

# CLASSICS

<http://classics.jhu.edu>

Classics has long been at the heart of humanistic studies at Johns Hopkins University: the very first person appointed to the faculty of the newly founded University in 1876 was Basil L. Gildersleeve, a professor of Greek. The university adopted the most effective model of scholarship at the time - the German seminar - which combined teaching with research as the basis for training students at Johns Hopkins. This revolutionary structure was central to the new model of the "research university" that Johns Hopkins University pioneered.

Today, the Department of Classics at Johns Hopkins University seeks to maintain and enhance this tradition of leadership and innovation. Members of the current faculty are highly interdisciplinary. They combine philological, historical, iconographical, and comparative methods in their investigations of the cultures, broadly conceived, of ancient Greece and Rome, with additional expertise in Reception Studies (aka "The Classical Tradition") and in the post-classical use of Greek and Latin.

The undergraduate and graduate programs reflect these characteristics. They are founded upon intensive study of ancient Greek and Latin language and literature, but also require rigorous work in such fields as ancient history, art, archaeology, and philosophy, while allowing considerable flexibility to accommodate individual interests. These programs aim to produce broad, versatile scholars who have a holistic view of ancient cultures and of the evidence by which those cultures are comprehended.

The Classics department enjoys close ties with several local and regional institutions whose missions include the study of the ancient world, including the Walters Art Museum, with its world-class collection of antiquities and manuscripts; the Baltimore Museum of Art, with its Roman mosaics; and the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C. Internationally, it is a member of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, the American Academy in Rome, and the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome.

The department's main scholarly resource is the Milton S. Eisenhower Library, which has broad and deep holdings in the various fields of classical antiquity. The department also has access to a significant collection of Greek, Roman, and Etruscan antiquities, housed in the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum, located alongside its own quarters in Gilman Hall.

## Undergraduate Programs

The department offers undergraduate courses in Greek and Latin languages and literature, ancient history, classical art and archaeology, Greek and Roman civilizations, history of sexuality and gender, ancient philosophy, mythology, and classical reception. These courses are open to all students at the University, regardless of their academic year or major field of interest.

## Programs

- Classics, Bachelor of Arts (<https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/full-time-residential-programs/degree-programs/classics/classics-bachelor-arts/>)
- Classics, Bachelor of Arts/Master of Arts (<https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/full-time-residential-programs/degree-programs/classics/classics-bachelor-arts-master/>)

- Classics, Minor (<https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/full-time-residential-programs/degree-programs/classics/classics-minor/>)
- Classics, PhD (<https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/full-time-residential-programs/degree-programs/classics/classics-phd/>)

For current course information and registration go to <https://sis.jhu.edu/classes/>

## Courses

### AS.040.103. The Roman Empire. 3 Credits.

This introductory course examines the history, society, and culture of the Roman state in the Imperial age (ca. 31 BCE-ca. 500 CE), during which it underwent a traumatic transition from an oligarchic to a monarchic form of government, attained its greatest territorial expanse, produced its most famous art, architecture, and literature, experienced vast cultural and religious changes, and finally was transformed into an entirely different ("late antique") form of society. All readings in English.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4), Democracy (FA4.1)

### AS.040.104. The Roman Republic: History, Culture, and Afterlife. 3 Credits.

This introductory level course examines the history, society, and culture of the Roman state in the Republican period (509-31 BCE), during which it expanded from a small city-state to a Mediterranean empire. We also consider the Republic's importance for American revolutionaries in the 18th century. All readings in English.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4), Democracy (FA4.1)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

### AS.040.105. Elementary Ancient Greek. 4 Credits.

This course provides a comprehensive, intensive introduction to the study of ancient Greek. During the first semester, the focus will be on morphology and vocabulary. Cannot be taken Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

### AS.040.106. Elementary Ancient Greek. 4 Credits.

Course provides comprehensive, intensive introduction to the study of ancient Greek. The first semester's focus is morphology and vocabulary; the second semester's emphasis is syntax and reading. Course may not be taken Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.040.105

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

**AS.040.107. Elementary Latin. 3 Credits.**

This course provides a comprehensive, intensive introduction to the study of Latin for new students, as well as a systematic review for those students with a background in Latin. Emphasis during the first semester will be on morphology and vocabulary. Course may not be taken Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

**AS.040.108. Elementary Latin. 3 Credits.**

Course provides comprehensive, intensive introduction to the study of Latin for new students as well as systematic review for students with background in Latin. The first semester's emphasis is on morphology and vocabulary; the second semester's focus is on syntax and reading. Course may not be taken Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.040.107

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

**AS.040.111. Ancient Greek Civilization. 3 Credits.**

The course will introduce students to major aspects of the ancient Greek civilization, with special emphasis placed upon culture, society, archaeology, literature, and philosophy.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Citizens and Society (FA4), Democracy (FA4.1), Ethics and Foundations (FA5)

EN Foundational Abilities: Engagement with Society (FA4)

Writing Intensive

**AS.040.121. Ancient Greek Mythology: Art, Narratives, and Modern Mythmaking. 3 Credits.**

This course focuses on major and often intricate myths and mythical patterns of thought as they are reflected in compelling ancient visual and textual narratives. Being one of the greatest treasure troves of the ancient world, these myths will further be considered in light of their rich reception in the medieval and modern world (including their reception in the modern fields of anthropology and philosophy).

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

Writing Intensive

**AS.040.126. Religion, Music and Society in Ancient Greece. 3 Credits.**

Emphasis on ancient Greek ritual, music, religion, and society; and on cultural institutions such as symposia (drinking parties) and festivals.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

Writing Intensive

**AS.040.129. Reading Homer's Odyssey. 3 Credits.**

This course aims to provide an in-depth exploration of Homer's Odyssey (in translation). We will study the poem's roots in a tradition of ancient oral poetry, gain a fuller understanding of how it was interpreted within different historical contexts, and examine the poem's fascination with topics such as gender, class, tales of exploration and colonization, truth and lies and identity.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3)

Writing Intensive

**AS.040.137. Archaeology at the Crossroads: The Ancient Eastern Mediterranean through Objects in the JHU Archaeological Museum. 3 Credits.**

This seminar investigates the Eastern Mediterranean as a space of intense cultural interaction in the Late Bronze Age, exploring how people, ideas, and things not only came into contact but deeply influenced one another through maritime trade, art, politics, etc. In addition to class discussion, we will work hands-on with artifacts from the JHU Archaeological Museum, focusing on material from Cyprus.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

Writing Intensive

**AS.040.152. Medical Terminology. 3 Credits.**

This course investigates the Greek and Latin roots of modern medical terminology, with additional focus on the history of ancient medicine and its role in the development of that terminology.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

**AS.040.205. Intermediate Ancient Greek. 3 Credits.**

Reading ability in classical Greek is developed through a study of various authors.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.040.105 AND AS.040.106 or equivalent

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

**AS.040.206. Intermediate Ancient Greek. 3 Credits.**

Reading ability in classical Greek is developed through a study of various authors.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.040.205

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

**AS.040.207. Intermediate Latin. 3 Credits.**

Although emphasis is still placed on development of rapid comprehension, readings and discussions introduce student to study of Latin literature, principally through texts of various authors.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.040.107 AND AS.040.108 or equivalent

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

**AS.040.208. Intermediate Latin. 3 Credits.**

Reading ability in Latin is developed through the study of various authors, primarily Cicero (fall) and Vergil (spring).

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.040.207

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

**AS.040.213. The Painted Worlds of Early Greece: Fantasy, Form and Action. 3 Credits.**

This course explores the creation and role of early Aegean wall painting. Found primarily in palaces, villas and ritual spaces, these paintings interacted with architecture to create micro-worlds for social activities taking place in their midst. Their subjects range—from mythological to documentary, from ornamental to instructive. They depict dance and battle, fantastical beasts and daily life. We examine their complex relationship to lived reality as well as the activities that surrounded them, from their crafting, to performance of rituals, to their role in “international” relations.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

Writing Intensive

**AS.040.216. Exploring the Ancient Astronomical Imagination. 3 Credits.**

This course takes us on an exploratory journey through the ancient astronomical imaginary. We will focus on ancient Greek and Roman ideas about the structure of the cosmos, the substance and nature of the stars, the Earth's place and role in the universe, ancient attempts to map the stars, and ancient beliefs about the significance of cosmic phenomena for events in the human world. The course will culminate in the extraordinary ancient tradition of lunar fictions, which are our earliest imaginative accounts of life on other worlds. Come join us for a voyage to the stars!

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3)

Writing Intensive

**AS.040.221. Art & Archaeology of Early Greece: Exploring the Material Worlds of the Ancient Aegean. 3 Credits.**

This course explores the origins and lives of societies in the Aegean world from the Early Bronze Age to the Persian Wars (ca. 3100-480 B.C.), focusing on major archaeological sites, sanctuaries, material culture, and artistic production.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

**AS.040.222. Soundscapes and Performance: Ancient Greek Art, Gender, and Politics. 3 Credits.**

The course focuses on the ways in which art, different forms of performance and soundscape, and politics (including gender politics) interacted in ancient Greek societies.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4), Democracy (FA4.1)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

Writing Intensive

**AS.040.232. Island Archaeology: The Social Worlds of Crete, Cyprus and the Cyclades. 3 Credits.**

Islands present highly distinctive contexts for social life. We examine three island worlds of the third and second millennia BCE through their archaeological remains, each with its particularities. These are places where water had a unique and powerful meaning, where boat travel was part of daily life, where palaces flourished and where contact with other societies implied voyages of great distance across the sea. Class combines close study of material culture and consideration of island-specific interpretive paradigms; students work with artifacts in the JHU Archaeological Museum.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

**AS.040.305. Advanced Ancient Greek. 3 Credits.**

This course aims to increase proficiency and improve comprehension of the ancient Greek language. Intensive reading of ancient Greek texts, with attention to grammar, idiom, translation, etc. Reading of prose or verse authors, depending on the needs of students. Specific offerings vary. Co-listed with AS.040.705.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.040.205 AND AS.040.206 or equivalent

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

Writing Intensive

**AS.040.306. Advanced Ancient Greek. 3 Credits.**

This course aims to increase proficiency and improve comprehension of the ancient Greek language. Intensive reading of ancient Greek texts, with attention to grammar, idiom, translation, etc. Reading of prose or verse authors, depending on the needs of students. Specific offerings vary. Co-listed with AS.040.702.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.040.205 AND AS.040.206 or equivalent

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

Writing Intensive

**AS.040.307. Advanced Latin Prose. 3 Credits.**

This course aims to increase proficiency and improve comprehension of the Latin language. Intensive reading of Latin texts, with attention to grammar, idiom, translation, etc. Specific offerings vary. Co-listed with AS.040.707.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.040.207 AND AS.040.208 or equivalent

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

Writing Intensive

**AS.040.308. Advanced Latin Poetry. 3 Credits.**

The aim of this course is to increase proficiency and improve comprehension of the Latin language. Intensive reading of Latin texts, with close attention to matters of grammar, idiom, and translation. Co-listed with AS.040.710.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.040.207 AND AS.040.208 or equivalent

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

Writing Intensive

**AS.040.309. (Trans)lating Orpheus. 3 Credits.**

What does it mean to translate? Is a translation merely a transposition of a text or speech from one language to another, or does it entail more? Can the act of translating happen between different genres? What does critical reading entail? In this class we will use the well-known myth of Orpheus and Eurydice to answer these and other questions by analyzing different versions of the myth that span across time, space, language, genre, and media. We will not just learn about translation broadly defined, but also about the metaphor of translation as a transition or a crossing between (or a-cross) multiple entities. Much like Orpheus, we will embark upon a journey of discovery full of forks and twists in the road, only to discover that what Orpheus was searching for might not be as far removed from contemporary questions of identity, self, and our place in the world.

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

**AS.040.313. Craft & Craftspersons of the Ancient World: Status, Creativity and Tradition. 3 Credits.**

This course explores the dynamic work, lived contexts and social roles of craftspersons in early Greece, the eastern Mediterranean and Near East. Readings and discussion will query the identities and contributions of these people—travelers, captives, lauded masters, and even children—through topics including gender, class and ethnicity. Special focus on late third–early first millennia BCE; local field trips.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4), Projects and Methods (FA6)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

**AS.040.320. Introduction to Ancient Greek and Roman Science. 3 Credits.**

This course opens up the world of science in the ancient Greek and Roman world. Areas of focus include: cosmology and Earth science, technologies of time, ancient biology, medicine and genetics, and ancient medicine. Through study of visual and material artefacts as well as Greek and Latin texts in translation, we will come to a clearer understanding of how knowledge was shared in the ancient Mediterranean, the the Greeks and Romans' indebtedness to the cultures of the ancient Near East, as well as their importance in shaping cultures of knowledge and traditions of scientific thought.

Distribution Area: Humanities

**AS.040.321. Women in Greek Drama: Feminist Perspectives from Text to Stage. 3 Credits.**

This course explores the portrayal of women in ancient Greek drama through the lenses of feminist theory, gender studies, and the intersection of performance and gender. By analyzing key passages from significant texts and contextualizing them within their social, cultural, and theoretical frameworks, students will examine how ancient narratives about women continue to resonate with contemporary gender issues. The course will culminate in the creation of a theatrical piece—a compilation of women's monologues from ancient Greek drama—allowing students to design, adapt, and perform their interpretations in a final performance.

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

**AS.040.335. Humans, Animals, and Medicine: Antiquity and Beyond. 3 Credits.**

In this course, students will analyze the role of animals in ancient medicine and the Greco-Roman world as a springboard for discussing medical philosophy, ethics, and boundaries between humans and animals in antiquity and modernity. Students will learn to use critical thinking to connect how animals have shaped human lives through medicine and philosophy in antiquity to how we view animal contributions to the development of medicine today. Additionally, students will examine and interrogate how ancient theories of animality, and intelligence have been weaponized against marginalized people in medicine. Through readings, discussions, and talks from guest bioethics Hopkins professors, students will navigate bioethical issues directly related to Johns Hopkins as a premier medical institution.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Ethics and Foundations (FA5)

**AS.040.349. Reading Homer, Iliad. 3 Credits.**

This course proposes an in-depth exploration of Homer's Iliad in translation. Our goal will be to learn the skill of slow reading in order to gain a fuller understanding of the poem. We will study, on average, two books per week. Core topics include: understanding the tradition of oral poetry out of which the Iliad emerged in the 8th century BCE, the past it evokes, and the historical and social context in which – and in response to which – it grew. We will examine the poem's extraordinarily complex structure and self-positioning within the so-called 'epic cycle', as well as themes it treats, including: kingship and reciprocity, the role of honour and glory, family, death, memory, and – most poignantly of all – the role of song and art in the midst of war. The course will be writing intensive, and will require the submission of a short piece of critical writing each week.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3)

Writing Intensive

**AS.040.402. Ancient cosmology and earth science: Greek and Roman ideas about how the world works. 3 Credits.**

Through detailed analysis of source materials, we will explore the ancient Greek and Romans' answers to questions such as: how the cosmos and our home-world, Earth, were structured; how weather works; how climate affects human health; what causes awesome natural phenomena such as comets, earthquakes and volcanoes; what climate prevailed on the Moon; life in the ocean; ancient palaeontology; how the movements of the stars were thought to influence events here on Earth.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Science and Data (FA2), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Projects and Methods (FA6)

**AS.040.407. Survey of Latin Literature I: Beginnings to the Augustan Age. 3 Credits.**

This intensive Latin survey is designed for very advanced undergraduate students—normally those who have completed two semesters of Advanced Latin (AS.040.307/308)—and PhD students preparing for their Latin translation exam. In this course, the first half of a year-long sequence, we will read substantial texts of major Republican and some Augustan authors. The weekly pace is designed to inculcate greater speed and accuracy in Latin reading, and provide significant coverage of various kinds of texts. Recommended background: AS.040.307-308 or equivalent

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.040.307 AND AS.040.308 or permission of instructor.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

**AS.040.408. Survey of Latin Literature II: Early Empire to the Post-Classical Period. 3 Credits.**

This intensive Latin survey is designed for very advanced undergraduate students (normally those who have completed the regular undergraduate sequence through the advanced level) and PhD students preparing for their Latin translation exam. In this course, the second half of a year-long sequence, we will read substantial texts of major Imperial authors, as well as a selection of works from Late Antiquity and the Post-Classical period. The weekly pace is designed to inculcate greater speed and accuracy in Latin reading and to provide significant coverages of various kinds of texts. Prior completion of AS.040.407 preferred but not required.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.040.307 AND AS.040.308 or equivalent.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

**AS.040.416. Exploring the Edges of the Earth: How the Ancient World Helped Shape Science Fiction. 3 Credits.**

In this seminar, students will sail through the world of science fiction, from the fantastic voyages recorded by ancient Greeks, Romans, and Egyptians, to classic nineteenth-century sci-fi novels by authors such as Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, Edgar Allen Poe, and Jules Verne. As we will learn, sci-fi stories (both ancient and modern) have been pulled in two directions: forward, in the direction of innovative scientific exploration; and backward, toward a dim pre-history of monsters and magic. Along the way, sci-fi writers have wrestled with age-old social issues such as morality and mortality; gender and sexuality; and social constructions of the Other through categories like race. Ultimately, students in this seminar will learn how to peer back into the distant past and (re)examine how we approach the icy edges of our own world.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

**AS.040.417. Survey of Greek Literature I: Homer to the Classical Period. 3 Credits.**

This intensive Ancient Greek survey is designed for very advanced undergraduate students—normally those who have completed two semesters of Advanced Greek (AS.040.305/306)—and PhD students preparing for their Ancient Greek translation exam. In this course, the first half of a year-long sequence, we will read substantial texts of major Archaic and Classical authors. The weekly pace is designed to inculcate greater speed and accuracy in Greek reading, and provide significant coverage of various kinds of texts. Recommended background: AS.040.305-306 or equivalent. **Prerequisite(s):** AS.040.305 AND AS.040.306 or permission of instructor.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)



**AS.040.418. Survey of Greek Literature II: Hellenistic Period to Imperial Period. 3 Credits.**

This intensive Ancient Greek survey is designed for very advanced undergraduate students (normally those who have completed the regular undergraduate sequence through the advanced level) and PhD students preparing for their Ancient Greek translation exam. In this course, the second half of a year-long sequence, we will read substantial texts of major Hellenistic and Imperial authors, as well as a selection of works from Late Antiquity. The weekly pace is designed to inculcate greater speed and accuracy in Greek reading and to provide significant coverages of various kinds of texts. Prior completion of AS.040.417 preferred but not required. Prerequisite(s): AS.040.305 AND AS.040.306 or equivalent.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.040.305 AND AS.040.306

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

**AS.040.419. Epics and Empire: Postcolonial Perspectives on Vergil's Aeneid. 3 Credits.**

This seminar examines epic literature's entanglements with empire, colonialism, ethnicity, indigeneity, and slavery via critical readings of Vergil's Aeneid. Students will gain methodological and pragmatic familiarity with movements to 'decolonize' and globalize the study of antiquity. As a counterbalance to Classics' historical service to imperialism, we will read Vergil alongside other literary epics on race, identity, and belonging, representing diverse global languages, belief systems, geographies, and positionalities. We will also survey classics of postcolonial thought, from Fanon to Hartman, and apply their theories and methods to primary sources. Our hope is to incubate reparative approaches to the Aeneid and epic literature while also evaluating novel methodologies of comparison, reception, resistant interpretation, and critical fabulation. Classics graduate students will read the Aeneid in Latin. Undergraduate and non-Classics graduate students may read in translation but should plan on substantial engagement with an additional epic of their choice. All will hone professional skills as they produce a final research paper suitable for conference presentation or open-access web publication on race-time.net.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.040.307

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4), Projects and Methods (FA6)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

**AS.040.420. Classics Research Lab. 3 Credits.**

This CRL seeks to collect data systematically from texts of the early Roman Imperial age regarding instances of people represented as speaking in public. This semester, our aim will be to collect instances and generate data from an expanding range of texts. This data is currently housed in Excel spreadsheets. We will also be looking to build, debug, and launch a web-based interface/browser/search engine that will, for the first time, allow public access to the database, and turn it into a truly public digital humanities project. Knowledge of ancient Greek and Latin language is NOT required.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Ethics and Foundations (FA5), Projects and Methods (FA6)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3)

**AS.040.501. Independent Study. 3 Credits.**

This course enables the student to pursue individual investigation and reading in a field of special interest, under the direct supervision of a member of the Classics faculty. By special arrangement, at the discretion of the Instructor.

**Prerequisite(s):** You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration, Online Forms.

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Projects and Methods (FA6)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3)

**AS.040.502. Independent Study. 1 - 3 Credits.**

This course enables the student to pursue individual investigation and reading in a field of special interest, under the direct supervision of a member of the Classics faculty. By special arrangement, at the discretion of the Instructor.

**Prerequisite(s):** You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration, Online Forms.

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Projects and Methods (FA6)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3)

**AS.040.503. Classics Internship. 1 Credit.**

This course is designed for students enrolled in an internship program with a faculty member.

**Prerequisite(s):** You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration, Online Forms.

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4), Projects and Methods (FA6)

**AS.040.520. Honors Research. 1 - 3 Credits.**

Students in the program work under the direction of a faculty research supervisor on a substantive analysis.

**Prerequisite(s):** You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration, Online Forms.

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Projects and Methods (FA6)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3)

Writing Intensive

**AS.040.611. Labor in Latin Literature. 3 Credits.**

This graduate seminar examines work and labor in Latin literature, beginning with a close reading of Vergil's Georgics in Latin. We will pay particular attention to the female, enslaved, and non-human labor that elite male authors silence or sublimate, as well as the interpretive and methodological challenges that arise. Students will co-design the reading list; lead discussions around texts, topics and theories relevant to their research; and workshop one abstract, one grant proposal, and one conference paper each. Reading ability in Latin is required.

**AS.040.612. Science and Wonder in the Greek and Roman World. 3 Credits.**

This seminar explores intersections between science and wonder in ancient Greek and Roman literature.

**AS.040.613. Things with Lives in the Ancient Mediterranean. 3 Credits.**

With a focus on material culture from the ancient Mediterranean, this seminar explores the diversity of ways in which objects may be understood to have lives or to be active elements of humans' lived experience. The seminar meets in the Archaeological Museum, where we can pair direct examination of objects with an exploration of multiple theoretical approaches and interests, such as object biography and agency, affordance theory, object-oriented ontologies, material animacies, embodiment, ecological and enactive perception, and the ongoing post-depositional existences of archaeological material. Students will eventually select an object as the focus of an individual research project.

**AS.040.615. Ovid's Metamorphoses. 3 Credits.**

A study of the Roman poet Ovid's timeless tale of change, explored in relationship to the philosophical Daoism of Zhuangzi and to recent critical and philosophical concepts such as becoming, transformation, autopoiesis.

**AS.040.619. Epics and Empire: Postcolonial Perspectives on Vergil's Aeneid. 3 Credits.**

This graduate seminar (welcoming advanced undergrads with instructor permission) examines epic literature's entanglements with empire, colonialism, ethnicity, indigeneity, and slavery via critical readings of Vergil's Aeneid. Students will gain methodological and pragmatic familiarity with movements to 'decolonize' and globalize the study of antiquity. As a counterbalance to Classics' historical service to imperialism, we will read Vergil alongside other literary epics on race, identity, and belonging, representing diverse global languages, belief systems, geographies, and positionalities. We will also survey classics of postcolonial thought, from Fanon to Hartman, and apply their theories and methods to primary sources. Our hope is to incubate reparative approaches to the Aeneid and epic literature while also evaluating novel methodologies of comparison, reception, resistant interpretation, and critical fabulation. Classics graduate students will read the Aeneid in Latin. Undergraduate and non-Classics graduate students may read in translation but should plan on substantial engagement with an additional epic of their choice. All will hone professional skills as they produce a final research paper suitable for conference presentation or open-access web publication on [race-time.net](http://race-time.net).

**AS.040.626. Plato and Poetry. 3 Credits.**

This graduate seminar will explore Plato's contributions to the "old quarrel" between poetry and philosophy, encompassing such topics as the relationship between poetic inspiration and human reason, the role of literature in pedagogy, and the metaphysical implications of poetic fiction. We will focus on several Greek texts from the Platonic corpus related to these themes, as well as some later sources that engage with Platonic ideas.

**AS.040.629. Missing Persons in Classical Antiquity. 3 Credits.**

This course provides you with the opportunity to explore, from literary, material, and anthropological perspectives, the reasons people went missing in the ancient world. We will investigate how individuals experienced their inability to contact relatives and friends while missing, and how, upon their return after years of absence, they were identified and recognized by those left behind. You will gain a sophisticated understanding of how the phenomenon of missing persons is connected to shifting socio-historical contexts and developments, including mobility, transportation technologies, and human identification technologies. Throughout the course, we will untangle related and overlapping categories such as missingness, absence, and lostness. Additionally, we will examine how the conditions of a missing person in ancient times differ from the modern concept of missingness, considering the extensive systems of record-keeping, surveillance, and more comprehensive communication technologies now available. While our exploration will span classical antiquity, our seminar will be anchored in Homer's *Odyssey*—a poem that delves into the themes of travelers, the yearning for home, missingness, and recognition.

Distribution Area: Humanities

**AS.040.631. Curating the Ancient in Baltimore. 3 Credits.**

This collaborative seminar meets jointly with students from MICA to design an exhibition concerning a cast collection of ancient Mediterranean sculpture, founded in 1881, that resided at both institutions during different moments in its history (part of the collection is still located at MICA, where art students regularly engage with it). Participants will explore the dynamic position of the collection between these two urban institutions and its existence as part of the ongoing history of the city. This course is associated with the Baltimore ReCast Classics Research Lab. Advanced undergraduates can contact the instructor about joining the course.

**AS.040.638. Ancient Literary Criticism. 3 Credits.**

This course covers essential Greek and Latin texts (e.g. Plato, Aristotle, Horace, Plutarch) and the commentary tradition (e.g. scholia to Homer and other important authors). Focus is on poetic texts, with some prose.

**AS.040.645. Slavery and Literature in the Ancient Roman World. 3 Credits.**

This seminar examines the entanglement of Roman-period literature with enslavement. It explores the involvement of enslaved workers (secretaries, performers, teachers et al.) in the production, reception, and circulation of Latin and Greek literary texts. It also asks how literary texts represent enslavement and how enslavement inflects Roman literature's aesthetic and political projects. Participants will gain exposure to research methods in connected subfields (e.g. epigraphy, papyrology, book history) and will discuss recent interventions in archival theory. The seminar will also give special consideration to the relationship between enslavement and the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum's collection of one hundred fifty Latin inscriptions from the Roman period.

**AS.040.647. Play and the Ludic in Roman literature and culture. 3 Credits.**

This graduate seminar investigates a range of Roman cultural practices through the lens of "play" and "ludism." Beginning with some classic studies of play (Huizunga and others) we will look at a variety of Roman practices lexically designated as "play" (esp. schooling, gladiatorial contests, and sex) and consider such activities' relationship to a broader range of "acting as if" activities, such as religious ritual, drama, and "exercises" of various types.

**AS.040.652. Inspiration and Immersion in Ancient Poetry. 3 Credits.**

This graduate seminar examines classical antiquity's vibrant and varied approaches toward the enraptured experiences of poetry—its creation, performance, and consumption. Subtopics include conceptions of divine inspiration, metaphors for literary inheritance, modes of reading and listening, and more. Knowledge of Greek and Latin is preferred but not required.

**AS.040.670. Lucian of Samosata. 3 Credits.**

This seminar will explore the prolific output of the Syrian Greek writer Lucian of Samosata (2nd century CE). Lucian's work, which spans diverse themes and forms (including verse as well as prose), shows an all-embracing preoccupation with truth, lies, fiction and authority, and his satire reveals an intellectual world characterized by fraudulent philosophers, sophists, holy men and other imposters. One of his central questions is what it means, in the imperial period, to lay claim to be Greek. At the same time, he shows a genius for combining influences from the Archaic and Classical past (especially Homer, Aristophanes, Plato) to produce an elegant new genre and literary critical perspective. Distribution Area: Humanities

**AS.040.702. Reading Ancient Greek Poetry. 3 Credits.**

This reading seminar is intended to train graduate students in direct and critical work on primary sources. Co-listed with AS.040.306. Distribution Area: Humanities

**AS.040.705. Reading Ancient Greek Prose. 3 Credits.**

This reading seminar is intended to train graduate students in direct and critical work on primary sources. Co-listed with AS.040.305. Recommended Course Background: AS.040.205-AS.040.206. Distribution Area: Humanities

**AS.040.707. Reading Latin Prose. 3 Credits.**

This reading seminar is intended to train graduate students in direct and critical work on primary sources. Co-listed with AS.040.307.

**AS.040.710. Reading Latin Poetry. 3 Credits.**

This reading seminar is intended to train graduate students in direct and critical work on primary sources. Co-listed with AS.040.308. Recommended Course Background: AS.040.207-AS.040.208. Distribution Area: Humanities

**AS.040.801. Independent Study. 3 - 9 Credits.**

This course enables the student to pursue individual investigation and reading in a field of special interest, under the direct supervision of a member of the Classics faculty. By special arrangement, at the discretion of the Instructor.

**AS.040.802. Independent Study. 3 - 9 Credits.**

This course enables the student to pursue individual investigation and reading in a field of special interest, under the direct supervision of a member of the Classics faculty. By special arrangement, at the discretion of the Instructor.

**AS.040.809. Exam Preparation. 10 - 20 Credits.**

Study in preparation for a comprehensive oral exam, required to become a PhD candidate, and consisting of three fields in classics and related areas.

**AS.040.810. Exam Preparation. 10 - 20 Credits.**

Study in preparation for a comprehensive oral exam, required to become a PhD candidate, and consisting of three fields in classics and related areas

**AS.040.812. TA Practicum. 3 Credits.**

This course is to develop essential teaching skills.

**AS.040.814. Dissertation Research. 10 - 20 Credits.**

Graduate dissertation research with advisor.

**AS.040.815. Dissertation Research. 10 - 20 Credits.**

Graduate dissertation research with advisor.

**AS.040.816. Summer Independent Research. 9 Credits.**

Summer independent research for doctoral students.

## Cross Listed Courses

### Archaeology

**AS.136.101. Introduction To Archaeology. 3 Credits.**

An introduction to archaeology and to archaeological method and theory, exploring how archaeologists excavate, analyze, and interpret ancient remains in order to reconstruct how ancient societies functioned. Specific examples from a variety of archaeological projects in different parts of the world will be used to illustrate techniques and principles discussed. Distribution Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences  
AS Foundational Abilities: Citizens and Society (FA4), Ethics and Foundations (FA5)  
EN Foundational Abilities: Engagement with Society (FA4)

### English

**AS.060.444. The Transmission of Texts, Ancient to Modern. 3 Credits.**

Classicists, medievalists, and early modernists have always been interested in the history of the books (and the papyri and the rolls) in which the texts they study survive, and this course will survey these traditional modes of bibliography and their importance. We will also look at the social contexts of reading in all periods as a more theoretically sophisticated account of book history has urged us to do in recent decades. Particular attention will be given to modes of transmission of texts between written media, including the digital, but with an emphasis on the synchronic and diachronic importance of orality and aurality, dictation and transcription. Distribution Area: Humanities  
AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)  
EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)  
Writing Intensive

### First Year Seminars

**AS.001.121. FYS: Socrates and his Intellectual Context. 3 Credits.**

This First-Year Seminar will focus on the figure of Socrates. Socrates wrote nothing, so we depend on others for our knowledge of him. We will examine the ways he is portrayed by several different authors, including Plato. We will also examine some other ideas around in his time - some of which were pretty radical - and consider how he may have reacted to them. Finally, we will examine his influence on later thought. Distribution Area: Humanities



**AS.001.148. FYS: Dining and drinking in the ancient Mediterranean world. 3 Credits.**

This First-Year Seminar focuses on the cultures of dining and drinking in the ancient Greek and Roman worlds, with excursions into the foodways of other ancient societies abutting the Mediterranean basin. We will investigate the social practices and values that are associated with conviviality in these societies, and how such practices and values change over time. We will consider the kinds of communities that these practices construct, and how and to what extent different kinds of people are included, excluded, or placed in a social hierarchy by their participation in these practices. Special attention will be given to feasting as represented in the Homeric poems, especially the *Odyssey*; to the Archaic and Classical Greek symposium; and to the Roman convivium and other dining forms extending to late Antiquity. Fueling our investigation and underpinning our discussions will be a wide variety of ancient Greek and Roman texts (to be read in English translation); images and representations of ancient dining in diverse visual media, including Greek vase painting, Roman wall painting, and mosaics; and archaeological evidence for the spaces, settings, and implements of ancient dining and drinking. Throughout, we will engage with key scholarship on aspects of this topic. The seminar includes visits to the Walters Art Museum, the Baltimore Museum of Art, and the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum, all of which house objects that illuminate our inquiry. It may also involve screenings of films or clips featuring modern imaginative reconstructions of ancient dining events.

Distribution Area: Humanities

**AS.001.161. FYS: Books, Authenticity, and Truth. 3 Credits.**

We are living through a crisis in how we take in information. Bombarded by information of all sorts coming at us on phones, tablets, and computer screens, it can be difficult to make sense of it all and harder still to determine whether something is true or false, authentic or inauthentic. The scale and speed of the change in media that we are undergoing is unprecedented in human history. Nevertheless, people in the past have faced moments of crisis – moments when writing seemed unreliable, when the format of written information changed, and when new publication formats forced reevaluations of the nature of truth. This First-Year Seminar will take us from Greco-Roman antiquity to the modern age, with stops along the way in the European Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Enlightenment. We will read selected texts that illuminate the place of writing, books, and the search for truth, think about the structure of libraries in the western Middle Ages and Renaissance, do extensive hands-on work with rare books, and visit other repositories of information, all toward the end of evaluating how the history of books and information can help us in our current quest to make sense of our world.

Distribution Area: Humanities

**AS.001.179. FYS: Race Before Race - Difference and Diversity in the Ancient Mediterranean. 3 Credits.**

How did the Greeks, Romans, and other ancient Mediterranean peoples understand human difference and diversity? How did they form their senses of self in relation to others and articulate kinship and commonalities across ethnic lines? Did skin color, birthplace, language, and lineage matter in constructing social hierarchies? How did their concepts of class and citizenship, beauty and belonging, differ from ours? Did they have anything akin to modern constructions of race and racism, blackness and whiteness, the 'west' and the 'rest'? If not, when and why were such ideas invented, and how was Greco-Roman culture conscripted in their support? Finally and crucially, what can we do to make "classics" today more equitable, inclusive, and accurate to the multicultural reality of the ancient Mediterranean? This First-Year Seminar examines these questions, and many more, through the literature, art, and history of ancient Greece and Rome, with forays into Egypt, Persia, Judea, and northern Europe. It will introduce you to the diversity of the ancient Mediterranean world, hone your ability to critically interpret and discuss art, literature, and scholarship, and explore how systems of categorizing human difference have historically served power. This course will give you a wider historical lens through which to understand race, racecraft, the "classics," and "Western civilization," revealing all to be dynamic and historically situated discourses that have been used to exert authority, to include or exclude, and to build communities. It will also build student community and comfort discussing sensitive subjects through a combination of field trips, guest lectures, movie nights, and communal meals.

**Prerequisite(s):** Students who have taken AS.040.212 are not eligible to take AS.001.179.

**AS.001.180. FYS: Lunar Histories. 3 Credits.**

This First-Year Seminar will take us on an exploratory journey through the history of our Moon, both as a physical body in its own right and as a formative presence in the cultural imagination. As we examine theories about the Moon's nature and role in the cosmos - from antiquity to our modern period, and from science to make-believe - we will delve deep into perplexing questions such as the relationship between scientific and imaginative thought, the role played by conspiracy-theory and hoax in our society, the origins of speculation about extraterrestrial life, and what it means to map and write the history of other worlds... This seminar will include sessions of practical observation of the Moon from the JHU Observatory.

Distribution Area: Humanities

**History****AS.100.672. Medieval Materialities: Objects, Ontologies, Texts and Contexts. 3 Credits.**

We will use the meanings and methodologies of "materiality" to examine the medieval world, by analyzing objects, texts, networks, patterns of circulation and appropriation, aesthetics and enshrinement, production and knowledge communities.

Distribution Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

**History of Art****AS.010.292. Greek Tragedy and the Visual Arts. 3 Credits.**

We will read a selection of Greek tragedies in translation and explore the visual arts that appear in, shaped, and respond to them.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

**AS.010.309. The Idea of Athens. 3 Credits.**

This thematic course will explore the art, architecture, material culture, and textual evidence from the ancient city of Athens, the many cultures and social positions that made up the ancient city, and the idea of the city as something far beyond its reality. We will take a number of field trips to museums in the area and some of your assignments will be based in local museums.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Democracy (FA4.1)

**AS.010.431. Obsessed with the Past: the Art and Architecture of Medieval Rome. 3 Credits.**

In antiquity, Rome became the capital of an empire, its growing status reflected in its sophisticated urban planning, its architecture, and the arts. While an abundance of studies explores the revival of this glorious past in the Renaissance, this seminar discusses various ways of the reception of antiquity during the medieval period. We address the practice of using spolia in medieval architecture, the appropriation of ancient pagan buildings for the performance of Christian cult practices, the continuation of making (cult)images and their veneration, the meaning and specific visuality of Latin script (paleography and epigraphy) in later medieval art. We discuss the revival and systematic study of ancient knowledge (f. ex. medicine, astronomy, and the liberal arts), in complex allegorical murals. As we aim to reconstruct the art and architecture of medieval Rome, this course discusses ideas and concepts behind different forms of rebuilding and picturing the past, as they intersect with the self-referential character of a city that is obsessed with its own history.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

Writing Intensive

**AS.010.444. Classics/History of Art Research Lab. 3 Credits.**

This research-driven course focuses on joining together and mapping the largest known corpus of mosaic fragments (1st-6th centuries CE) from the heterogenous ancient city of Antioch at the mouth of the Orontes river (modern Antakya, Turkey). These mosaic fragments have been dispersed to institutions and museums across the globe, and their reunifications tell a series of stories about ancient Mediterranean diversity, early 20th century archaeology, and contemporary collection histories. Building from work completed in Phase I (Spring 2020) and Phase II (Fall 2021) and in conversation with a global network of Antioch researchers, students in this course will continue to research and digitally reunite mosaic fragments, including those in the collection of the Baltimore Museum of Art, delve deeper into the archival record associated with the early 20th century excavations, of which Baltimore was among the sponsors, and explore contemporary object biographies of the corpus, part of which remains in the region devastated by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria in Spring 2023. Our research will center questions of craft, trade, materials and labor in ancient Antioch, modern archaeological practice, and contemporary museums. No prerequisites required and students from all majors welcome.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4), Projects and Methods (FA6)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

**AS.010.660. The Hegemony of Bodies. 3 Credits.**

Bodies—material, artistic, political, cartographic—and their breakdown, form the focus of this seminar. Situating this inquiry in the ancient Mediterranean, we will analyze the human body as an organizing term, giving rise to a robust set of practices and performances. We will consider the conception of atoms as bodies in motion, the role of direct democracy and assembly as they intersect with artistic practices of both figuration and other non-figural corpora, and the emerging body of medical knowledge that would eventually be gathered under the Hippocratic corpus. The Mediterranean sea itself as it connects with other bodies of water and forged connections between different land bodies will also be among the topics we explore. While organized around the ancient Mediterranean and its afterlives, students from all formations are very welcome.

Distribution Area: Humanities

**AS.010.664. Classics/History of Art Research Lab. 3 Credits.**

This research-driven course focuses on joining together and mapping the largest known corpus of mosaic fragments (1st-6th centuries CE) from the heterogenous ancient city of Antioch at the mouth of the Orontes river (modern Antakya, Turkey). These mosaic fragments have been dispersed to institutions and museums across the globe, and their reunifications tell a series of stories about ancient Mediterranean diversity, early 20th century archaeology, and contemporary collection histories. Building from work completed in Phase I (Spring 2020) and Phase II (Fall 2021) and in conversation with a global network of Antioch researchers, students in this course will continue to research and digitally reunite mosaic fragments, including those in the collection of the Baltimore Museum of Art, delve deeper into the archival record associated with the early 20th century excavations, of which Baltimore was among the sponsors, and explore contemporary object biographies of the corpus, part of which remains in the region devastated by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria in Spring 2023. Our research will center questions of craft, trade, materials and labor in ancient Antioch, modern archaeological practice, and contemporary museums. No prerequisites required and students from all majors welcome.

Distribution Area: Humanities

**AS.010.680. Craft and Interaction in the Near East and Aegean during the Bronze and Iron Ages. 3 Credits.**

This graduate seminar investigates the intersection of crafting and cultural interaction among the regions of the Aegean, eastern Mediterranean and Near East from 3000-500 BCE (Bronze and Iron Ages).

**Interdepartmental****AS.360.133. Freshman Seminar: Great Books at Hopkins. 3 Credits.**

Students attend lectures by an interdepartmental group of Hopkins faculty and meet for discussion in smaller seminar groups; each of these seminars is led by one of the course faculty. In lectures, panels, multimedia presentations, and curatorial sessions among the University's rare book holdings, we will explore some of the greatest works of the literary and philosophical traditions in Europe and the Americas. Close reading and intensive writing instruction are hallmarks of this course; authors for Fall 2020 include Homer, Plato, Dante, John Donne, George Herbert, Christina Rossetti, Mary Shelley, Frederick Nietzsche, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Frederick Douglass.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Ethics and Foundations (FA5)

Writing Intensive

## Modern Languages and Literatures

### AS.211.477. Renaissance Witches and Demonology. 3 Credits.

Who were the witches? Why were they persecuted for hundreds of years? Why were women identified as the witches par excellence? How many witches were put to death between 1400 and 1800? What traits did European witch-mythologies share with other societies? After the witch-hunts ended, how did "The Witch" go from being "monstrous" to being "admirable" and even "sexy"? Answers are found in history and anthropology, but also in medicine, theology, literature, folklore, music, and the visual arts, including cinema.

**Prerequisite(s):** Students who have already taken AS.214.171 cannot take AS.211.477.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3)

Writing Intensive

### AS.213.427. Lunar Poetics: Lucian to Kepler and Beyond. 3 Credits.

When the German astronomer Johannes Kepler in his famous "Somnium" (1608) creates a fictitious dream narrative in which the earth is observed from the moon, it becomes clear that the shift from the geocentric to the heliocentric worldview entails a radical change of perspective that can be achieved only by means of the imagination. What appears as a sunrise is in reality due to the earth's own movement. Where appearance and reality diverge, the new model requires a fictional account without which it remains incomprehensible. Orbiting around Kepler's short tale, this seminar will focus on cosmic narratives and poetic explorations of outer space, from Lucian's *True Stories* and *Icaromenippus* (2nd century CE), one of the earliest literary treatments of a journey through space, Plutarch's dialogue *On the face of the Moon* (late 1st century CE), to Godwin's *The Man in the Moone* (1638) and Kant's »Of the Inhabitants of the Stars« (1755). What is the epistemic function of literary representations of the cosmos? Are space-travel narratives thought experiments? What role does fiction and the imagination play in the science of astronomy? By pursuing these and related questions, this course will question common assumptions about the relationship of science to fiction and the literary imagination while tracing key junctures in the history of astronomy.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3)

### AS.213.627. Lunar Poetics: Lucian to Kepler and Beyond. 3 Credits.

When the German astronomer Johannes Kepler in his famous "Somnium" (1608) creates a fictitious dream narrative in which the earth is observed from the moon, it becomes clear that the shift from the geocentric to the heliocentric worldview entails a radical change of perspective that can be achieved only by means of the imagination. What appears as a sunrise is in reality due to the earth's own movement. Where appearance and reality diverge, the new model requires a fictional account without which it remains incomprehensible. Orbiting around Kepler's short tale, this seminar will focus on cosmic narratives and poetic explorations of outer space, from Lucian's *True Stories* and *Icaromenippus* (2nd century CE), one of the earliest literary treatments of a journey through space, Plutarch's dialogue *On the face of the Moon* (late 1st century CE), to Godwin's *The Man in the Moone* (1638) and Kant's »Of the Inhabitants of the Stars« (1755). What is the epistemic function of literary representations of the cosmos? Are space-travel narratives thought experiments? What role does fiction and the imagination play in the science of astronomy? By pursuing these and related questions, this course will question common assumptions about the relationship of science to fiction and the literary imagination while tracing key junctures in the history of astronomy.

Distribution Area: Humanities

### AS.214.330. Reinterpreting Myths, Reinterpreting Women. 3 Credits.

This course aims to reflect on the most iconic myths of classical antiquity, to be re-read through the contribution of psychoanalytic theories. In class, we will analyze the ten proposed women mythological figures, to be divided according to three major categories of wicked wives and mothers, abandoned women, and nonhuman female monsters, in their evolutions through the centuries, in order to note and investigate their new meanings and interpretations. How, for example, can the maternal figure of Medea still be considered relevant today? What meaning does she carry, and in what ways has she been reinterpreted and rewritten by literature, art, and other humanistic fields? Likewise, what is the source of the fascination still associated with the tragic figures of Ariadne and Dido, or the terror caused by monstrous beings such as the Mermaids and Medusa? How has popular culture re-appropriated them, modernizing them, and making them iconic in fantasy films like Harry Potter, in famous TV series like *Game of Thrones*, in horror movies, or in Disney's animated films? Students will be able to answer these questions during the course, focusing each week on a specific myth drawn from classical Greek and Latin literature and following it through its literary and artistic developments, especially in the context of Western culture.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

## Near Eastern Studies

### AS.130.245. The Archaeology of Gender in the Ancient Eastern Mediterranean. 3 Credits.

How do art historians and archaeologists recover and study genders and sexualities of ancient people? This writing-intensive seminar looks at texts and objects from ancient Egypt, Assyria, and Greece through the lens of gender and sexuality studies. Beyond exploring concepts of gender in the ancient Eastern Mediterranean, students will also consider how modern scholars have approached, recovered, and written about ancient gender identities. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1)

Writing Intensive

**AS.133.304. Let's Play! Games from Ancient Egypt and Beyond. 3 Credits.**

The ancient Egyptians played many games, as we do today. Board games, ball games, games of skill, etc., were not only part of daily life, but also had a role to play in religious practices and beliefs. Although the rules of the games are largely unknown to us, archaeological objects, funerary images, and texts help us to better understand their roles and meanings in ancient Egyptian culture. These various sources also show how games reflect (or contradict) some facets of the organization of the society, and reveal how the ancient Egyptians perceived some aspects of their world - social hierarchy, gender division, representation of death, relationship to chance/fate/divine will, etc. This course will present the evolution of games and play in Ancient Egypt from the 4th millennium BCE, with the first board game discovered in the tomb of a woman, through those deposited in the tomb of Tutankhamun, and up to the Roman period. By replacing the games in their archaeological, historical and cultural contexts, the course is also intended as an original introduction to the civilization of ancient Egypt. The course will consist mainly of lectures given by the professor, with several guest researchers. Examinations will be divided into three parts: two knowledge quizzes during the semester; at the end of the semester, an essay on an Egyptian game of the student's choice.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3), Engagement with Society (FA4)

**AS.133.616. Let's Play! Games from Ancient Egypt and Beyond. 3 Credits.**

The ancient Egyptians played many games, as we do today. Board games, ball games, games of skill, etc., were not only part of daily life, but also had a role to play in religious practices and beliefs. Although the rules of the games are largely unknown to us, archaeological objects, funerary images, and texts help us to better understand their roles and meanings in ancient Egyptian culture. These various sources also show how games reflect (or contradict) some facets of the organization of the society, and reveal how the ancient Egyptians perceived some aspects of their world - social hierarchy, gender division, representation of death, relationship to chance/fate/divine will, etc. This course will present the evolution of games and play in Ancient Egypt from the 4th millennium BCE, with the first board game discovered in the tomb of a woman, through those deposited in the tomb of Tutankhamun, and up to the Roman period. By replacing the games in their archaeological, historical and cultural contexts, the course is also intended as an original introduction to the civilization of ancient Egypt. The course will consist mainly of lectures given by the professor, with several guest researchers. Examinations will be divided into three parts: two knowledge quizzes during the semester; at the end of the semester, an essay on an Egyptian game of the student's choice.

Distribution Area: Humanities

**Philosophy****AS.150.201. Introduction To Greek Philosophy. 3 Credits.**

A survey of the earlier phase of Greek philosophy. Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle will be discussed, as well as two groups of thinkers who preceded them, usually known as the pre-Socratics and the Sophists.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Ethics and Foundations (FA5)

**AS.150.401. Greek Philosophy: Plato and His Predecessors. 3 Credits.**

A study of pre-Socratic philosophers, especially those to whom Plato reacted; also an examination of major dialogues of Plato with emphasis upon his principal theses and characteristic methods. Cross-listed with Classics.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Ethics and Foundations (FA5)

Writing Intensive

**AS.150.402. Aristotle. 3 Credits.**

A study of major selected texts of Aristotle.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Ethics and Foundations (FA5)

Writing Intensive

**AS.150.403. Hellenistic Philosophy. 3 Credits.**

A study of later Greek philosophy, stretching roughly from the death of Aristotle to the Roman imperial period. Epicureans, Stoics, and Skeptics will be the main philosophical schools examined.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Ethics and Foundations (FA5)

Writing Intensive

**AS.150.406. Tragedy and Living Well. 3 Credits.**

This course revisits the idea of tragedy as represented in Ancient Greek thought for the purpose of approaching questions of flourishing and ethical living from a different angle.

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Ethics and Foundations (FA5)

EN Foundational Abilities: Creative Expression (FA3)

Writing Intensive

**Program in Museums and Society****AS.389.140. Antiquity and Its Afterlives: Books, Art, and Culture from Ancient Greece and Rome to the Modern Era. 3 Credits.**

This course explores the surviving "objects" of the ancient Greco-Roman world, and the histories of their excavation, organization, and preservation in museum and library collections. From ancient objects and sculptures, ancient Greek papyri, scrolls, and late-antique and medieval books, to the revival of Greek and Roman traditions in the Renaissance and Enlightenment, we will learn how these objects help shape and transform our understanding of the ancient world over two millennia, up to the formation of the great antiquities museums of the modern era. This hands-on course will take advantage of ancient objects and texts in Baltimore, at the Walters Art Museum, the Baltimore Museum of Art, as well as the Archaeology Museum at JHU and the rare book and manuscript collections of the Sheridan Libraries at JHU.

Distribution Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Ethics and Foundations (FA5)

Writing Intensive



**AS.389.315. Ancient Color: The Technologies and Meanings of Color in Antiquity. 3 Credits.**

What role did the colorful surfaces of sculptures, vessels and textiles play in the ancient world? We examine historical texts and recent scholarly and scientific publications on the technologies and meanings of color in antiquity, and use imaging and analytical techniques to study polychromed objects from the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum  
Distribution Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences  
AS Foundational Abilities: Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

**Writing Seminars**

**AS.220.214. Readings in Fiction: What is a Fable?. 3 Credits.**

Stories entertain us, but we can also receive guidance from them, and we can tell them to impart guidance to others, to exercise influence, to make a point. This course will explore the ways that stories make their points in the genre sometimes called “fable,” in works by authors ranging from Aesop to George Saunders, from the 4th century to the present. We’ll debate what fables actually are – Short morality tales about animals? Portraits of exemplary figures that demonstrate how to live? - in part by reading many examples of the form and some theories of it, in part by writing fables of our own.

**Prerequisite(s):** AS.220.106

Distribution Area: Humanities

AS Foundational Abilities: Writing and Communication (FA1), Culture and Aesthetics (FA3), Citizens and Society (FA4)

Writing Intensive

For current faculty and contact information go to <http://classics.jhu.edu/people/>