CLAS - CLASSES

CLAS169 Special Topics in Study Abroad I (1-6 Credits)
Special topics course taken as part of an approved study abroad program.
Repeatable to: 15 credits if content differs.

CLAS170 Ancient Myths and Modern Lives (3 Credits)
What are myths and why do we tell them? What powers do myths have?
We will tackle these questions by looking at the enduring and fascinating
myths from ancient Greece and Rome. In addition to studying how they
shaped ancient societies, we will also look at their modern influence and
reflect upon the power that myths still hold in our contemporary world.
Taught in English. Cross-listed with: RELS170.
Credit Only Granted for: CLAS170 or RELS170.
Additional Information: This course cannot be taken for language credit.

CLAS180 Discovering the World of Ancient Greece (3 Credits)
An exploration of the cultural traits and developments of ancient Greek
civilization and its forerunners, from the Bronze Age Mycenaean and
Minoans, through the rise of the classical Greek city-states, to the
expansion of Greek cultural influence in the wake of the conquests of
Alexander the Great. Drawing upon the evidence of the archaeological
remains as well as ancient historical and literary documents, students
gain a basic familiarity with the principal monuments and artifacts of
classical Greek civilization, the various institutions and values that
characterized the Greeks, and the significant historical events that
transformed the culture over the course of antiquity.

CLAS190 Discovering the World of Ancient Rome (3 Credits)
An exploration of the cultural traits and developments of ancient Roman
civilization from its roots in Etruscan culture, through the rise of the
Roman Republic, to the expansion of Roman cultural influence in the
ancient world and the emergence of the Roman Empire. Drawing upon
the evidence of the archaeological remains as well as ancient historical
and literary documents, students gain a basic familiarity with the
principal monuments and artifacts of ancient Roman civilization, the
various institutions and values that characterized the Romans, and the
significant historical events that transformed the culture over the course
of antiquity.

CLAS269 Special Topics in Study Abroad II (1-6 Credits)
Special topics course taken as part of an approved study abroad program.
Repeatable to: 15 credits if content differs.

CLAS275 Why do we laugh? (3 Credits)
An introduction to the breadth and complexity of humor’s role in society.
Students will explore ancient Greek and Roman comedies side-by-side
with contemporary sitcoms and movies, to learn the explanations that
diverse disciplines have offered about why we laugh, and to understand
the major impact humor has in how we see ourselves and our world.
Additional Information: All readings will be done in English translation.

CLAS276 Are We Rome? (3 Credits)
America, from its very origins as an independent nation, saw itself as
the new Rome: its system of government is built on Roman precedents,
its national buildings look as if they came from the Roman Forum, and
its leisure activities take us to stadiums modeled on the Colosseum.
America’s relationship to Rome, however, raises its greatest anxiety: will
America fall as Rome did? In 1776, the year of American independence,
Edward Gibbon published his History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman
Empire; America has been thinking about the trajectory of its history
alongside Rome’s from the very beginning.

Credit Only Granted for: CLAS276 or CLAS289A.
Formerly: CLAS289A.

CLAS305 Archaeological Methods and Practice (3 Credits)
A team-taught, interdisciplinary course discussing theories, methods, and
ethical issues in the practice of archaeology.
Prerequisite: ANTH240, ARTH200, or CLAS180. Cross-listed with:
ANTH305, ARTH305, JWST319Y.
Credit Only Granted for: ANTH305, ARTH305, CLAS305, or JWST319Y.

CLAS308 The Classics in Context (1-3 Credits)
A Study Abroad course which introduces students to the topography,
archaeology and culture of the ancient Mediterranean world.
Prerequisite: Permission of ARHU-Classics department.
Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs.

CLAS309 Special Topics in Classical Literature (3 Credits)
Readings in translation.
Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs.

CLAS310 Ancient Philosophy (3 Credits)
The origins and development of philosophy and science in Ancient
Greece, focusing on the pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.
Prerequisite: 6 credits in CLAS courses; or 6 credits in PHIL courses.
Credit Only Granted for: CLAS310 or PHIL310.

CLAS311 Inventing Ancient Greek Culture (3 Credits)
Who were the ancient Greeks, and were they the founders of Western
civilization? The course examines the foundations of ancient Greece.
Through an analysis of the historical, archaeological, and linguistic
evidence, it sheds light on the so-called Black Athena Controversy, which
raised doubts about the ancient Greek contribution to Western culture.
The course also focuses on the impact of modern identity politics on
scholarly discussions of antiquity and the ways in which the Culture Wars
of the 1980s and 1990s have influenced analyses of the ancient Greek
world.

Credit Only Granted for: CLAS311 or HIST328D.

CLAS312 The Modernity of Athenian Democracy (3 Credits)
Examines the question of how Ancient Greek thought can be a tool for
facing the challenges of the modern world. Topics such as political
participation and engagement in politics, lawfulness and justice, freedom
and autonomy, democracy and civic responsibility are found at the core
of Ancient Greek thought. In addition to these topics, the course explores,
through the teachings of ancient Greek philosophers, historians, and
poets, the questions of virtue and happiness at a personal level and
the pursuit of happiness at the societal level. Love and friendship are
necessary virtues to shape a harmonious and prosperous polis. By
studying selected excerpts from the primary sources of Ancient Greek
literature in translation, the course defines the core values of democratic
society from the viewpoint of the Greeks.
CLAS315 Greek and Roman Athletics (3 Credits)
The origin and evolution of athletics in ancient Greece and Rome studied as recreation, as play, as education, as a profession and as mass entertainment. Cross-listed with: HIST339G.
Credit Only Granted for: CLAS315 or HIST339G.

CLAS320 Women in Classical Antiquity (3 Credits)
A study of women's image and reality in ancient Greek and Roman societies through an examination of literary, linguistic, historical, legal, and artistic evidence; special emphasis in women's role in the family, views of female sexuality, and the place of women in creative art. Readings in primary sources in translation and modern critical writings. Cross-listed with: HIST328W, WGSS320.
Credit Only Granted for: CLAS320, WMST320, WGSS320 or HIST328W.

CLAS330 Ancient Greek Religion: Gods, Myths, Temples (3 Credits)
Survey of Greek religious ideas and practices as they evolve from the Bronze Age to the early Christian period. Cross-listed with RELS370.
Credit Only Granted for: CLAS330 or RELS370.

CLAS331 Roman Religion: From Jupiter to Jesus (3 Credits)
Survey of the major institutions of Roman state and private religion and of the diverse religions, including Judaism and Christianity, practiced in the Roman empire.
Formerly: CLAS309J.

CLAS340 Ancient Slavery and its American Impacts (3 Credits)
Interrogates how slavery permeated the ancient Mediterranean societies of Greece and Rome. We will pay particular attention to how hierarchical inequalities are institutionalized, experienced, and represented and to how different marginalized and dominant groups interacted. Enslaved persons performed necessary labor in Greece and Rome and their work was essential for the formation of ancient society in agriculture, mining, domestic spaces, literature, finance, and government. Studying ancient slavery offers a chance to examine Greece and Rome from the bottom up, parsing the scant literary and material evidence for the lives and struggles of enslaved persons. We will practice several different approaches in order to tease out the systematic, economic, political, and personal effects of slavery in the ancient world. The United States of America was also founded as a slave society, and discussions of slavery in the Americas often look back to the ancient Mediterranean. The course will therefore conclude with a unit on how enslavers and abolitionists in the United States utilized and responded to slavery in antiquity. Cross-listed with: HIST339J.
Credit Only Granted for: CLAS340 or HIST339J.

CLAS369 Special Topics in Study Abroad III (1-6 Credits)
Special topics course taken as part of an approved study abroad program.
Repeatable to: 15 credits if content differs.

CLAS369A Ancient Greece and the Athletic Spirit (3 Credits)
From the time of the poems of Homer to the end of the Roman Empire, exercise of the body and physical competition played an essential role in ancient Greece. Athletics was regarded as both a sphere of excellence and a form of exciting entertainment. Students will travel around Greece and study firsthand the sites, monuments, and objects that defined the ancient experience of athletics, with the aim of understanding its principal forms, the spirit and values that guided it, and its interrelationship with other aspects of society and culture.

CLAS374 Greek Tragedy in Translation (3 Credits)
Study and analysis of the tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides with special attention to the concepts of character and of thought as conceived by Aristotle in The Poetics.

CLAS375 Ancient Comedy (3 Credits)
Representative plays by Aristophanes, Menander, Plautus and Terence in translation; examination of Greek tradition in Roman and postclassical periods.

CLAS380 Archaeological Fieldwork in Greece (4 Credits)
Students will learn about the archaeology, history and culture of Greece by participating in the archaeological investigations at Kenchreai, the eastern port of ancient Corinth. Students will learn about data analysis, artifact processing, and conservation, all important components in archaeological fieldwork. This program also gives students a rare chance to live and to learn in one of the most archaeologically rich, historically important, and naturally beautiful regions in Greece, the northeastern Peloponnese. Students will visit sites and museums throughout this region, attend seminars, and experience life in a small village. In this way they will learn not only about the practice of archaeological field research, but also about Greek history and culture from ancient to modern times. While the course focuses on southern Greece during the Roman Empire and Late Antiquity, a period of prosperity and diversity at Kenchreai and in its broader area, students will also explore cultural and historical developments that influenced other regions and longer periods, from the Bronze Age to the Modern era, including religion and cult-practice, art and iconography, settlement and the environment, and the construction of identity.
Credit Only Granted for: CLAS369K or CLAS380.
Formerly: CLAS369K.

CLAS386 Experiential Learning (3-6 Credits)
Prerequisite: Must have a Learning Proposal approved by the Office of Experiential Learning Programs, faculty sponsor, and student’s internship sponsor.
Restriction: Junior standing or higher.

CLAS409 Classics Capstone Seminar (3 Credits)
Comparative study of selected central aspects of both ancient Greek and Roman cultures as viewed from the standpoints of literary study, history, art history, and other fields as appropriate. Seminar format involving intensive student research.
Restriction: Permission of ARHU-Classics department.
Repeatable to: 6 credits if content differs.

CLAS419 The Classical Tradition (3 Credits)
Examination of the role of Greek and Roman civilization in shaping the arts and ideas of western culture.
Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs.
Credit Only Granted for: CLAS419 or CLAS420.
Formerly: CLAS420.

CLAS470 Approaches to Greek Mythology (3 Credits)
Ancient and modern approaches to understanding Greek myth as expression of human experience, including interpretations drawn from psychology, anthropology, and comparative mythology.
Prerequisite: CLAS170; or permission of ARHU-Classics department.

CLAS488 Independent Study in Classical Civilization (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Permission of ARHU-Classics department.
Repeatable to: 6 credits if content differs.

CLAS499 Independent Study in Classical Languages and Literatures (1-3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Permission of ARHU-Classics department.