



Antiquity Now is the official newsletter of the Macalester College Classical Mediterranean and Middle East Department, featuring and highlighting students, staff, opportunities, and the future endeavors of the department. For more information about CMME at Macalester, visit our website at <https://www.macalester.edu/classics/>

<i>Table of Contents</i>	
Welcome	2
Newest CMME Professor	3
The Arabic House	4
Fall Events Showcase	6
Study Abroad	8
Senior Fall Capstones	9
The Greater CMME Community	12
Spring 2026 Courses	13

A WELCOME FROM DEPARTMENT CHAIR NANETTE GOLDMAN



From a frigid 1600 Grand Avenue I send a warm hello to all our CMME friends and students, past, present and future. We are winding up the fall semester of 2025 and are ready to ring in 2026. We have many highlights, about which you'll read in the following pages. One of the most exciting is the arrival of our new Arabic professor, Dr. Haci (Ozzy) Gündüz. His dynamic teaching and are bringing students from across campus to the study of all periods of Arabic language and literature.

We look forward to the growth of the Arabic program under Ozzy's leadership. Brian Lush's first year course, entitled "Classics in Film," is such a popular course that he's offering a version in the spring open to all students. We continue to formulate plans for a new interdisciplinary January program in Spain and Morocco: "Al Andalusia and the Maghreb: The Way of the Sun to the Setting Sun." Andy Overman is spearheading this fascinating course, and we'll rotate it every two years with Beth Severy-Hoven's well-loved January in Rome. Stay tuned for pictures from our next Mediterranean adventure. Finally, the end of every fall semester brings the capstone symposium. As we've come to expect, we have a full roster of talented senior majors presenting research on a range of subjects, from death practices in ancient Rome to Sufism in modern America. A rich semester it has been. We wish you all a prosperous and healthy 2026. As always, send us your news. I tremains our greatest pleasure to stay in your orbit.

– Nanette Goldman

DR. OZZY GÜNDÜZ'S FIRST SEMESTER AT MACALESTER COLLEGE



My first semester at Mac has been great! I moved to the area in late July to get acclimated to my new neighborhood, and I began teaching in September. At Macalester, I've met a wonderfully supportive team of professionals who work hard to make the college an intellectual and academic home for incoming faculty. I also had the chance to meet all of my colleagues in CMME before the semester began, as well as colleagues from other departments, which helped me start building new connections.

This fall I taught two Arabic language courses, and in both I've had engaged and engaging students who have impressed me with their diligence and commitment. I was also involved in organizing events at the Arabic House, which were truly a delight. Before the semester started, I had the fun experience of going to the State Fair, and later I was able to travel north to visit Duluth, Split Rock Lighthouse, and Gooseberry Falls. Now I'm looking forward to my first true Midwest winter and to the spring semester ahead!

– Dr. Ozzy Gündüz



CONNECT WITH THE ARABIC HOUSE



Macalester's Arabic House was a natural hot spot for Arabic events, hosting several of them throughout the semester. The events provided a wonderful opportunity for students of all skill levels to practice their Arabic. The events consisted of group lunches, reading poetry aloud, and trying traditional chai.

Residents living in the Arabic House are responsible for organizing two cultural activities each semester, which can be a great chance to build connections and foster a sense of Arabic and CMME community!

Students interested in living in Arabic House next year should apply via the Residential Life Living Learning Community (LLC) application in early spring. Any students who have completed Elementary Arabic and are currently enrolled in an Arabic course at Macalester are encouraged to apply!

Lunch & Conversation

Open to all levels of learning, people gathered at the Arabic House early in the semester for food and conversation. The food was from a Palestinian American company, Baba's Cafe!



Student Speaker

Mulham Dalla, a Syrian Macalester student, talked about his life in Syria, his experience in the United States, the culture shock that came with it, and finding community here... all over delicious Turkish tea, Arabic coffee, and Levantine sweet treats.



Poetry Reading

Open to all levels, students, friends, and professors gathered around at the Arabic house to read and interpret Arabic poetry and drink tea.



FALL EVENTS SHOWCASE



Hands-on VR/3D Scanning Demo with Craig Stevens

We were lucky enough to be visited by Craig Stevens, a graduate student in Anthropology at Northwestern University and a researcher in the Material History Lab of Northwestern's History Department.

On November 5th, Mr. Stevens gave a talk in the DeWitt Wallace Library about immersive material culture, specifically about 3D technology for African art and archeology. He focuses on Black American and Caribbean settlement in Africa and their descendants in Liberia.

He has developed an exhibition called Augmented Curiosities, which uses Virtual Reality technologies to enhance analysis and engagement with African collections.



Welcome Back Event

Students and faculty gathered at the Arabic House on a beautiful summer day to welcome each other back into another exciting academic year. There was a great turnout of professors, students, and friends who got the chance to re-connect after a long break over a delicious build-your-own-popcorn bar.

FALL EVENTS SHOWCASE

Cookie Party

After a long and eventful fall semester, students and faculty got to wrap it up with a beautiful array of homemade cookies, made by CMME Staff and Faculty. They also enjoyed a relaxing coloring activity.



Pre-Registration Lunch

The Classical Mediterranean and Middle East Department had its seasonal pre-registration lunch introducing the next semester's course offerings! Students and Faculty were able to bond as a community by sharing a meal and discussing various topics.

THE VARIETY OF CMME STUDENTS



University of Minnesota Field Trip

Andy Overman: The Maghreb: History and Culture of North Africa from Hannibal to 1492

The author of *Augustine the African*, Katherine Coybeare, gave a talk at the UMN exploring the impact of Augustine on early Christianity as well as some of the context and aftermath of his impact. She also explored his identity as an African.

HEAR FROM STUDENTS ABROAD!

Fitz ('26, Geography Major)

During her Junior year, Fitz studied abroad in Rabat, Morocco, staying with a host family through the *Amideast* program. As she stayed with her host family, she was completely immersed in the culture—waking up early during Ramadan, eating Suhoor in the morning and Iftar at sunset, going to the mosque, and afterwards enjoying morning breakfasts made by her host dad, and evening dinners made by her host mom.

Fitz was a Teaching Assistant at a local Moroccan University, which allowed her to experience the youth culture. Much like MAC students, these Moroccan students were artsy, vibrant, and creative. Studying abroad is a wonderful experience. Not only do you get to experience different cultures, but you also grow as a person. For example, Fitz gained a new understanding of North Africa, different from the perception created by the Western media. Because of this, a whole new world opened up to her. Furthermore, she got to see firsthand the camaraderie and unity that countries have with one another, like the bond between Palestine and Morocco.

Additionally, she got to experience the connection Morocco has with its indigenous Amazigh people. She spent time with them, learning how to weave blankets like the Amazigh women do. Now, she has that skill as a beautiful reminder of her experience.

Emily Hodson ('26, Classical Archaeology Major)

This semester I've been working on two long term projects inspired by my study abroad experience last semester in Rome at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies.

Currently, I am working on my honors project: "Almost Christian, But Not Quite: A Comparative Study of the Christian Catacombs of the Northern Mediterranean." My research question for the project is very simple, "Who is influencing whom in the Northern Mediterranean?", but more specifically, I'm asking if the architecture of the Northern Mediterranean "Christian" catacombs in Rome, Melos, and Rabat are emblematic of a distinct Christian sepulchral style as it's been presented in the past, or products of regional influences. Recently I presented the "progress report" version of this project at the CMME Capstone Colloquium, and am looking forward to defending it in its final form this April.

Since August I've also had the pleasure of working as an architectural analyst and archival researcher with the University of Michigan's Southern Etruscan Tomb Survey (SETS). This project is focused on documenting and mapping several Etruscan tomb-groups and necropoleis as no comprehensive effort has been made since George Dennis' 1883 "Cities and Cemeteries of Etruria." During summer field seasons tombs are mapped via LiDAR to create 3D photo models of each tomb which allows for remote architectural analysis during the academic year. Currently the team at SETS is working towards a publication of the tombs at the Cerveteri Necropolis, to which I will be contributing both a chapter and several catalogue entries on individual tombs.



Emily Hodson on top of a Tumulus at the Cerveteri Necropolis in Etruria from last January

Karen Hill ('26, Classical Archaeology and Biology Major):

This summer, I completed a research fellowship in Siem Reap, Cambodia with the Center for Khmer Studies with a small cohort of Cambodian, French and American students. While there, I attended daily seminars in a Buddhist temple complex with the other fellows, Khmer language classes, many site visits, and completed an archaeological project that I designed and proposed for the program. This was an absolutely incredible experience! Some of my favorite memories include exploring the temples of Angkor in the pouring rain, traveling to Phnom Penh and visiting the National Archives of Cambodia, eating some incredible food at night markets, and getting to consult with the other fellows on their research! I'm now in the process of expanding my research into my honors project for my major in archaeology.

My research is centered around hospital site archaeology in the 12th and 13th centuries in the Khmer Empire. After visiting several temple complexes in Cambodia, both with the program and independently, I became interested in how healing practices took place, how various spiritual traditions influenced medicine, and the political ideals behind healing. At the conclusion of the program, I presented my research publicly at a conference in Siem Reap.



CAPSTONES

On the evenings of December

CMME department celebrated nine seniors and their research at this year's Classics Colloquium. These wonderful seniors presented their Capstone research to an audience of peers, instructors, and family members who were there to support them and celebrate the culmination of their hard work.

3rd and 4th, the Macalester



The projects covered a wide range of topics, cultures, and time periods and addressed questions both ancient and modern. Capstones are products of unwavering passion and academic achievement, requiring the utmost dedication. As such, we are extremely proud of our seniors. Congratulations to all!

A huge thank you to those involved in ensuring the Classics Colloquium went smoothly, including our fantastic professors, our Department Coordinator Carla Zelada, and all the friends and family members who attended to support our seniors. Thank you!

SENIOR CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS

WEDNESDAY, DEC 3RD PRESENTATIONS



Corvus Eckdahl
Death in Rome: A 1st Century Overview



Sydney Janda
Fadwa Tuqan and the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda



Laila Masoud
I Was Here: Identity and Movement in Nabatean Inscriptions

Emily Hodson
Almost Christian, But Not Quite: A Comparative Study of the Christian Catacombs in the Northern Mediterranean



Maahir Lakhani
“Acceptable” Islam; The Neutralization of Sufism in Modern America



SENIOR CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS

THURSDAY, DEC 4RD PRESENTATIONS



Kolya Shi

*Subversion and Satire
in the Carmina Burana*



Karen Anne Hill

*Ruins and Remedies: The Hospital Sites of
Jayavarman VII in the Khmer Empire*

Grace M. Bettenburg

*Crop Indicators of Cultural Transition in
Italy: A Statistical Archaeobotanical
Approach*

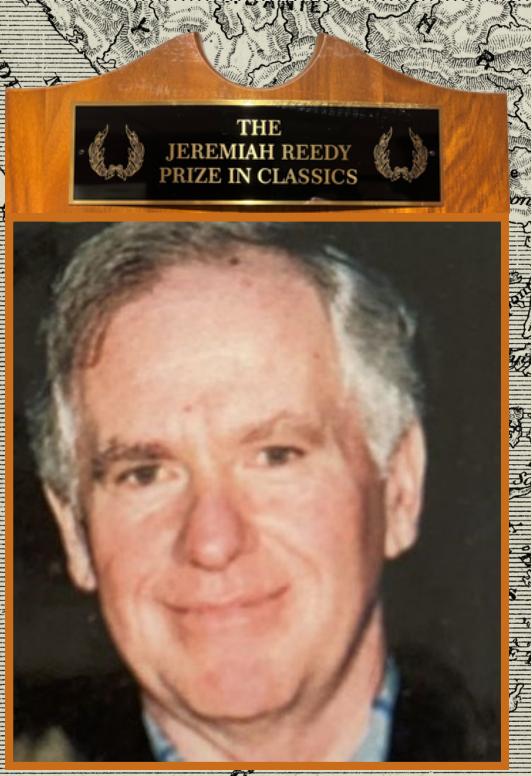


Ned Keyse

*Arar Reconsidered: Analyzing the
Poet's Counter-Hashemite Vision
for Jordan*



REMEMBERING PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF CLASSICS JEREMIAH “JERRY” REEDY



Professor Emeritus of Classics Dr. Jerry Reedy passed away at home on May 28, at the age of 91, surrounded by his loving family. Jerry studied at St. John's University, St. Bonaventure University, and was a graduate of the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He earned a master's degree and Ph.D. in Classics from the University of Michigan.

Jerry started teaching at Macalester in 1968 and retired in 2004. He was a lover of Greek and Latin, and a gifted and renowned linguist, grammarian, and scholar. He was demanding yet he was always supportive of Macalester Classics students. Jerry prepared countless students for graduate work and productive, rewarding careers in academia. He was devoted to his work and calling.

After he retired, Jerry devoted himself to education for middle- and high school-aged youth in the Twin Cities. This included founding schools focused on classical training and education such as the Seven Hills Academy in Bloomington and St. Paul City School. Jerry's tireless work on behalf of these schools and their students touched the lives of thousands. In honor of his legacy, the Classical Mediterranean and Middle East Department awards the Jeremiah Reedy Prize for Classics annually to recognize exceptional service to the department and community. Pax aeterna, Professor Reedy.

SUMMER AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Grace McDonough '24



Grace McDonough received the Fulbright U.S. Student Program award for the 2025-2026 academic year from the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship.

Through this scholarship, Grace is pursuing an MA in Refugee Integration at Dublin City University.

BA in Political Science and Classical Languages with a concentration in Middle Eastern Studies and Islamic Civilizations

Mikey Tang '24



Mikey Tang received the Marvin H. Hope Prize for outstanding achievement in Biblical Hebrew at Yale Divinity School.

Mikey is an MAR candidate also pursuing an MA in Second Temple Judaism at Yale Divinity School.

BA in Classical Civilization with a minor in Computer Science and Linguistics

UPCOMING COURSE FEATURES



Making the Most of Mac

INTD 111-01 with Professor
Beth Severy-Hoven and Laurie Adamson

What is college for? How does it differ from high school? What are the liberal arts? What are grades? How should I think about general education requirements? What is a major? What resources are available at Mac and how do students use them? How do I take care of myself and others? How do I make the most of Macalester for my goals and needs? Designed to be taken alongside a First-Year Seminar, this course will offer students the opportunity to hear from staff and faculty across campus as they answer these and other questions in their own way.

Ancient Healing & Medicine

CLAS 220 with Professor Andy Overman

This course reconnects with early approaches to medicine, health and healing. We study and discuss earlier wisdom that informed health practices for centuries. These traditions shaped a role for the caregiver, healer- physician. They inherited traditions and practices from earlier generations and from their own schools and teachers. These early practitioners combined traditional, popular practices, with newer advances and medical discoveries. Health care givers and Physicians were philosophers, botanists, observers and students of nature who built the foundations of modern medicine and continued the ancient traditions that had been handed down to them. This course is not a critique of modern medical practices. It is a retrieval of other and earlier ideas and practices about health and wellness.

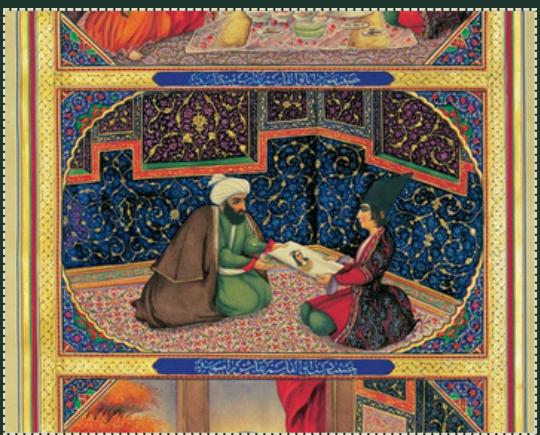


Arabian Nights

CLAS 194-01 with Professor Haci Gündüz

The Arabian Nights, also known as *One Thousand and One Nights*, is a monumental work in world literature that has shaped and been shaped by various cultures over centuries. Emerging from the medieval Islamic Near East, the tales draw on Indian, Persian, and Arabic narrative traditions. In

this course, we will explore its origins, transformation, and global influence through stories, translations, and adaptations -- including famous tales like Aladdin, whose place in the Nights is itself a story of transmission and transformation. We will critically analyze themes, narrative structures, and cultural reinterpretations, gaining insight into the collection's fluid and transcultural nature. All reading are in English.

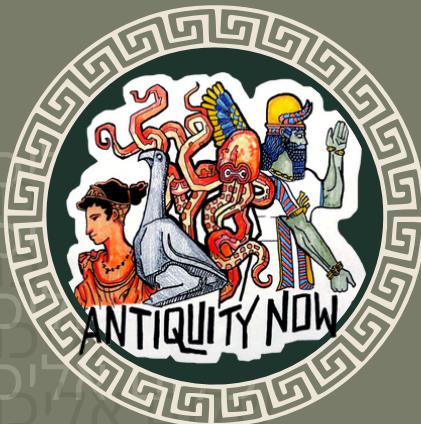




Number	Name	Days	Time	Instructor
CLAS 101	The Classical Mediterranean and Middle East	TR	9:40-11:10	Beth Severy-Hoven
CLAS 129	Greek Myths	TR	3:00-4:30	Brian Lush
CLAS 194	Arabian Nights	MW	2:20-4:30	Haci Gündüz
CLAS 201	Classics in Film	MW	2:20-4:30	Brian Lush
CLAS 220	Ancient Healing and Medicine	TR	9:40-11:10	Andy Overman
CLAS 223	Introduction to Archaeology	TR	3:00-4:30	Andy Overman
CLAS 294	Love in the Persianate World	MWF	10:50-11:50	Ahoo Najafian
CLAS 294	Hubris and Hegemony: Greek Tragedy as a Guide to Great Power Politics	MW	8:00-9:30	Andrew Latham
CLAS 294	Art and Architecture of Central Asia	TR	3:00-4:30	Johnathan Hardy
CLAS 294	Ancient Greek Temple	MWF	9:40-10:40	Serdar Yalçın

SPRING 2026 COURSE OFFERINGS

Number	Name	Days	Time	Instructor
CLAS 212	Elementary Latin II	MWF	9:40-10:40	Beth Severy-Hoven
CLAS 212	Elementary Latin II: Lab	T	3:00-4:00	Beth Severy-Hoven
CLAS 214	Elementary Arabic II	MWF	10:50-11:50	Haci Gündüz
CLAS 214	Elementary Arabic II: Lab	T	10:10-11:10	Haci Gündüz
CLAS 235	Elementary Greek II	MTW	2:20-3:20	Nanette Goldman
CLAS 235	Elementary Greek II: Lab	T	10:10-11:10	Nanette Goldman
CLAS 235	Elementary Greek II: Lab	T	3:00-4:00	Nanette Goldman
CLAS 332	Intermediate Latin II: Poetry	MW	7:00-8:30	Samuel Baker
CLAS 338	Intermediate Hebrew II	MWF	12:00-1:00	Nanette Goldman



Check out previous issues of *Antiquity Now* by visiting the Macalester CMME website or scanning the QR code.

