



**Department of Classical Studies
Graduate Course Offerings: Academic Year 2021-22**

Fall Term September – December 2021

Classics 9000: Core Course

Drs. Steinbock & Pratt - Wednesdays 2:30-5:30 pm, Online

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the major scholarly approaches and questions of the discipline of Classics and to provide a broad perspective on the discipline as a whole, through the examination of selected texts and objects drawn from material culture. Students will be exposed to the theoretical framework for each subject, while engaging in a close scrutiny of selected examples (texts and artifacts).

Part I – Greek and Roman History: Steinbock

Part II - Greek and Roman Archaeology: Pratt

Classics 9354A: Women in Antiquity

Dr. Kelly Olson – Fridays 1:30-4:30pm

In this course we will examine women and women's lives in Greek and Roman antiquity starting from a body of literary and artistic evidence. Marriage and childbearing, women and the law, women's occupations, women in domestic life, and women in history will be explored from a variety of perspectives. In addition, there will be heavy emphasis placed on women's artifacts, artistic and literary portrayals of women, and female spaces in antiquity, coupled with readings in modern gender and feminist theory.

Greek 9902A: Plato's *Phaedo*

Dr. Christopher Brown – Mondays 2:30-5:30pm

A close reading of Plato's *Phaedo*. This work is one of the middle dialogues, a group which also includes such masterpieces as the *Symposium* and the *Republic*, and it details the final hours of Socrates' life. Here Plato offers a striking account of philosophy as a kind of 'training' for death (67e), as well as important arguments for the immortality of the soul. In addition to the philosophical importance of the text, Plato reflects the influence of the mystery religions. Plato was arguable the finest writer of Classical Greek prose, and, accordingly, the *Phaedo* stands as a central work of both philosophy and literature in general. This course will place considerable emphasis on Plato's style and use of language.

Latin 9902A: Latin Manuscript Studies and Textual Criticism

Dr. Kyle Gervais – Thursdays 2:30-5:30pm

In this course, we'll learn the basics and practice the techniques of manuscript studies, paleography, and textual criticism. Our focus will be on classical Latin texts, but we'll also consider some medieval Latin, in particular for the term project, which will be to work with several manuscripts manuscript to prepare a basic edition of a section of a medieval Latin poem (John of Garland's *Integumenta Ovidii*). Throughout the course, we'll consider the basics of manuscript production and use, paleography (in particular, learning to read the most important classical and medieval scripts used in Latin manuscript), and textual criticism (skills such as: reading an apparatus criticus, evaluating textual variants and

making/assessing conjectures, and understanding and applying stemmatic analysis). Unfortunately, we will not be able to work directly with Western's modest collection of medieval manuscripts this year (Covid restrictions makes planning for this too difficult). But we'll spend a portion of every class session getting acquainted with a variety of fascinating manuscripts available as high-quality scans online: indeed, one of the themes of this course will be how the extensive and growing collection of scanned manuscripts online has the potential to expand and democratize the traditionally elitist world of manuscript studies and textual criticism.

LA9903A: Latin Poetry:

Dr. Randall Pogorzelski – Tuesdays 2:30-5:30pm

Cedite, Romani scriptores, cedite, Grai! / nescio quid maius nascitur Iliade (Propertius 2.34.65-66). Already as Virgil was writing the Aeneid, Propertius was anticipating it eagerly. Since that moment, an enormous amount of critical and scholarly attention has been devoted to the poem. In this course, we'll focus on the sixth book of the Aeneid, reading the whole book and maybe a few of its intertexts in Latin. We'll also read a selection of scholarship on the Aeneid and maybe some other responses to one of the most richly received books in all of Latin literature.

Winter Term January – April 2020

Classics 9000: Core Course

Drs. Pratt and Pogorzelski - Wednesdays 2:30-5:30 pm

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Part II – Greek and Roman Archaeology: Pratt

Part III – Latin Literature: Pogorzelski

Classics 9552B - Topography of Rome

Dr. Alexander Meyer – Thursdays 2:30-5:30pm

This course will examine the ancient city of Rome, its monuments and its spaces through literature, epigraphy, cartography and archaeology. Each week will be dedicated to a few specific monuments, problems and themes related to the city and its history. Roman topography is a multi-disciplinary field, so students will be asked to read primary and secondary sources and to interact with archaeological evidence, maps and documents. Students will also be expected to prepare short presentations and to complete a seminar paper.

Greek 9903B - Homeric Poetics

Dr. Charles Stocking – Fridays 1:30-4:30pm, Online

In this course students will be introduced to Homeric poetry through a focus on Homer's Iliad. In addition to reading select books of the Iliad, students will be introduced to the history of Homeric scholarship and current debates in the field. The topics of the course will be organized into three basic categories: poetic craft, specific literary and cultural themes, and history. Under the category of poetic craft, students will be introduced to the debates concerning oral poetry,

narrative, intertextual relations between epic traditions, and other topics, which will allow students to focus on the details of Homeric language. Under the category of literary and cultural themes, we will discuss influential works on themes of war, politics, immortality, emotions, gender, human-divine interactions, and other pertinent subjects specific to the sections of the Iliad under consideration. Lastly we will discuss the problem of Homer and history, which include issues regarding the “Homeric world” and archaeology, as well as the history of debates on performance context and textualization of the Homeric epics. All three categories are inextricably intertwined, and so the process of introducing these topics cannot be hierarchical or linear. Nevertheless, classifying our analyses into these three categories will help in handling the hydra that is Homeric scholarship. Throughout the course, we will consider, in broader terms, the unique nature of Homeric poetics and its constitutive relationship to ancient Greek culture. Overall, therefore, students will gain a proficiency, if not fluency, in the reading and analysis of Homeric poetry, which will serve as a vital component for future work in Classical Studies.

Latin 9903B – Latin Historiography

Dr. Nousek – Mondays 2:30-5:30pm

For my graduate seminar this year, we’ll read Tacitus’ *Agricola*—ostensibly a biography of Tacitus’ father-in-law, but also a text that resists categorization by genre. The *Agricola* explores not just Roman Britain, but also the ways in which it is possible for a man of *virtus* to live well under a tyranny. Some possible topics for discussion: the concept of literary genre; Tacitus’ style and its influence; historiographical and biographical convention; domestic and foreign politics in the 1st c. CE; ethnography, imperialism and colonialism; text vs. artifact in the recreation of Roman Britain; post-colonial reception and criticism. For the text, vocabulary and commentary, we’ll use the text located at the Dickinson College Commentaries website [[link](#)].