

ANTIQUITY NOW

Macalester College Department of the Classical
Mediterranean and Middle East

**FALL
2021**



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Volume 11, Issue 1

WELCOME BACK!

Greetings to the colleagues, students and friends of the Department of the Classical Mediterranean and Middle East at Macalester! I hope this message finds you all well and flourishing in the opening months of a new academic year at Macalester. We're excited and energized to be back in the classroom after three long semesters of hybrid and remote teaching, and department faculty and staff are once again grateful for opportunities to chat and catch up in the hall of Old Main's third floor. It is a joy and a privilege to be back on campus, and we want to share our gratitude and warm wishes with you!

As always, we continue to travel through time and space in our courses and research, exploring antiquity in the Mediterranean basin and Middle East. Our vehicles remain the languages, artifacts, social spaces and histories of these regions over more than a millenium. We approach this important work together this year with renewed vigor, in the knowledge that our shared study can make us more critical thinkers, more persuasive writers, more acute observers, and more empathetic and socially aware human beings.

To those with whom we've studied in the past, we continue to carry the profound impacts that you've had on our departmental family. If you are currently studying with us, we're genuinely grateful for the opportunity to work with you, once again in person and on campus. And, if you're considering taking a course with us or strengthening your connection to our department, we invite and welcome you to visit with us, to explore with us, and to travel with us!

Brian Lush, Department Chair

January in Rome Update

After analyzing both the costs associated with a mid-pandemic program and the likelihood that we would actually be able to go, the Department of the Classical Mediterranean and Middle East has postponed the next offering of its popular January in Rome program until 2023. Information about the course is always available on our January Programs website. Watch for announcements of a spring round of applications in April. If you have questions about the 2023 program, please contact Beth Severy-Hoven at severy@macalester.edu.

Classical Archaeology

Classical Civilization

Classical Languages

Majors

Andrew Pauly (22)
Elizabeth Gehling (22)
Jessica McAllister (24)
Lanae Caldwell (22)
Shaherazade Khan (23)
Will Srere (25)
Will Walker (22)
Zeyu Wen (23)

Ben Timbers (22)
Josh Wink (22)
Kathryn Alldaffer (23)
Luca LaRaja (22)
Sami Banat (24)
Zinnia Schwartz (22)

Amelia Medina Blanco (21)
Ava Sadler-Gordon (22)
Elena Stanley (22)
Gabrielle Isaac-Herzog (22)
Henry Elsenpeter (22)
Katherine McCarthy (22)
Krysta Limin (22)

Minors

Chris McConnell (23)
Roheyatou Ceesay (23)

Andrew Brown (23)
Brooke Sapper (21)
Chloe Urnes (22)
Malyn Banitt-Moore (22)
Stela Baltic (22)
Tim Minot (22)

Ammar Muhammad (21)
Ben Porter (24)
Celine Sabbagh (22)
Claire McCabe (22)
Dalton Greene (22)
Isabel Capecci (24)
Jackson Ullmann (21)
Katie Kelbrants (23)

Welcome Carla!



Carla Zelada is beginning her first year as the Department Coordinator for History and Classical Mediterranean and Middle East. She's excited about the year ahead and looks forward to all the community building that can happen with being back in-person. Prior to this role, she worked in Admissions for 14 years, as an Associate Director, at both Macalester and Carleton. She also spent 10 years as a high school Spanish teacher in St. Paul Public Schools. She gets her professional energy from having opportunities to help, support and encourage learners and teachers and has really

enjoyed working with Macalester faculty and students. In the year ahead, she is looking forward to the Classics Cookies party, events at the Arabic House and celebrating our December and May graduates.

CLAS 394: Advanced Archaeology Seminar

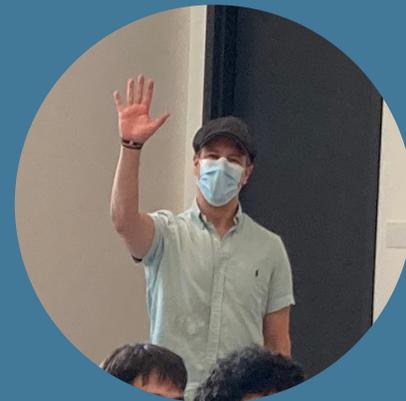
This advanced seminar of enthusiasts in archaeology started off in the field. Students did test excavations of possible inhabited locations at The Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area (Ordway Field Station). Returning back to the classroom, students heard from panelists, including curators, cultural resource experts, ceramic specialists, and recent Mac graduates. They also explored the benefits of the Digital Resource Center (DRC), such as the 3-D printer. Throughout the seminar, the students learn how to put theories and methods of archaeology into practice and explore the countless possibilities of an archaeological career.



Fall Course Spotlight

CLAS 194: Classics in Film

Classical texts can connect productively to modern art in ways beyond simple influence. As so many of us have learned, Greek, Roman, Hebrew and Arabic literature can provide critical and humanizing lenses through which we can view our world differently and with greater sensitivity. This is the principle that guides my first-year course, Classics in Film, which I have the privilege of teaching this fall. We not only track modern filmic adaptations of ancient stories, like Jean Cocteau's use of Orphic myth in his surrealist *Orphee*, or Guillermo del Toro's engagement with Theseus' Cretan adventure in *El Laberinto del Fauno*. We can also use, for example, Euripides' *Bacchae* to explore Charles Burnett's *To Sleep with Anger* more deeply. The study of Classical texts can enrich and add empathy to our modern experience, and deepen the joy with which we appreciate art and creativity from many other times and places.





Fall Events



Calligraphy



On September 20th, the Arabic Program hosted our first campus-wide Arabic Mondays at Mac event, themed around Arabic Calligraphy. Students practiced writing their names (or a word of their choice) in pencil, before moving on to more advanced techniques with markers and professional calligraphy tools. We also grilled delicious chicken shawarma kebabs to allow students to take a break and practice their conversation skills!



Olympics

On Saturday, Sep 25, 2021, a group of Classically inclined students convened to compete in the First Annual Classics Olympics! To start the day, there was speed toga tying, style points included. Then onto the physical events: chariot racing and steal the bacon, in which the traditional discus throwing was exchanged for some frisbee. After a short translation break in the chosen ancient (and modern Arabic) language, the teams turned to jump the river, in which members of the Hebrew and Greek teams jumped distances over twelve feet! The whole thing engaged with a short game of tug of war. After the grueling series of events, Hebrew walked away with the gold, Greek and Arabic with the silver. If you feel you missed out, check back in the Spring for another event!



Spring 2022 Class Schedule

CLAS 101-01	The Classical Mediterranean and Middle East	M W F	09:40 am-10:40 am	Beth Severy-Hoven
CLAS 129-01	Greek Myths	T R	08:00 am-09:30 am	Brian Lush
CLAS 194-01	Cosmopoleis	T R	03:00 pm-04:30 pm	Andrew Overman
CLAS 212-01	Elementary Latin II	M W F	10:50 am-11:50 am	Beth Severy-Hoven
CLAS 212-L1	Elementary Latin II Lab	T	03:00 pm-04:00 pm	Beth Severy-Hoven
CLAS 214-01	Elementary Arabic II	M W F	01:10 pm-02:10 pm	Pamela Klasova
CLAS 214-L1	Elementary Arabic II Lab	T	01:20 pm-02:20 pm	Pamela Klasova
CLAS 214-L2	Elementary Arabic II Lab	T	02:25 pm-03:25 pm	Pamela Klasova
CLAS 223-01	Introduction to Archaeology	T R	01:20 pm-02:50 pm	Andrew Overman
CLAS 235-01	Elementary Greek II	M W F	01:10 pm-02:10 pm	Nanette Goldman
CLAS 235-L1	Elementary Greek II Lab	T	10:10 am-11:10 am	Nanette Goldman
CLAS 235-L2	Elementary Greek II Lab	T	01:20 pm-02:20 pm	Nanette Goldman
CLAS 270-01	Cultural Resource Management	M W F	01:10 pm-02:10 pm	Scott Legge
CLAS 294-01	Caliphate and Commonwealth	T R	09:40 am-11:10 am	Andrew Overman
CLAS 332-01	Intermediate Latin II: Poetry	M W F	02:20 pm-03:20 pm	Brian Lush
CLAS 338-01	Intermediate Hebrew II	M W F	03:30 pm-04:30 pm	Nanette Goldman
CLAS 342-01	Intermediate Arabic II	M W F	03:30 pm-04:30 pm	Pamela Klasova
CLAS 342-L1	Intermediate Arabic II Lab	T	03:30 pm-04:30 pm	Pamela Klasova
CLAS 342-L2	Intermediate Arabic II Lab	T	02:20 pm-03:20 pm	Pamela Klasova
CLAS 485-01	Advanced Arabic	M W F	10:50 am-11:50 am	Pamela Klasova

CLAS 101-01 The Classical Mediterranean and Middle East

Hey, You Should Know This Stuff! Today Islam and the Arab world are often presented in contrast with the West in timeless and unending *clash of civilizations*. Classics 101 aims to counter the narrative by exploring deep, long-term connections among the languages, religions and peoples around the Mediterranean Sea.

CLAS 194-01 Cosmopoleis

Did you know Professor Overman's favorite ancient Mediterranean city is Alexandria? How did diversity play an important role in ancient cities, where sea travel brought people from all over the known world? How did rich cultural life contribute to metropoleis from then to now?

Study Away Spotlight



Last spring Aleo Wen '22 opted for an ambitious and irregular voyage to Greece, in lieu of pursuing on-campus modules. Aleo went for the College Year in Athens program, which is popular among Classics students. They enjoyed being in a small student community while engaging with the locals daily. They also had a chance to practice Modern Greek and found it to be quite similar to its ancient counterpart. Aleo's favorite course at CYA was the Topography and Monuments of Athens, which explored the rich history the city offers. On-site classes went extraordinarily smoothly, especially on top of the Acropolis, which used to be filled with tourists. Additionally, students and professors had a chance to tour the nation and circled the islands individually. This photo, from Santorini, was a highlight of that island tour.

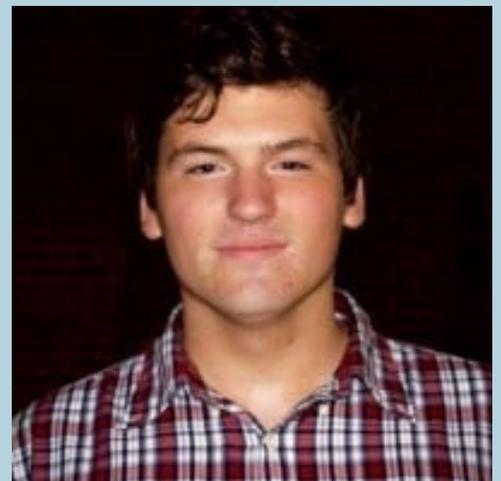
December Graduates

Amelia Medina-Blanco, Classical Languages Major (left)

Ammar Muhammad, Classical Languages Minor (bottom left)

Brooke Sapper, Classical Civilization Minor (bottom center)

Jackson Ullmann, Classical Languages Minor (bottom right)



Alumni Updates

Dan Leon, '02

"Over the summer I was promoted to Associate Professor of Classics with tenure at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. My first book, *Arrian the Historian: Writing the Greek Past in the Roman Empire*, appeared in April from the University of Texas Press.

I send my best wishes to the whole Mac Classics family".



David Wheeler, '09 is currently finishing his PhD in the Graduate Group for Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of California, Berkeley, where he is studying the archaeology of Egypt and Greece. He spent the last two years in Greece conducting research for his dissertation and taking part in the University of Cincinnati's excavations at the Palace of Nestor and Berkeley's excavations at Nemea, Mycenae, and Aidonia. David's research is primarily in cultural contact between

Egypt and the Aegean in the Late Bronze Age, however his dissertation uses scholarship in performance theory to reevaluate the evolution of Mycenaean mortuary practices and their wider cultural influence.

ANTIQUITY NOW is an update and review of activities and opportunities in the Macalester College Classical Mediterranean and Middle East Department. Each edition shares student and faculty news in respect to publications, internships, new classes, study away, and research abroad, and highlights alumni/alumnae who continue to do important and interesting things around the globe. If you have anything to share with us, please email classics@macalester.edu to connect with our editors. Thank you and best wishes!