



**Department of Classical Studies  
Graduate Course Offerings: Academic Year 2023-2024**

**Fall Term  
September – December 2023**

**Classics 9000: Core Course**

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 Latin Literature

**Part II** – Greek and Roman History

**Greek 9902A: Greek Narrative Hymns**

The Homeric Hymns are a collection of thirty-three poems in hexameters that vary significantly in authorship, date, and provenance. Although commonly ascribed to Homer in antiquity, these poems seem to constitute a genre that is distinct from Homeric epic in important ways, focussing on the gods and their cults rather than heroes and the world of mortals. Consequently, in addition to being important works of Greek literature, these poems are key texts in the study of Greek myth and religion. This course will study two of the longer narrative Hymns, to Apollo and to Hermes, from the point of view of language and style, narrative technique, structure, as well as religious and social context. In addition, through a reading of Callimachus' Baths of Pallas, the Alexandrian reception of the early hymnic tradition will be considered.

**Latin 9903A: Latin Manuscript Studies and Textual Criticism**

In this course, we'll learn the basics and practice the techniques of manuscript studies, palaeography, 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 ask you to work with several manuscripts to prepare a basic edition of a section of John of Garland's 13th century *Integumenta Ovidii*. Throughout the course, we'll consider the basics of manuscript production and use, palaeography (in particular, learning to read the most important Classical and medieval scripts used in Latin manuscripts), and textual criticism (skills such as: reading an apparatus criticus, evaluating textual variants and making/assessing conjectures, and understanding and applying stemmatic analysis). I'm hoping that we'll be able to spend a bit of time working directly with Western's modest collection of medieval manuscripts and other rare books. We will also 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.

### **Classics 9552A: Burial and Identity in the Roman Provinces**

This graduate seminar will use the archaeology of the Roman provinces to explore burial practices and the expression of identity through mortuary display. We will look at different traditions surrounding death and burial, such as the mummy portraits from the Fayum in Egypt, the monumental tombs of North Africa, and the carved stele of Pannonia and the northwest provinces, to investigate how different cultures and individuals articulated identity through funerary customs. This theme will lead to a broader investigation of shifting cultural practices—beyond the simple binary of continuity and change—in order to explore different responses to empire and subjugation in the Roman world.

### **Winter Term January - April 2024**

#### **Classics 9000: Core Course**

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 II** – Greek and Roman History

**Part III** – Greek and Roman Archaeology

#### **Greek 9903B: Thucydides' Account of the Sicilian Expedition**

In this course we will read substantial portions of Thucydides' gripping account of the Sicilian Expedition (Book 6 and 7). Our goal is two-fold, to gain familiarity with the characteristics of the genre of Greek historiography and to learn to appreciate the historical and literary dimensions of Thucydides' endeavor. History has three integral elements and can be defined as the past, as practice, and as narrative (cf. Jonathan Hall 2007: 8-11). Consequently, we will approach Thucydides' history of the Sicilian Expedition from all these different angles and examine, among other things, Thucydides' historical method (e.g., sources, historical reliability, use of speeches, etc.) and his narrative art (i.e., influence of other literary genres and employment of particular literary techniques such as vivid description, focalization, analepsis, sideshadowing, etc.). Ultimately, we seek to understand Thucydides' view of history and his objectives in narrating the Athenians' Sicilian Expedition in the way he did.

#### **Classics 9450B: Urbanism and Social Rituals in Ancient Rome**

This course looks at urban life in the city of Rome, exploring questions of urban identity, the uses of social space, and the construction of social rituals. We will cover such topics such as the conceptualization of urban space; streets and patterns of urban movement; suburbs, hills and neighborhoods; Rome as a museum; smellscapes and soundscapes; baths, spectacles, and triumphs; the retail economy; dying, burial, and cremation; and religious life in the ancient city. We will look at the benefits to city life, such as gardens and other public spaces, as well as malfunctions of the city: diseases, pollution, crowding, and crime.

## **Latin 9902B: Latin Epigraphy**

This course will introduce students to the fundamental resources, concepts and techniques of Latin Epigraphy. Throughout the term we will read many epigraphic texts, including tombstones, legal texts, imperial decrees, military diplomas, metrical inscriptions, graffiti and writing tablets, as well as secondary literature focused on epigraphy as a discipline and research that is based on epigraphic evidence. Each meeting will be centered on a major epigraphical text and readings related to it. By the end of the term students should be familiar with some of the most important surviving inscriptions, be able to read epigraphic texts with some facility, be comfortable with the primary periodicals and corpora associated with Latin Epigraphy, and be conversant in current debates surrounding the use of epigraphic evidence.