Discover the Greeks and the Romans at Illinois

Are you interested in the language, history, art, and culture of ancient Greece and Rome? Are you interested in applying lessons of the past to the 21st century? You should study Classics at Illinois.

Students can study Classics through classes like Mythology of Greece and Rome, Introduction to Greek Culture, Classics and US Minorities, Medical Terms, and many more. We also offer a four-semester introductory sequence in both Greek and Latin, as well as intermediate and advanced classes. Most of our classical civilization classes fulfill general education requirements and some are offered online.

Our program

For those wishing to become more deeply immersed, we offer both a minor and major. The minor requires 18 hours (with specialization in Classical Civilizations, Ancient Greek, Modern Greek, and Latin), and the major 32 hours and 12 hours in electives. Students pursuing a bachelor’s degree can choose one of two concentrations:

- Classical civilization (with an optional track in Mediterranean Archaeology)
- Classical Languages (with three tracks, Ancient Greek, Latin, Ancient Green and Latin)

Students who already know some Latin or Greek are welcome. Anyone can consult the department about placement at any time.

Classics majors sometimes pair their studies in our department with a second major. Popular second majors include economics, English, history, political science, and many of the sciences.

Our undergraduates often go to law school or medical school and pursue careers in education, business, and journalism. Some choose to stay at Illinois to complete one of our graduate degrees.

Classics faculty have interests ranging from epic poetry, drama and gender studies to philosophy, film, and ecocriticism. Because our classes tend to be small, students learn directly from faculty who are experts in their fields.

Resources and opportunities

- The University Library is the largest public university library in North America. It holds more than 14 million volumes and is known for its Classics collection, which is ranked in the top three in the country.

- The Krannert Art Museum and the Spurlock Museum house a substantial collection of Greek vases and one of the most important collections of South Italian pottery in North America. The Spurlock also has an outstanding collection of Greek and Roman coins, striking plaster casts of some of the most famous sculptures of antiquity, and thousands of artifacts illustrating the cultures of the ancient Mediterranean.

- Classics hosts talks several times a month and conferences at least once a year with visiting speakers from major universities in North America and Europe. The local chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America also sponsors a series of lectures every semester.

- Our students can study abroad through our own Illinois in Athens program or various faculty-led trips, or in several English-language programs including the College Year in Athens, and the Intercollegiate Center (Rome), as well as programs in the United Kingdom.

Learn more

To find out more about our courses, minor, major, and graduate programs, visit our website at www.classics.illinois.edu. You may also call us at (217) 333-1001 or visit the Departmental office at 4080 Foreign Languages Building.