Greek

The Department of Classics offers courses in ancient Greek to allow students to pursue deeper study of Greek history, literature and culture. Students may choose between two beginning Greek tracks that will allow them, within four semesters, to master the grammar and to read Plato and Homer. Thereafter, students have the opportunity to study numerous Greek authors and texts, including poetry, drama, history, novels, the New Testament and inscriptions. They also have the opportunity to do their own research and to assist with faculty members’ research projects. The Department of Classics offers a variety of courses in Greek and Roman history, literature, archaeology and culture to build students’ broader knowledge of the ancient Mediterranean world. Resources on campus that support the study of ancient Greek and the Greeks include collections of Greek papyri and art and the Wulfing Coin Collection, which is one of the largest collections of ancient coins owned by an American university.

Additional Information

Study Abroad: Washington University is associated with both the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies (https://sa.wustl.edu/?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10117) (a.k.a. "The Centro") in Rome and the College Year in Athens program (https://sa.wustl.edu/?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10112). Interested students should contact Professor Cathy Keane (https://classics.wustl.edu/people/cathy-keane/). Some other study abroad programs also allow students to obtain credit in Greek.

Faculty

For a list of faculty who teach Greek, please visit the Department of Classics faculty page (http://bulletin.wustl.edu/undergrad/artsci/classics/#facultylink).

Majors

Students interested in Greek should explore either the major in Classics (http://bulletin.wustl.edu/undergrad/artsci/classics/#majors) or the major in Ancient Studies (http://bulletin.wustl.edu/undergrad/artsci/classics/#majors) offered through the Department of Classics (http://bulletin.wustl.edu/undergrad/artsci/classics/).

Minors

Students interested in Greek should explore either the minor in Classics (http://bulletin.wustl.edu/undergrad/artsci/classics/#minors) or the minor in Ancient Studies (http://bulletin.wustl.edu/undergrad/artsci/classics/#minors) offered through the Department of Classics (http://bulletin.wustl.edu/undergrad/artsci/classics/).

Courses


L09 Greek 101D Beginning Greek I
An introduction to Classical Greek (Attic), which will prepare the student to read texts in Greek history, philosophy, and medicine as well as the New Testament. This course builds the foundations for readings in Greek tragedy, comedy, and lyric poetry. Our goal will be to develop reading knowledge as rapidly and efficiently as possible. By the end of the year the student should be reading continuous Greek prose. Credit 4 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

L09 Greek 102D Beginning Greek II
Continuation of the program begun in Greek 101D. Students will complete their initial study of Classical Greek grammar and will begin reading selections from ancient Greek authors. Prerequisite: Greek 101D or permission of the instructor. Credit 4 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

L09 Greek 190D Intensive Beginning Greek I

L09 Greek 210 Intensive Beginning Greek II
Completion of work begun in Greek 190D followed by readings in original Greek poetry and prose. Successful completion of Greek 210 will allow the student to proceed directly to Greek 318C. Prerequisite: Greek 190D or placement by examination. Credit 5 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

L09 Greek 317C Introduction to Greek Literature
Introduction to Attic prose through the reading of Plato’s Apology and related texts. Prerequisite: Greek 102D or placement by examination. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, LS Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L09 Greek 318C Introduction to Greek Literature
Introduction to epic poetry through the reading of selections from Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey. Prerequisite: Greek 210, Greek 316C or Greek 317C. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, LS Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L09 Greek 400 Independent Study
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H
L09 Greek 416 Hesiod
In this course, we will read substantial passages from the works attributed to Hesiod, an archaic period Greek poet whose style and subject matter are often contrasted to Homer, and whose influence on Greek literary culture was second only to Homer's. Hesiod's two major poems - Theogony and Works and Days - form important evidence for the Greek rhapsodic tradition, and the mythological content and compressed styles of these mini-epics strongly influenced later Hellenistic Greek and Roman poets. Through discussion of readings from recent scholarship, we will consider topics including the authorship and dating of the Hesiodic corpus, Hesiod's Near-Eastern influences, oral poetics, mythography, genre studies, and narratology. Preparation of substantial Greek reading assignments will be supplemented with frequent practice of scansion (both written and oral) and the parallel development of sight translation skills. Students will be responsible for the development of a portfolio consisting of written translations, creative and interpretive mini-projects, a commentary, and an original research project.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

L09 Greek 421 Sophocles
In this course, we will read closely two plays by Sophocles: "Oedipus Rex" and "Trachinian Women."
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, LS Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L09 Greek 422 Euripides
The tragedies of Euripides are among the most powerful dramas ever produced. In this class we will read one or more plays of Euripides in Greek as well as scholarly works on the tragedies. Among the topics discussed will be language and style, meter and music, mythological and historical backgrounds, elements of performance, and Euripides' influence in the modern world. Prerequisites: Greek 318C or permission of the instructor and sophomore standing or above.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, LS Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L09 Greek 423 Aeschylus
This course will focus on Aeschylus' Seven Against Thebes and on Prometheus Bound; in addition, we will look at a few fragmentary plays. Readings will include relevant secondary literature.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, LS Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L09 Greek 431 Thucydides
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM

L09 Greek 432 The Attic Orators
More than mere prose, Attic oratory consists of a rich body of literature in which style was paramount to its persuasive aims, and provides vital evidence for Athenian culture, politics, mores, institutions, thought and history. This course will survey a representative — and important — sample of forensic, epideictic, and symbouleutic speeches from classical Athenian oratory, and will give special attention to the social, legal and political context of these speeches. In addition, the class will focus on improving students' command of syntax, vocabulary and idiom as the basis for further development as well as the study of different orators and their style.

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L09 Greek 460 There Be Dragons: Greek Encounters with the Unknown in History and Legend
How did ancient Greeks imagine their world, both in terms of geography and ethnography? What did they know—or think they knew—about foreign cultures and faraway lands such as India, Persia, Africa, and the distant north? How have their representations of foreigners influenced European conceptions of the self and others, even into our own time? This course examines these questions by focusing primarily on two foundational authors: first, Herodotus, the "father of history," who provides a wealth of information about ancient geography and the customs and lifestyles of non-Greek peoples; and second, Apollonius of Rhodes, whose epic poem "The Argonautica" tells the legendary tale of Jason and the Argonauts' search for the Golden Fleece. We will read extensive passages of these books in ancient Greek and, we will read and discuss additional passages in English translation, along with modern scholarship and atlases with historical and modern maps.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM, IS EN: H

L09 Greek 471 Galen's "On Prognosis": A Social History of Medicine in Second-Century Rome
Galen of Pergamum was a Greek physician, philosopher, and intellectual active throughout most of the second century CE. He was also a voracious reader and writer of Greek literature; his surviving work far exceeds the extant output of any other Greek author before the third century CE. In this course, we will be reading Galen's treatise "On Prognosis," in which he recounts his career in the city of Rome, from his arrival in the early 160s through his tenure as an imperial physician to at least the emperors Marcus Aurelius and Commodus. While ostensibly a medical account, "On Prognosis" has little to say on technical medical issues. Rather, Galen's story is a carefully constructed professional autobiography that pivots from searing denouncements of Roman life to tense public performances of medical expertise and finally to intimate case histories of Rome's rich and powerful. The text presents us a fascinating window through which to examine not only the social practice of elite medicine in Rome of the second century but also the complicated experience of a Greek intellectual navigating the corridors of the Imperial court. Course goals include improving accuracy and speed in reading Greek prose, acquiring greater familiarity with intellectual discourse of the Imperial Period, and training in methods of research and writing.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS EN: H

L09 Greek 497 Study for Honors
Students interested in pursuing honors should consult the director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Classics.
Prerequisite: overall GPA of 3.65.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L09 Greek 499 Study for Honors
Students interested in pursuing honors should consult the director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Classics.
Prerequisite: overall GPA of 3.65.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H