Department of Classics
Course Offerings
Fall 2009
Revision Date: 7/29/09

CLASS 1331  Elementary Sanskrit I  X-List: SANSK 1131/ LING 1131
351-266  Class ID: 6083  4 credits.  MTRF  11:15-12:05  Nussbaum, A.  Room GSH 122
An introduction to the essentials of Sanskrit grammar. Designed to enable the student to read classical and epic Sanskrit as quickly as possible.

CLASS 1531  FWS: Greek Myth  X-List:
361-732  Class ID: 9935  3 credits.  MWF  3:35-4:25  Ziogas, I.  Room GSH 124
The course will focus on the stories about the gods and heroes of the Greeks as they appear in the works of ancient Greek literature. We will read a selection from Greek authors, inquiring into the relationship between myths and cultural, religious, and political realia of the society in which they were shaped and perpetuated. Alongside the primary texts, we will read a number of recent scholarly works on the subject. We will start by discussing myths in general terms (theories, basic concepts) and will proceed toward the analysis of individual stories and cycles. This fascinating material will serve as a vehicle for improving your written communication skills. Assignments will include preparatory writing and six essays focusing on our readings and discussions in class.

CLASS 1583  FWS: Colonial Classicism and the Founding Fathers  X-List:
363-128  Class ID: 3283  3 credits.  MWF  9:05-9:55  Boex, A.  Room BAL 3331
This course will investigate the ways in which America's founding fathers, including Jefferson, Madison, Adams and Hamilton, studied and used the works of Greek and Roman authors in considering how best to form their young country's new government. We will undertake to understand the effects on these men of an education based in the Greek and Roman Classics, as we read their writings together with the works of Classical authors including Thucydides, Polybius, Plato, Aristotle and Cicero. The aim of the course is to allow students to develop the ability to read closely a variety of texts varying in period and style, and to write cogently about the relevancy of ancient texts to our modern life.

CLASS 2351  Intermediate Sanskrit  X-List: LING 2251/SANSK 2251
351-268  Class ID: 13385  3 credits.  MWF  1:25-2:15  McCrea, L.  Room GSH 181
Prerequisite: CLASS 1132 or equivalent
Satisfies Option 1.
Readings from the literature of Classical Sanskrit. Fall: selections from the two Sanskrit epics, the Mahabharata and the Ramayana.

CLASS 2603  Initiation to Greek Culture  X-List:
352-311  Class ID: 3283  4 credits.  MWF  1:25-2:15  Pucci, P.  Room GSH 124
One additional hour to be arranged.

Ivanov, R.
Limited to 18 students. Intended especially for first-year students. Students must apply in writing to chair, Department of Classics, 120 Goldwin Smith Hall. Knowledge of Greek or Latin is not necessary, since all texts are in translation. What is necessary is the willingness to participate in three one-hour seminars each week and also a supplementary one- or two-hour session, during which the class participates in workshops with specially invited guests. This course covers a wide range of Greek literary and philosophical works as well as modern critical and philosophical writings on the Greeks. The focus throughout is on the status of language, the many forms of discourse that appear in the literature, and the attempts the Greeks themselves made to overcome the perceived inadequacies and difficulties inherent in language as the medium of poetry and philosophy. The course inquires into the development of philosophy in the context of a culture infused with traditional, mythological accounts of the cosmos. It asks how poetic forms such as tragedy responded to and made an accommodation with philosophical discourse while creating an intense emotional effect on the audience; how the first historians, using literary and philosophical discourse, created space for their own inquiry; and discusses how these issues persist and are formulated in our own thinking.
CLASS 2604  Greek Mythology  
352-314  Class ID: 3285  3 credits.  TR  11:40-12:55  Mankin, D.  Room WRN B45
A survey of the Greek myths, with emphasis on the content and significance of the myths in Mediterranean society, including the place of myth in Greek life and consciousness; the factors and influences involved in the creation of myths; and the use of myths for our understanding of Greek literature, religion, and moral and political concepts.

CLASS 2605  Theater, Sport and Spectacle  
362-949  Class ID: 24975  4 credits.  MWF  1:25-2:15  Rusten, J.  Room GSH G22
Swoveland, M.
Performance and Competition in Greece and Rome
A study of not of play-texts or ancient history per se, but the social history of the richly documented tradition of competitive artistic, athletic and spectacular performances sponsored by cities, wealthy individuals and kings/emperors in antiquity, with special attention to the ongoing connections and cross-influences between music/theater, athletics and human/animal combats. We will take our comparative material from the fifth century BCE to the late Roman empire. Topics include organization frameworks, funding sources, associations of performers and their ideologies and rivalries, regulation and hierarchies of audiences, public claques, the adaptation of performance to political events, influence on art, and institutional and intellectual opposition. Evidence will include ancient treatises, inscriptions, mosaics, wall-paintings and terracottas; all source readings available in English.

CLASS 2661  Ancient Philosophy  
353-858  Class ID: 6061  4 credits.  TR  10:10-11:25  Brennan, T.  Room GSH 132
Open to first-year students. Enrollment in section required.
We will study the origins of Western philosophy as it emerged in ancient Greece: the Presocratics; Socrates and Plato; Aristotle; and the main Hellenistic schools (the Epicureans, Stoics, and Skeptics). Topics to be covered include: knowledge and reality; morality and happiness; free will; the nature of the soul.
Sections:
2661 DIS 201 (Class ID: 6063) -- R 1:25-2:15 -- LNC 107
2661 DIS 202 (Class ID: 6065) -- F 12:20-1:10 -- GSH G24
2661 DIS 203 (Class ID: 12119) -- M 9:05-9:55 -- GSH G24

CLASS 2676  Periclean Athens  
352-328  Class ID: 10449  4 credits.  TR  2:55-4:10  Rawlings, H.  Room URH 202
Enrollment in section required.
The first five weeks will provide a synopsis view of Athens' historical and cultural achievement in the middle of the fifth century B.C. - the traditional pinnacle of "The Glory that was Greece." Readings will be taken from Greek historians, philosophers, poets and documentary texts. The next seven to eight weeks will follow the course of the Peloponnesian War to its end; readings from Thucydides will be interwoven with contemporaneous texts composed by the dramatists (Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes) and the sophists (supplemented with readings from Plato). The remaining classes will consider the fate of Socrates. The basic aim of the course is to approach an understanding of how and why a vital and creative society came unglued. There will be weekly discussion sections, and at least two debates.
Sections:
2676 DIS 201 (Class ID: 10453) -- R 12:20-1:10 -- URH G88
2676 DIS 202 (Class ID: 10455) -- F 11:15-12:05 -- RCK 127
2676 DIS 203 (Class ID: 27637) -- R 12:20-1:10 -- GSH G20
2676 DIS 204 (Class ID: 27636) -- F 12:20-1:10 -- RCK B15

CLASS 3391  Independent Study in Sanskrit  
353-658  Class ID: 4123  Var. credits.  TBA  Staff  Room
Up to 4 credits

CLASS 3393  Advanced Sanskrit I  
361-518  Class ID: 17577  4 credits.  TBA  McCrea, L.  Room
Pre-requisites: 2 years of Sanskrit or equivalent.
Readings in Sanskrit at the third level and above. Topics vary.
In the fourth century CE the emperors decided to favor Christianity and shortly thereafter to forbid non-Christian activity. The 'end of paganism' however did not occur all at once if it ever did. The study of the Christianization of the Roman world is concerned with both the impact of Christian belief and practice on the late antique society and the resistance and/or persistence of the old beliefs and practices. This seminar will focus on the approaches to the problem of Christianization and on its documentation. Through readings and discussion, we will chart the transformations of the Roman world from 300 to 600 CE and try to get a better understanding of what remains one of the most fascinating historical problems of the ancient world.

Prerequisite: At least one previous course in Philosophy at the 2000-level or above, or permission of the instructor. We will study several of Plato's major dialogues, including the the Apology, the Meno, Phaedo, and Republic. Topics to be covered include: knowledge and reality; morality and happiness; the nature of the soul. Prerequisites: at least one previous course in philosophy at the 2000-level or above; or permission of the instructor.

By permission only. Two labs (Class ID: 8203) TBA Introduction and training in dendrochronology and its application to archaeology, art-history and environmental studies through participation in a research project dating ancient to modern tree-ring samples from both the Mediterranean and the Upper New York State region. Supervised reading, laboratory/project work, fieldtrips(s) in local area. A possibility exists for summer fieldwork in the Mediterranean.

An advisor must be chosen by the end of the student's sixth semester. Topics must be approved by the Standing Committee on Honors by the beginning of the seventh semester. See "Honors," Classics front matter.

Limited to Classics graduate teaching assistants. Pedagogical instruction and course coordination. Required for all graduate student teachers of LATIN 1201-1202 and First-Year Writing Seminars.

Topics include the evolution of the Greek city-state; society, economy, and gender; democracy, oligarchy, and tyranny; the careers of Philip, Alexander, and the Successors. Greco-Persian relations, Sicily and southern Italy, and the establishment of the Hellenistic Kingdoms. Undergrads and Grads will meet 1:25-325. Grad students must stay for one additional hour (3:30-4:25).

Up to 4 credits.
Independent Study in Classical Studies

Up to 4 credits.

Elementary Ancient Greek I

Class ID: 6831
Credits: 4
Days: MTRF
Time: 10:10-11:00
Professor: Pelliccia, H.
Room: GSH 122

Introduction to Attic Greek. Designed to enable the student to read the ancient authors as soon as possible.

Intermediate Ancient Greek I

Class ID: 6833
Credits: 3
Days: MWF
Time: 10:10-11:00
Professor: Pucci, P.
Room: GSH 124

Prerequisite: Greek 1102, 1103 or placement by departmental examination.

Elementary Modern Greek I

Class ID: 24322
Credits: 4
Days: M-F
Time: 2:30-3:20
Professor: Yiavis, K.
Room: URH 375A

The course is intended for students with no experience in modern Greek. The goal is to provide a thorough grounding in Greek language with an emphasis on communication. Small class size will provide intensive practice in speaking, writing and listening-comprehension. Elementary Modern Greek II will be offered in the Spring semester.

Intermediate Modern Greek I

Class ID: 24306
Credits: 4
Days: M-F
Time: 12:20-1:10
Professor: Yiavis, K.
Room: URH 394

Emphasizes complex grammatical and syntactical phenomena of the Modern Greek language through oral communication and texts. Students look into idiomatic nuances and special features of the language. Oral speech and writing are more crucial at this level.

Seminar: Greek Drama

Class ID: 24278
Credits: 4
Days: TR
Time: 1:25-2:40
Professor: Pelliccia, H.
Room: GSH 122

Satisfies Option 1. Prerequisite: 2000 level courses in Greek or permission of instructor.

Independent Study in Greek, Undergraduate Level

Class ID: 635
Credits: Var.
Days: TBA
Professor: Staff
Room: TBA

Permission of DUS, in extraordinary circumstances only.

Adv. Readings in Greek: Thucydides & Herodotus

Class ID: 9875
Credits: 4
Days: TR
Time: 10:10-11:25
Professor: Rawlings, H.
Room: GSH 124

In reading the texts, we will analyze the historiographical methods employed by Herodotus and Thucydides: their use of sources, their epistemologies, their means of representing events, their positions in the intellectual context of their times.

Greek Dialects

Class ID: 24279
Credits: 4
Professor: Nussbaum, A.
Room: TBA

Basic familiarity with classical Greek morphology.

A survey of the dialects of ancient Greek through the reading and analysis of representative epigraphical and literary texts.
The fragments of Athenian comedy, 486-280 BCE. Readings of the substantial remains of comedies apart from the 11 preserved plays of Aristophanes and the three of Menander. Particular attention to the evidence for the earliest comedy and its relation to politics, the plays of Aristophanes' rivals Cratinus (Plutuses, Dionysalexander, The Wine-flask) and Eupolis (Demes, Baptai, Toadies, Maricas), the 4th century comedy of Antiphanes and Timocrates, the more than 100 paintings from Southern Italy illustrating scenes of 4th century comedy, Menander's partially-preserved plays (She Gets a Haircut, The Shield, the Sicyonian), and the plays that lie behind the Latin adaptations of the third and second centuries BCE.
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