

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS



Segovia, Spain. Aqueduct (Acueducto de Segovia). 1st century AD
Sites and Photos. Artstor. <https://jstor.org/stable/community.15235056>.

Course Announcement Guide Spring 2026

For information, consult our website: <https://classics.as.miami.edu>
Call 305-284-6326 for an advising appointment or visit the Classics office,
Ashe Administration Building 523C

CLASSES AVAILABLE ON CANELINK OCTOBER 13, 2025
REGISTRATION BEGINS NOVEMBER 3, 2025

Make sure you have all the courses you need to graduate. See your Navigator, and an advisor every semester. Department of Classics faculty are available for advising.

All Classics Department courses at the 200-level and above are either designated as “writing (W)” courses, or as classes pending to be designated “writing” (W). Therefore, if you need a “W” course, please first consult either the course instructor or the department chair (Prof. J.P. Russo). **For those interested in a writing credit for CLA 101, please enroll in CLA 102, when offered, instead.** See a departmental advisor if you have any questions about what courses to take for your Classics major or minor.

The Department has three categories of courses:

CLA – Classics (Culture, Art, Science, Ancient Medicine, History, Greek and Roman Law, etc.)

GRE – Greek Language **LAT** – Latin Language

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

Track 1: Greek (30 credits)

- **Greek 101, 102, 201** - Six courses at the upper level (202 and above) in Greek. Greek 201 counts towards this requirement. Two survey/theme courses; at least one CLA

Track 2: Latin (30 credits)

- **Latin 101, 102, 201** - Six courses at the upper level (202 and above) in Latin. Latin 201 counts towards this requirement. Two survey/theme courses; at least one CLA.

Track 3: Latin and Greek (36 credits)

- **Latin 101, 102, 201 and Greek 101, 102, 201** - Three courses at the upper level (202 and above) in Latin and three courses at the upper level (202 and above) in Greek. Latin 201 and Greek 201 count towards this requirement. Two survey/theme courses; at least one CLA.

Track 4: Classical Civilization (24 credits)

- **One course among the following four choices:** CLA 101, CLA 102(W) Ancient Greek and Roman Mythology; CLA 210 Greek and Latin Roots of English; CLA 211 Medical Terminology.
- **Seven other CLA, LAT, or GRE courses in any combination, four of which are at the 300 level or higher.** If there are no LAT or GRE courses among the seven, either CLA 210 or CLA 211 must be one of the seven courses.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR

Five courses -- 15 credits -- including:

- 3 credits in a Greek (GRE) course, or 3 credits in a Latin (LAT) course, and
- 12 credits in Greek (GRE), Latin (LAT), or Classics-in-translation (CLA) courses, including Classical Art and Archaeology, Ancient Science, Medicine, and Law (in any combination).

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

A student may earn Honors in Classics by completing a 'capstone' project with a grade of B or higher. This project can be the senior thesis (CLA 495 and CLA 496) or an Independent Study course (LAT 491, GRE 491, or CLA 491) that includes a substantial research paper (25 pp - 35 pp). Either project must be supervised by a faculty member in the Classics Department. To qualify for a 'capstone' project, the student must have by the end of the junior year a minimum GPA of 3.5 in the Classics major and 3.3 overall.

Students, Please Note: Since you will want to attend to the matter of cognates when you enroll, we are providing you with the current active cognates linked to the CLA, GRE, and LAT courses that are listed below, as of the printing of this Course Guide. Please be sure to check all your other course cognates. If you have already declared a cognate that is now deactivated, you WILL be able to complete the requirements. You may search for active and deactivated cognates by course at <https://cognates.miami.edu/> or consult the chair, Dr. J. P. Russo, 305-284-6326.

CLA COURSES

CLA 101 Greek and Roman Mythology

Dr. Han Tran | M, W, F 11:15 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.

This class explores the language of classical myths via Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. The classic poem weaves together a broad range of Greek and Roman myths, which the lectures will help both to elucidate and expand through the presentation of earlier and/or alternate versions, as well as through slides of relevant (ancient and modern) art. Some of the covered narratives are: The Golden Age of Kronos, the rise of Zeus as head of the Olympians, the labors of Herakles/Hercules, Perseus' quest for the head of Medusa, Jason and the Argonauts. Students will become adept at decoding a whole range of stories, from foundational to more local tales, from stories of major gods (Zeus/Jupiter, Apollo, Artemis/Diana, Aphrodite/Venus) and heroes (Achilles, Odysseus/Ulysses, Theseus), to more secondary figures. A large part of this process will be understanding the common belief system that underlies and informs all these stories.

CLA 101 counts toward the following cognate:

- Individualized cognates in Arts & Humanities
- Ancient Roman Literature, Culture, and History
- Medical Topics in Classics
- Ancient Greek Language & Literature
- Legal Topics in Classics
- Latin Language and Literature

CLA 105 Greek Civilization: An Introduction to Classical Archaeology

TBA | T, TH 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

This course introduces the terminology, the methods, the history, and the achievements of classical archaeology, with special attention to Heinrich Schliemann's discovery of Ancient

Troy and Mycenae, Sir Arthur Evans's investigation of Minoan culture in Crete, and select studies of cities on mainland Greece. Our understanding of Aegean archaeology prepares the way for later studies in the triumphs of ancient Greek civilization and culture.

Counts towards the following cognates:

- Individualized cognate in Arts & Humanities
- Philosophy and Religion in Ancient Culture and Society
- Rhetoric and Self-Presentation in Ancient Culture
- Medical Topics in Classics
- Ancient Greek Language and Literature
- Legal Topics in Classics

CLA 224 The Heroic Journey

Dr. Allannah Karas | M, W, F 1:25 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

We are all on a journey, the journey of life. But what makes that journey worthwhile? What can make that journey something more? Humans have been asking these questions for thousands of years, from the ancient world to the present. This course explores the notion of “the heroic journey” told from the perspective of one of the most famous epic tales of ancient Greece, Homer’s *Odyssey*. While this story features fantastic myths, monsters, and gods, students in this course will explore the ways in which this ancient epic and its themes resonate still today. The course will consist of close readings, literary analysis, and discussion of the entire ancient text (in translation) in ways that highlight core human themes of suffering, identity, growing up, homecoming, belonging, family relations, and re-integration within one’s community. Students will also examine modern and contemporary retellings of the myth within the realm of the visual arts. Through reflections, conversation, and creative explorations, students will enter, through this ancient Greek text, into a centuries-long, deeply psychological conversation about life’s journey and how it can be crafted into a meaningful adventure.

Counts towards the following cognates:

- Individualized cognate in Arts & Humanities
- Rhetoric and Self-Presentation in Ancient Culture
- Ancient Roman Literature
- The Epic Tradition from Antiquity Through the Twentieth Century
- Ancient Greek Language and Literature
- Latin Language and Literature

CLA 271 / PHI 271 Ancient Philosophy

Dr. Wilson Shearin | M,W,F 11:15 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.

What is knowledge, and how can it be known? Why be moral? What is justice? What is the good life? If we really have free will, can there be such a thing as destiny? In what does friendship consist? What exactly is love? What is the meaning of death? These and other questions were addressed powerfully by the ancient Greeks and Romans. This course will explore such crucial philosophical themes, along with the actual method(s) of inquiry that the ancients devised for examining them. Major figures such as Plato and Aristotle will be featured, along with fragments of the Presocratics and selections from other ancient

philosophers. This course examines selected trials from ancient Greece and Rome both as a way to understand these legal systems in themselves and as a way to explore the cultures, values, and biases that shaped them.

Counts towards the following cognates:

- Individualized cognate in Arts & Humanities

CLA 304 / HIS 396 The Roman Empire

Dr. Charles Bartlett | T, TH 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

CLA 304 studies the Roman Empire from the Battle of Actium in 31 BCE to the fall of the western Empire in 476 CE. We will examine the tumultuous decades in which the Roman Republic gave way to the Empire; the political changes both in the city of Rome and throughout the Mediterranean that followed in the wake of this transition; and the fascinating social, cultural, economic, and religious developments that characterized the life of the Empire. For good or ill, Rome has influenced innumerable political communities and remains a part of our collective consciousness, and studying its evolution and legacy will prove useful no matter your field or future career plans. As we delve into the exciting world of the Roman Empire, you will not only develop tools of analysis and communication that will serve you in other college courses; you will also learn to judge how later societies have mythologized the Roman past to serve their own agendas, and how this continues today. In our exploration of the Roman world and its relevance for the present, we will read some of the most consequential texts in western history, including Tacitus' *Annals*, Pliny's *Letters*, and Marcus Aurelius' *Meditations*.

Counts towards the following cognates:

- Individualized cognate in Arts & Humanities
- Ancient Roman Literature, Culture, and History

CLA 311: Survey of Classical Latin Literature and Culture

Dr. John Kirby | T, TH 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

'The Grandeur that was Rome' is a byword for the immense debt we owe to the ancient Romans – for their language, their civilization, and the genius of their cultural innovations in areas such as law, military science, and architecture. CLA 311 is designed to give students a broad introduction to the literature and culture of the Roman Republic and Empire. The Greek heritage behind Latin literature will be highlighted. Readings will be chosen from authors such as Catullus, Cicero, Vergil, Horace, Ovid, Petronius, Juvenal, Tacitus, and Suetonius; genres such as epic and lyric poetry, oratory, history, and satire will be represented. There is no prerequisite. All texts will be read in English; no reading knowledge of Latin is required.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Individualized cognate in Arts & Humanities

CLA 315/ENG 315 The Classical Epic Tradition: from Homer to Milton

Dr. John Paul Russo | M, W, F 8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.

We cover the rise and development of the Western epic tradition from Homer's *Odyssey* (8th century BC) and Virgil's *Aeneid* (29-19 BC) in the classical world, through the Anglo-Saxon *Beowulf* (ca. 900-1000) and Dante's *Divine Comedy* (ca. 1305-1320) in the Middle Ages and arriving at Milton's *Paradise Lost* (1667) in the late Renaissance in England. We seek continuity among differences, originality, revision, all across an extraordinary time span of 24 centuries. But we have extraordinarily good guides in our authors.

One can compare the course to a band of travelers on a journey among high mountains, some of the supreme achievements of Western literature (there is too little time to investigate the valleys below). One passage could light our way. The Renaissance political philosopher Machiavelli wrote from exile in 1513: "In the evening, I return to my house and go into my study. At the door I take off the clothes I have worn all day, mud spotted and dirty, and put on regal and courtly garments. Thus, appropriately clothed, I enter into the ancient courts of ancient men, where, being lovingly received, I feed on that food which alone is mine, and which I was born for; I am not ashamed to speak with them and to ask the reasons for their actions, and they courteously answer me. For four hours I feel no boredom and forget every worry; I do not fear poverty and death does not terrify me."

Machiavelli is telling us to read for the "humanity" of books, for the purpose of enlarging one's mental and moral nature, and of looking upon the world with greater understanding and sympathy.

Counts towards the following cognates:

- Individualized cognate in Arts & Humanities
- Rhetoric and Self-Presentation in Ancient Culture
- Ancient Roman Literature, Culture and History
- The Epic Tradition from Antiquity Through the Twentieth Century
- Ancient Greek Language and Literature
- Latin Language and Literature

CLA 326: What Does It Mean to be Human

Dr. John Kirby | W 6:35 p.m. – 9:20 p.m.

Questions of Artificial Intelligence, the Singularity, Superintelligence, and Robotics capture our imaginations (and sometimes stir profound anxiety and fear). But are these technological developments merely phenomena of the 20th and 21st centuries? Or are the key issues entailed already adumbrated in the literatures and cultures of the ancient Greeks and Romans?

This course explores the parameters of that most fundamental question of the Humanities: What does it mean to be human? Is 'human' a discrete category with well-defined boundaries, or have fuzzy logic and the dizzying pace of technological advance now blurred such distinctions?

The course will entail reading assignments from the Greek and Roman classics (in English translation); weekly screenings of movies (including television programs); and in-class discussion. 3 credits; no prerequisite.

Counts towards the following cognates:

- Individualized cognate in Arts & Humanities

CLA 405: Roman Law: Jurists, Corporations, and Empire from Antiquity to the Present

Dr. Charles Bartlett | T, TH 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

This class investigates the history of Roman law from the early Roman Republic (5th century BCE) to the present. We will examine the early medieval law codes of western Europe, the development of canon law in the medieval Church, the use of Roman law by early modern empires, the laws governing corporations of all sorts, and the emergence of national law codes in modern nations across the world, among many other topics. Throughout the semester, we will pay attention not only to the details of important legal ideas, but especially to questions of how such ideas emerged, how they were put in place, and how later societies maintained, changed, or replaced them. Those considering a career in the law will have a chance to analyze the history of a singularly important legal system: Roman law has not only been the basis of legal life in countless political communities, past and present, but has indelibly shaped international law as well. Those considering other careers should feel no less welcome: we will study the history of Roman law in its many political, social, cultural, professional, religious, and economic contexts, and you will develop tools to examine the ideas and institutions of other similarly complex and fascinating traditions.

GRE COURSES

GRE 102 Elementary Ancient Greek II

Dr. Allannah Karas | M,W,F 10:10 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

This course builds upon the foundation of GRE 101. It will improve your reading fluency in Attic Greek as well as your grammatical and analytical skills. We read lightly adapted classical Greek texts treating *inter alia* Socrates' defense speech, Neaera's scandalous citizenship case, and Aristophanes' bawdy *Lysistrata*.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Individualized cognate in Arts & Humanities
- Ancient Greek Language and Literature

GRE 421 Greek Orators

TBA | M,W,F 2:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.

The course will concentrate on readings from Lysias, Demosthenes, and other Greek orators of the fifth and fourth century BC.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Individualized cognate in Arts & Humanities
- Rhetoric and Self-Presentation in Ancient Culture
- Ancient Greek Language and Literature

LAT COURSES

LAT 101 Elementary Latin I

Dr. Han Tran | M, W, F 9:05 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.

Latin 101 is an introduction to the Latin language. Latin has occupied a central place in the history of the West—from the time of the Roman Republic and the Empire, through the Middle Ages, to the humanistic Renaissance, and in many ways into the present—and has informed religion, philosophy, law, literature, Western languages, and much else. Studying Latin is fascinating in and of itself, but it will also deepen your appreciation of other languages, and—for anyone considering medical or law school—it offers an edge by revealing the roots, prefixes and suffixes, and common idioms that are largely the basis for our technical and specialized vocabularies. LAT 101 is intended for students *who have never studied the language before, or whose previous study has not yet prepared them for LAT 102 or higher.*

LAT 101 will cover up to Lesson 12 in *A New Latin Primer* by Mary C. English and Georgia L. Irby, with the remainder to be covered in LAT 102 and 201. This revamped course encourages reading from actual Latin texts.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Individualized cognate in Arts & Humanities
- Latin Language and Literature

LAT 102: Elementary Latin II

Dr. Han Tran | M, W, F 10:10 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Latin 102 is a continuation of Latin 101 using *A New Latin Primer* by Mary C. English and Georgia L. Irby and covers Lesson 13 to 24. Latin is an extraordinarily important possession for those considering medical or law school as it explains roots, prefixes and suffixes, common idioms, many of which are the basis for our technical and specialized vocabulary. While grammar and morphology will continue to be central, this course puts greater emphasis on reading actual Latin passages.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Individualized cognate in Arts & Humanities
- Latin Language and Literature

LAT 201: Intermediate Latin I

Dr. Han Tran | T, TH 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 p.m.

Latin 201 is a continuation of Latin 102 using *A New Latin Primer* by Mary C. English and Georgia L. Irby. This course covers Lesson 25 to 36. The remaining time will be devoted to reading the Extended Latin Passages that follow the Lessons.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Individualized cognate in Arts & Humanities
- Ancient Roman Literature, Culture and History
- Latin Language and Literature

LAT 421 Roman Epic

[Dr. Wilson Shearin](#) | M, W, F 12:20 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.

Inspired by Virgil's achievement with the *Aeneid* (19 BC), the Roman epic flowered in the first century AD had a large number of epic. Perhaps the most important of these was Lucan's *Bellum civile* or *Pharsalia* by the poet Lucan who was put to death by the jealous emperor Nero. Statius wrote an epic *Thebaid* on the Oedipus Cycle and Valerius Flaccus did the same for the Greeks in his *Argonautica* about the first major voyage of the Greeks – this, to steal the Golden Fleece. The Romans kept writing epics, nearly all of which are lost or represented by a fragment, down to the end of the empire. Students will read selections from these and other Roman epics, seeking in which diverse ways they developed the classical epic tradition bequeathed to the Middle Ages.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Individualized cognate in Arts & Humanities

Department of Classics

Student Groups

These groups offer an opportunity for students to increase their understanding of Classical topics and languages and share time with other like-minded students. Contact the Department of Classics for more information.

Classics Club

The Classics Club offers a wide and varied range of activities and discussion topics from films, museums, and literature to the making of classical pottery or a presentation by an invited guest. It meets once every two weeks, in Ashe 511 (and occasionally elsewhere). Pizza and coke and other soft drinks, etc. Frequently, a member or two of the faculty are in attendance.

Latin Table

The Latin Table meets biweekly, normally in the fall semester. The aim of the club is improved reading and translating passages in Latin, analyzing them, and drawing out their larger meanings, especially regarding a *magister vitae* ("rule of life"). In the past, Stoicism has received special treatment. Pizza and coke and other soft drinks, etc. One or two members of the faculty are in attendance.

Greek Table

The Greek Table meets biweekly, normally in the spring semester. Reading and translating passages in Greek, analyzing them, and explicating them for their humanistic content. In the past, Stoicism has received special treatment. Pizza and coke and other soft drinks, etc. One or two members of the faculty are typically in attendance.

Platonic Reading Group

The Platonic Reading Group meets biweekly through the year. At present it meets on Friday from 12:30 to 1:30, with pizza, soft drinks, and cookies. Typically, a Dialogue of Plato in English translation is chosen at the outset of the term, and the members of the Table work their way through it during the semester. One gains experience in close reading and dialectical discussion, with Plato as our guide. Students from philosophy, history, and other disciplines are welcome. Generally, several faculty members attend.



Aqueduct (Acueducto de Segovia). 1st century AD. Sites and Photos. Artstor.
<https://jstor.org/stable/community.15221758>.

A niche with the statues of the Virgen de la Fuencisla (the Patroness of Segovia) and Saint Stephen on the side of the Aqueduct

Style/Period

Roman during the time of the Emperor Domitian

Date

1st century AD

Description

Begun in the 1st century AD under Emperor Domitian and probably completed under Trajan in the early 2nd century, the aqueduct brought water to Segovia from the Frio River 10 miles (16 km) away. Built from unmortared brick-like granite blocks, Segovia's aqueduct stretches from the southeast end of the city across the Plaza del Azoguejo to the southeastern walls of the old city. The aqueduct is the city's most important architectural landmark. It had been kept functioning throughout the centuries and preserved in excellent condition. It provided water to Segovia, mainly to the Segovia Alcazar, until recently. The aqueduct was declared National Monument in 1884. In 1985 it was declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Location

Castile and Leon (Castilla y Leon) Segovia, Spain