

# Classics

In the College of Arts and Letters

**OFFICE: Arts and Letters 662**

**TELEPHONE: 619-594-5186 / FAX: 619-594-1004**

**<http://classicsandhumanities.sdsu.edu>**

## Faculty

Emeritus: Eisner, Genovese, Hamilton, Warren

Chair: Levitt Kohn

Associate Professors: Rybakova, Smith

Assistant Professors: Dumas, Starkey

Stepsay Family Postdoctoral Research Fellow: McDonald

Lecturer: Robbins

## Offered by the Department of Classics and Humanities

Major in classics with the B.A. degree in liberal arts and sciences.

Emphasis in classical humanities.

Emphasis in classical language.

Emphasis in classical languages with honors.

Minor in classics.

## The Major

Classics is the study of the languages, literatures, and civilizations of ancient Greece and Rome. These are the oldest European and American traditions of the humanities and the liberal arts. Classics literally means works of the first class or rank, and their profound truths and disciplined forms have ensured their lasting relevance.

All Classics majors take two or more years of Greek or Latin. They may choose the language emphasis that allows them to study one or both languages, or they may choose the broader emphasis in classical humanities. Classics majors have at their disposal the Burnett Classics Seminar Room with its library and media resources. In addition to small language classes, close academic advising, and the fellowship of a small department with diverse interests, Classics majors culminate their studies with a senior seminar.

Although the prime purpose of the Classics major is to satisfy a quest for the original intellectual and artistic values of Western civilization, graduates enjoy a range of professional choices in addition to academic careers in Classics and various humanities disciplines. Classics majors are well prepared for law school, and with supplementary coursework in business, economics, or information systems, a Classics graduate can be very competitive in the business world. Classics graduates also have an advantage as editors, librarians, journalists, and technical writers. Opportunities are available in public relations, government, and other fields where general knowledge, perspective, and a facility with language serve not only the public good but one's own success.

## Advising

All College of Arts and Letters majors are urged to consult with their department adviser as soon as possible; they are required to meet with their department adviser within the first two semesters after declaration or change of major.

## Impacted Program

The classics major is an impacted program. To be admitted to the classics major, students must meet the following criteria:

- Complete preparation for the major;
- Complete a minimum of 60 transferable semester units;
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

To complete the major, students must fulfill the degree requirements for the major described in the catalog in effect at the time they are accepted into the premajor at SDSU (assuming continuous enrollment).

## Major Academic Plans (MAPs)

Visit <http://www.sdsu.edu/myrmap> for the recommended courses needed to fulfill your major requirements. The MAPs website was created to help students navigate the course requirements for their majors and to identify which General Education course will also fulfill a major preparation course requirement.

## Classics Major

### With the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences (Major Code: 15041)

All candidates for a degree in liberal arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this catalog on "Graduation Requirements." No more than 48 units in classics courses can apply to the degree.

**During their last semester, all seniors majoring in classics shall submit to the department a portfolio of their scholarly work that includes a 300-word summary of their study of the classics and the paper submitted for Humanities 490.**

A minor is not required with this major.

### Emphasis in Classical Humanities (SIMS Code: 111525)

**Preparation for the Major.** Classics 101G-202G (10 unit sequence) or Classics 101L-202L (10 unit sequence); and six units from any other lower division course offered in classics, or Comparative Literature 270A, History 105, Humanities 140. (16 units)

Students should note that a number of the upper division required and recommended courses listed below have lower division prerequisites, but these prerequisites do not constitute requirements per se for the completion of the major.

**Language Requirement.** Majors in Emphasis in Classical Humanities require completion of six upper division units in a classical language in addition to lower division prerequisites.

**Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement.** Passing the Writing Placement Assessment with a score of 10 or completing Humanities 390W with a grade of C (2.0) or better. See "Graduation Requirements" section for a complete listing of requirements.

**International Experience.** The department encourages international experience for its majors. A student who has completed the Preparation for the Major may apply to the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome (ICCS) or an equivalent, approved program in Italy or Greece for a semester abroad. Units taken during this semester abroad may apply toward the major if approved in advance by a department adviser.

**Major.** A minimum of 30 upper division units to include Classics 320, 330, History 502, 503, Humanities 490; a minimum of six units of upper division Greek or Latin; nine units of approved electives in art, comparative literature, history, philosophy, theatre, and religious studies appropriate to the study of the ancient Mediterranean world (additional prerequisites may apply to upper division courses outside the department).

**Elective Approval.** Elective courses taken to fulfill the major must be approved by the classics undergraduate adviser and the approval must be filed with the Office of Advising and Evaluations.

### Emphasis in Classical Language (SIMS Code: 111526)

**Preparation for the Major.** Classics 101G-202G (10 unit sequence) or Classics 101L-202L (10 unit sequence); and six units from any other lower division course offered in classics, or Comparative Literature 270A, History 105, Humanities 140. (16 units)

**Language Requirement.** Majors in Emphasis in Classical Language require completion of six upper division units in a classical language in addition to lower division prerequisites.

**Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement.** Passing the Writing Placement Assessment with a score of 10 or completing Humanities 390W with a grade of C (2.0) or better. See "Graduation Requirements" section for a complete listing of requirements.

**International Experience.** The department encourages international experience for its majors. A student who has completed the Preparation for the Major may apply to the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome (ICCS) or an equivalent, approved program in Italy or Greece for a semester abroad. Units taken during this semester abroad may apply toward the major if approved in advance by a department adviser.

**Major.** A minimum of 30 upper division units to include Classics 320 and Humanities 490; History 502 or 503; 12-18 units of upper division Greek or Latin; three to nine units of electives in Art 568, History 502, 503, Philosophy 401A (additional prerequisites may apply to upper division courses outside the department).

#### Emphasis in Classical Languages with Honors (SIMS Code: 111527)

**Preparation for the Major.** Classics 101G-202G (10 unit sequence); and Classics 101L-202L (10 unit sequence). (20 units).

**Language Requirement.** Majors in Emphasis in Classical Languages with Honors require completion of six upper division units in Greek and six upper division units in Latin in addition to lower division prerequisites in Greek and Latin.

**Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement.** Passing the Writing Placement Assessment with a score of 10 or completing Humanities 390W with a grade of C (2.0) or better. See "Graduation Requirements" section for a complete listing of requirements.

**International Experience.** The department requires international experience for the emphasis in classical languages with honors. A student who has completed the Preparation for the Major may apply to the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome (ICCS) or an equivalent approved program in Greece or Italy for a semester abroad. Units taken during this semester abroad may apply toward the major if approved in advance by a department adviser.

**Major.** A minimum of 30 upper division units to include Classics 320 and Humanities 490; History 502 or 503; 6-12 units of upper division Greek; 6-12 units of upper division Latin; three to nine units of electives in Art 568, History 502, 503, Philosophy 401A (additional prerequisites may apply to upper division courses outside the department).

## Classics Minor

The classics minor consists of a minimum of 17-19 units selected from one of the following:

**Classical Humanities (SIMS Code: 111560).** The minor in classical humanities consists of a minimum of 18 units in classics, of which 12 units must be upper division. Of these twelve upper division units, a maximum of six units of approved upper division electives in art, comparative literature, history, philosophy, religious studies, and theatre appropriate to the study of the ancient Mediterranean world may be substituted for classics courses (additional prerequisites may apply to upper division courses outside the department).

**Classical Language (SIMS Code: 111550).** The minor in classical language consists of a minimum of 17-19 units to include fourteen to sixteen units in Greek or Latin language; a minimum of six upper division units in the language and three units of upper division classics must be completed.

**Elective Approval.** Elective courses taken to fulfill the minor must be approved by the classics undergraduate adviser and the approval must be filed with the Office of Advising and Evaluations.

Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.

## Language Requirement for the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Students electing the study of Greek or Latin to fulfill the language requirement for the Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal arts and sciences must successfully complete Classics 303G or 303L or the equivalent level of achievement. The usual sequence of course work is either Classics 101G, 202G, and 303G, OR Classics 101L, 202L, and 303L. Refer to section of catalog on "Graduation Requirements" for additional ways to satisfy competency.

## High School Equivalents

High school foreign language courses may be used for purposes of placement in college courses and may be counted toward meeting the language requirement in various majors. These high school courses will not count as college credit toward graduation.

Secondary school language courses can be used as follows:

1. The first **two years** of high school level language count as the equivalent of the first semester of a college level course.
2. The first **three years** of high school level language count as the equivalent of the first two college semesters.
3. **Four years** of high school level language count as the equivalent of three college semesters or five college quarters, thus fulfilling the language requirement.

## Courses (CLASS)

Refer to *Courses and Curricula and University Policies* sections of this catalog for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

### LOWER DIVISION COURSES

**Classics includes courses in Greek and Latin as well as non-language courses. Greek course numbers have a G suffix; Latin courses have an L suffix.**

**No credit will be given for Classics 101G, 202G, 303G, 304G taken out of sequence.**

**No credit will be given for Classics 101L, 202L, 303L, 304L taken out of sequence.**

#### CLASS 101G. Ancient Greek I (5) [GE]

Beginning classical Greek. Basic grammar, vocabulary.

#### CLASS 101L. Latin I (5) [GE]

Beginning classical Latin. Basic grammar, vocabulary. Not open to students with credit in Classics 250L.

#### CLASS 120. English Words from Latin and Greek (3) [GE]

Latin and Greek words and bases and their English derivatives. Etymology, word analysis and construction, language history, and structure.

#### CLASS 140. Introduction to Classics (3) [GE]

Survey of Greek and Roman art, literature, drama, sculpture, and institutions. Influence on our culture today. Contemporary relevance of epic heroes, tragic heroines, gods and goddesses. Impact of political thought.

#### CLASS 202G. Ancient Greek II (5) [GE]

Prerequisite: Classics 101G.  
Continuing classical Greek. Grammar, vocabulary, syntax. Preparation for Classics 303G.

#### CLASS 202L. Latin II (5) [GE]

Prerequisite: Classics 101L.  
Continuing classical Latin. Grammar, vocabulary, syntax. Preparation for Classics 303L. Not open to students with credit in Classics 250L.

#### CLASS 296. Experimental Topics (1-4)

Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

- C. Experimental Topics in Classics.
- G. Experimental Topics in Greek.
- L. Experimental Topics in Latin.

**UPPER DIVISION COURSES  
(Intended for Undergraduates)**

**CLASS 303G. Reading Greek Prose (3) [GE]**

Prerequisites: Classics 202G; and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities required for nonmajors.

Reading classical prose authors such as Xenophon or Plato in original Greek. Attention to vocabulary, syntax, style, and historical-cultural context.

**CLASS 303L. Reading Latin Prose (3) [GE]**

Prerequisites: Classics 202L and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities required for nonmajors.

Reading classical prose authors such as Caesar or Cicero in original Latin. Attention to vocabulary, syntax, style, and historical-cultural context.

**CLASS 304G. Reading Greek Poetry (3) [GE]**

Prerequisites: Classics 303G; and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities required for nonmajors.

Reading classical poets such as Homer or Euripides in original Greek. Attention to vocabulary, syntax, style, and historical-cultural context.

**CLASS 304L. Reading Latin Poetry (3) [GE]**

Prerequisites: Classics 303L; and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities required for nonmajors.

Reading classical poets such as Catullus or Ovid in original Latin. Attention to vocabulary, syntax, style, and historical-cultural context.

**CLASS 310. Greek and Roman Myth and Legend (3) [GE]**

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities required for nonmajors. Recommended: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 200.

Great stories from the past. Heroes and heroines. Gods and goddesses. War and peace. Love and death. Adventure, romance, and peril in ancient literature, arts, and religion. Relevance and influence today.

**CLASS 320. Epic and the Novel (3) [GE]**

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities required for nonmajors. Recommended: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 200.

Four classic works in the genre of epic and the novel in English translation; Homer's Iliad and Odyssey, Vergil's Aeneid, and Apuleius' Golden Ass. Literary criticism in historical-cultural contexts and relevance today.

**CLASS 330. Comedy, Tragedy, Actors, and Audiences (3) [GE]**

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities required for nonmajors. Recommended: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 200.

Classical tragedy and comedy in English translation. Playwrights such as Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes, Plautus. Ancient theatre, stagecraft, literary criticism, and popular attitudes.

**CLASS 340. Gods, Gladiators, and Amazons (3) [GE]**

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities required for nonmajors. Recommended: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 200.

Literary, artistic, and intellectual achievements of the classic world. Temples, tragedies, and texts. Priests, prostitutes, and proconsuls. Great cultural traditions and influences.

**CLASS 350. Classics and Cinema (3) [GE]**

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities required for nonmajors.

Heroes, heroines, and conflicts of ancient Greece and Rome as represented in major cinematic "sword and sandal" productions. Screenplays compared with Greek and Latin sources in English translation.

**CLASS 360. Sex, Gender, and the Erotic in the Ancient World (3) [GE]**

Prerequisites: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities required for nonmajors. Recommended: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 200 with a grade of C (2.0) or better.

Women's lives and experiences in ancient Greek and Roman history and literature. Gender/feminist theory and application to readings of ancient texts and material culture. Ancient attitudes toward love and sexual activity. Gender identity, homosexuality, and pederasty.

**CLASS 450G. Seminar: Variable Topics in Greek Literature (3)**

Prerequisite: Classics 304G.

Reading significant Greek language texts in history, biography, religion, and other areas. Attention to vocabulary, syntax, style, and historical-cultural context. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

**CLASS 450L. Seminar: Variable Topics in Latin Literature (3)**

Prerequisite: Classics 304L.

Reading significant Latin language texts in history, biography, religion, and other areas. Attention to vocabulary, syntax, style, and historical-cultural context. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

**CLASS 496. Topics in Classical Studies (1-4)**

Topics in classical languages, literatures, cultures, and linguistics. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Maximum credit nine units. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

- C. Topics in Classics.
- G. Topics in Greek.
- L. Topics in Latin.

**CLASS 499. Special Study (1-3)**

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor and department chair. Directed individual study. Maximum credit six units in any combination of 499C, 499G, 499L.

- C. Special Study in Classics.
- G. Special Study in Greek.
- L. Special Study in Latin.

**UPPER DIVISION COURSE  
(Also Acceptable for Advanced Degrees)**

**CLASS 599. Special Study (1-3)**

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor and department chair. For 599C: Classics 304L or 304G. For 599G: Classics 304G. For 599L: Classics 304L.

Directed individual study. Maximum credit nine units in any combination of 599C, 599G, 599L.

- C. Special Study in Classics.
- G. Special Study in Greek.
- L. Special Study in Latin.