Classics

The Department of Classics is committed to the threefold study of Greco-Roman antiquity via the languages and literatures, the history, and the art and architectural remains. The Master of Arts in Classics is ideal preparation either for PhD work or for a career in secondary teaching, and has a strong placement record in both areas. The Doctor of Philosophy program prepares candidates primarily for careers in research and university teaching, although the department will also help them explore alternative careers. Both programs provide rigorous instruction in Greek and Latin languages and literatures, exposure to the subfields of Classics, opportunities to cultivate special fields of research, and teaching experience in departmental courses.

While both graduate programs are built around preparation in the core fields of Classics, opportunities exist for collaboration with numerous other departments and programs. PhD candidates have the option to pursue one of several special interdisciplinary tracks: Ancient History, Ancient Performance, Ancient Music, and Ancient Philosophy. Washington University also possesses several special collections of interest to the Classics researcher: the John Max Wulfing Coin Collection, an internationally recognized resource that can be applied to studies in numismatics, history, economics and art; a small collection of papyri housed in Olin Library; and a departmental archive of epigraphical and papyrological materials.

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Faculty

Endowed Professor

Timothy Moore (https://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/moore)
John and Penelope Biggs Distinguished Professor of Classics
Director of Undergraduate Studies
PhD, University of North Carolina

Professor Moore's work concentrates on several areas of classical antiquity, including the comic theatre of Greece and Rome, Greek and Roman music, and Roman historiography. Current projects include a book on music in ancient theater, articles on the history and performance of Roman comedy, and work on Greek tragedy in the modern world. He also has interests in the history of theatre, especially American musical theatre and Japanese Kyogen comedy.

Professor and Chair

Catherine Keane (https://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/keane)
Department Chair
PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Professor Keane's interests range broadly over Greek and Roman literature and culture, but her research centers on the comic genres and their engagement with moral, social, and literary problems, particularly the Roman verse satirists Lucilius, Persius, and Juvenal and the epigrammatist Martial.

Associate Professors

William Bubelis (https://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/bubelis)
Curator of the Wulfing Coin Collection
PhD, University of Chicago

Professor Bubelis' research in Greek history focuses on the intersection of economy, religion, and public institutions. His work utilizes the evidence of inscriptions (epigraphy), coins (numismatics), and other material remains alongside the literary texts of ancient historians, poets, orators, and the like. While most of his scholarship has engaged with classical Athens, Bubelis avidly explores the societies of the eastern Mediterranean across antiquity, including Iron Age Cyprus and the Achaemenid Persian Empire to Hellenistic Egypt. He is currently working on several projects, including a multi-year project investigating and mapping how various Greek coinages circulated in the northern Aegean.

Zoe Stamatopoulou (http://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/zoe-stamatopoulou)
Director of Graduate Studies
PhD, University of Virginia

Professor Stamatopoulou's research and teaching encompass several aspects of ancient Greek literature and culture, but her work focuses primarily on archaic and classical poetry (Homer, Hesiod, lyric poetry, drama). She is also interested in the symposium, in ancient biographies of poets, and in the reception of archaic Greece in Imperial Greek literature (esp. Plutarch).

Assistant Professors

Karen Acton (https://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/karen-acton)
PhD, University of Michigan

Professor Acton's research focuses on the history of Rome, especially in the late Republic and early Empire, Roman historiography, and Roman numismatics.
Nicola Aravecchia (https://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/nicola-aravecchia)
PhD, University of Minnesota
Professor Aravecchia’s research interests encompass the art and archaeology of Graeco-Roman and Late Antique Egypt. He has taught courses of classical languages, ancient history, art and archaeology in the United States, Egypt and Australia. His current work focuses on the origins and development of Early Christian architecture in rural Egypt. Since 2005, he has been involved in archaeological projects in the Dakhla Oasis, located in the Western Desert of Upper Egypt.

Thomas Keeline (https://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/tom-keeline)
PhD, Harvard University
Professor Keeline works primarily on Latin literature, the history of classical scholarship and education from antiquity to the present, rhetoric, textual criticism, lexicography and metrics.

Luis Alejandro Salas (https://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/luis-salas)
PhD, University of Texas
Professor Salas specializes in Greek and Roman medicine, philosophy, and intellectual history. He is also interested in Aristotelian psychology. His research focuses on medical and philosophical sectarianism, especially in the work of Galen of Pergamum.

Lecturers

Joan Carr
PhD, Saint Louis University

Lance Jenott (https://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/lance-jenott)
PhD, Princeton University

Grizelda McClelland (https://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/grizelda-mcclelland)
Assistant Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
PhD, Washington University

Kathryn Wilson (http://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/kathryn-wilson)
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
Professor Wilson’s research interests focus on the intersection of poetry and science. She is especially interested in Hellenistic literature, and the relationship between different intellectual enterprises occurring during that time. She is also interested in the evolution of the genre of didactic poetry.

Professors Emeriti

Carl W. Conrad (http://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/conrad)
PhD, Harvard University

Robert D. Lamberton (http://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/lamberton)
PhD, Yale University

George M. Pepe (http://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/pepe)
PhD, Princeton University

Susan I. Rotroff (http://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/rotroff)
Jarvis Thurston & Mona Van Duyn Professor Emerita
PhD, Princeton University

Degree Requirements

AM in Classics

Candidates may obtain an AM degree in Classics by completing 36 graduate units of credit, completing a reading list, and taking a series of examinations. Students planning to continue in the Classics department’s PhD program must also write a master’s thesis. Others may choose to complete the AM with or without a thesis.

Courses: 36 units, including:

Specific required courses: 6 units
Classics 502 Research and Publication on the Greco-Roman World (3 units) - a proseminar on materials and methods of the profession
Classics 510 Comparative Greek and Latin Grammar (3 units) (offered every two years, alternating with Classics 502)

Other course requirements: 24 units (for AM with thesis)
All units must be at the 400 level or above.
At least 6 units in Greek (L09) (one or more options is offered every semester)
At least 6 units in Latin (L10) (one or more options is offered every semester)
Most remaining courses will be in Greek, Latin and Classics. With the guidance of the director of graduate studies, students may take 3 course units outside of the Classics department.

Research Credits: 6 units
The master’s thesis counts for 6 units. Any student opting not to write a thesis will fulfill these units with additional courses.

Modern Language Competence

German, French or Italian; the requirement may be fulfilled by courses or examination.
Program Exams
Greek and Latin Sight Reading
Greek Reading List
Latin Reading List

Students not planning to go on to a PhD program in Classics may opt to take the Reading List exam in one language (Greek or Latin) only. Those who pursue this option must still complete at least 6 units in the other language at the 400 level. The examination will require the student to demonstrate competence in translation and interpretation, as well as knowledge of the relevant scholarship.

Teaching
While there is no teaching requirement for the AM, most students in the program have the opportunity to pursue mentored teaching experiences in undergraduate courses and to take the department's course on Classics pedagogy for graduate students.

PhD in Classics

The Classics PhD requires 72 graduate units of courses and research in combination. Up to 24 of these units may be transferred from an outside AM program in Classics, at the discretion of the Graduate Committee. (Requirements listed below include requirements for the AM in Classics at Washington University.) All units must be at the 400 level or above. With the guidance of the director of graduate studies, students may take up to 12 units outside the Classics department to enhance their graduate study. Every PhD candidate also completes a teaching requirement through assignments as Assistant to Instructor and Instructor of Record.

Courses: 54 units, including:
Specific required courses: 9 units
Classics 502 Research and Publication on the Greco-Roman World (3 units) - a proseminar on materials, methods, and professional issues in Classics
Classics 505 Seminar in Classics Pedagogy for Graduate Students (3 units) (to be offered every two or three years)
Classics 510 Comparative Greek and Latin Grammar (3 units) (offered every two years, alternating with Classics 502)

Other course requirements: 27 units
At least 12 units in Greek (L09) (one or more options is offered every semester)
At least 12 units in Latin (L10) (one or more options is offered every semester)
At least 3 units in ancient history (at least one course will be offered every two years)

Elective courses: 18 units

Includes courses for individual tracks, optional independent studies in preparation for exams, and other courses, to be chosen after consultation with the director of graduate studies.

Research Credits: 18 units
Master's thesis: 6 units
Dissertation credits: 12 units

Program Exams
Greek and Latin Sight Reading
Greek Reading List
Latin Reading List
Comprehensive Exam
Special Field Exam

Teaching
8 semesters of mentored teaching experiences, including at least two courses as Instructor of Record.

Modern Language Competence
German and French, or German and Italian; the requirement may be fulfilled by courses or examination in each case.

Dissertation Requirements
Dissertation prospectus
Dissertation colloquium
Dissertation
Dissertation defense