

# Consider Classical Mediterranean and Middle East Courses



Classics courses explore the literature, cultures, and archaeological remains of the ancient Mediterranean world, from Rome to Greece, Egypt, Israel, and beyond. Here students learn Arabic, Greek, Hebrew, or Latin and together with faculty analyze and interpret ancient texts, societies, and material culture. Students find that the study of the ancient Mediterranean sheds much light on contemporary problems, concepts, and values.

**Where to start? Consider these Arabic, Greek, Hebrew, Latin, and context courses that we will offer in Spring and Summer 2020:**

## CLAS 101 The Classical Mediterranean and Middle East

Why are Arabic, Greek, Hebrew and Latin all taught in the same department at Macalester? Today Islam and the Arab world are often presented in contrast with the West in a sort of timeless and unending 'clash of civilizations.' Classics 101 aims to counter this narrative by exploring the multiple deep, long-term connections among the languages, religions and peoples around the Mediterranean Sea. What were the relationships among speakers of these languages in the past? How did Judaism, Christianity and Islam develop among them? Why are Greek and Roman traditions sometimes seen as in tension with Christian or Arab traditions -- and has that always been the case? Readings include selections from Genesis, Exodus, Homer, Herodotus, Euripides, Plato, Vergil, the Gospels, Josephus, Imru Al-Qays, the Qur'an and 1,001 Nights. Legendary and historical figures include Moses, Helen of Troy, Cyrus, Darius, Pericles, Alexander, Cleopatra, Jesus, Augustus, Perpetua, Constantine, Muhammad, Fatima, Aisha and Omar. Suggested subtitles for the course include Before East and West, We Hear Dead People, Great Books Reimagined, and Hey, You Should Know This Stuff. Required for all majors in Classics.



## CLAS 145-01 Pagans, Christians and Jews in Classical Antiquity: Cultures in Conflict

This course studies the interaction of Jewish, Christian, and pagan cultures, and the protracted struggle for self-definition and multi-cultural exchange this encounter provoked. The course draws attention to how the other and cultural and religious difference are construed, resisted, and apprehended. Readings include Acts, Philo, Revelation, I Clement, pagan charges against Christianity, Adversus Ioudaios writers, the Gomit in the Mishna, and apologetic literature.

### Classics Courses for Spring (and Summer) 2021

M3						
CLAS 101-01	The Classical Mediterranean and Middle East	MTWRF	1:45-03:00 pm			Beth Severy-Hoven
CLAS 145-01	Pagans, Christians and Jews in Classical Antiquity: Cultures in Conflict	M W F	11:00 am-01:30 pm			Andrew Overman
CLAS 212-01	Elementary Latin II	MTWRF	9:30-10:45 am			Nanette Goldman
CLAS 214-01	Elementary Arabic II	MTWRF	3:15 pm-04:30 pm			Pamela Klasova
CLAS 342-01	Intermediate Arabic II	MTWRF	3:15-04:30 pm			STAFF
CLAS 362-01	Intermediate Greek: Poetry	MTWRF	8:00-09:15 am			Brian Lush
M4						
CLAS 127-01	Women, Gender and Sexuality in Ancient Greece and Rome	MTWRF	8:00-11:30 am			Beth Severy-Hoven
CLAS 129-01	Greek Myths	MTWRF	1:00-04:30 pm			Brian Lush
CLAS 194-01	Migrants, Exiles and Travelers in the Medieval Middle East	MTWRF	9:30-10:45 am			Pamela Klasova
CLAS 218-01	Elementary Hebrew II	MTWRF	3:15-04:30 pm			Nanette Goldman
CLAS 223-01	Introduction to Archaeology	M W F	11:00 am-01:30 pm			Andrew Overman
CLAS 294-01	Art and Architecture of the Ancient Near East	MTWRF	9:30-10:45 am			Serdar Yalcin
CLAS 485-01	Advanced Arabic	MTWRF	1:45-03:00 pm			STAFF
M5						
CLAS 332-01	Intermediate Latin Poetry					Goldman

## CLAS 194 Migrants, Exiles, & Travelers in the Medieval Middle East

This course explores the culture and history of the medieval Middle East through the lens of exiles, migrants, and travelers who roamed the world from Spain to China. It studies the rise of Islam in the 7th century and its globalizing impact on the medieval world and follows Islamic history through the Mongol expansion in the 14th century. Readings, lectures, and class discussions will focus on primary sources—the accounts of Muslims, Jews, and Christians who traveled the length and breadth of the Islamic empire. We will emphasize how medieval travelers described other religions and cultures, and how these encounters informed their notions of their own identities. Major themes are how travel and migration shape the course of history, and more broadly, how thinking about place, home, and belonging is a core human impulse across cultures and centuries.

## CLAS 129 Greek Myths

This course studies some of the world's great storytellers—the ancient Greeks. First, we read from translations of Greek poetry to become familiar with the key figures and events in mythology, including the Olympian gods and their origins, the major heroes, and the Trojan War. Then we explore more broadly the adaptable nature of these myths and the variety of forms in which the Greeks told stories, from epic and personal poetry to philosophy, drama, sculpture and vase painting. At the same time, we investigate the ways in which moderns have interpreted these stories. We analyze myths using Freud's psychoanalytical techniques, as folklore and ritual, and through theoretical perspectives including structuralism, new historicism and feminism. Finally, we investigate the later life of Greek myths, focusing on how and why these stories have been retold by the Romans, later European authors and artists, American film makers and playwrights, and science fiction.

## CLAS 223 Introduction to Archaeology

This course introduces students to archaeology, the study of the material remains of human culture. Students will explore the history of the discipline and profession, its basic methods and theories, and the political and ethical dimensions of modern archaeological practice. Students learn to examine and interpret evidence using specific examples, from artifacts to sites to regions.

## CLAS 127 Women, Gender and Sexuality in Ancient Greece & Rome

This course investigates contemporary approaches to studying women, gender and sexuality in history, and the particular challenges of studying these issues in antiquity. By reading ancient writings in translation and analyzing art and other material culture, we will address the following questions: How did ancient Greek and Roman societies understand and use the categories of male and female? Into what sexual categories did different cultures group people? How did these gender and sexual categories intersect with notions of slave and free status, citizenship and ethnicity? How should we interpret the actions and representations of women in surviving literature, myth, art, law, philosophy, politics and medicine in this light? Finally, how and why have gendered classical images been re-deployed in the modern U.S.—from scholarship to art and poetry?