. We will study some of the songs bards performed to the accompaniment of the lyre, stories of war, exile and homecoming, monsters and divinities, love and lust. (Offered in the fall)

Courses of Interest To First-Year Students

CLS 217 Greek Art and Archaeology

Same as ARH 217. This course is a contextual examination of the art and architecture of Ancient Greece, from the end of the Bronze Age through the domination of Greece by Rome (ca. 1100-168 BCE) and handles an array of settlements, cemeteries, and ritual sites. It tracks the development of the Greek city-state and the increasing power of the Greeks in the Mediterranean, culminating in the major diaspora of Greek culture accompanying the campaigns of Alexander the Great and his followers. (Offered in the fall)

CLS 227 Classical Mythology

The principal myths as they appear in Greek and Roman literature, seen against the background of ancient culture and religion. Focus on creation myths, the structure and function of the Olympian pantheon, the Troy cycle and artistic paradigms of the hero. Some attention to modern retellings and artistic representations of ancient myths. (Offered in the spring)

CLT 202/ENG 202 Western Classics in Translation, from Homer to Dante

Writing Intensive. Texts include the *Iliad*; tragedies by Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides; Plato’s *Symposium*; Virgil’s *Aeneid*; Dante’s *Divine Comedy*. (Offered in the fall)

FYS 147 Power Lunch: The Archaeology of Feasting

Throughout history, food and dining have formed some of the most fundamental expressions of cultural identity—in a very real sense, we are what we eat, and how we eat. This cross-cultural examination of the topic begins by exploring the various roles that feasting played in the world of the ancient Mediterranean, particularly the cultures of Greece and Rome. We then move through time to examine comparative material from contemporary societies. Enrollment limited to 16 first-year students. (Offered in the spring)