

Classical Studies

“Learning to work with material culture and archaeological evidence—from large scale monumental remains to papyri—is a mainstay of our program, both in the classroom and during off-campus trips to Greece and Italy.”

Philip Venticinque, Associate Professor of Classics

Classical studies is an interdisciplinary major at heart and takes advantage of the methods and insights of language and linguistics, literary studies, archaeology, art, anthropology, history, philosophy, economics, and religion.

The curriculum emphasizes an integrated approach to the ancient Mediterranean and its influence on the world. Students examine a particular text or topic from a variety of perspectives in order to develop a multifaceted understanding of Greek and Roman culture.

Students who major in classical studies go on to a variety of graduate schools in history, law school, marketing, economics, social work, medical school, and more. The strong liberal arts background that classical studies provides has led Cornell alumni to successful careers in archaeology, business, information technology, law, library science, linguistics, medicine, ministry, museum and archival work, teaching, and writing.

BENEFITS OF ONE COURSE AT A TIME

One Course At A Time allows for immersion, which is the best way to learn a language. Rather than just a weekly language lab, with One Course the classroom itself is turned into a language lab mixing discussion, instruction, workshops, and working

through drills and exercises. And students work together as a class with the professor.

Students in Latin 205 spend an entire block immersed in the world of Roman theatre by examining, translating, and staging a Roman play for campus. The One Course calendar gives them the opportunity to dig into the text and meaning of the play and update a classical production for a modern audience.

Every other year the Classics Department offers block-long, off-campus courses in Greece or Italy, and classical studies majors have studied Latin in Rome and participated in archaeological excavations around the world.

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

TECHNOLOGY

The classics faculty collaborates with the library and the Center for Teaching and Learning to introduce students to the range of resources available for studying the ancient world in the new millennium (Perseus, Papyri.info, and a host of other databases) and, more importantly, learning how to use these resources effectively to achieve individual research goals.

RECEPTION OF ANTIQUITY

Classical literature was used and reused in the classical past and continues to be used in the present. Societal reception of classical works is a theme that runs throughout the curriculum, sometimes as a subtheme (such as Introduction to Classical Myth or Love and Sexuality) and sometimes as the focus of an entire course (such as Big Screen Rome, Classics and the Graphic Novel, and Epic Tradition: Classical and Modern Odysseys). Reception of antiquity is becoming a “hot” subfield, and Cornell students are learning about

Faculty Bios & Courses

JOHN GRUBER-MILLER *Professor of Classics*

Teaches courses in classics, Greek, and Latin. He is the editor of “When Dead Tongues Speak: Teaching Beginning Greek and Latin” (Oxford University Press, 2006), and of Teaching Classical Languages, a peer-reviewed journal dedicated to Latin and Greek pedagogy. He maintains two educational sites: Ariadne: Resources for Athenaze and Let’s Review Greek! He received the Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Classics at the College Level from the American Philological Association. Ph.D. and M.A., The Ohio State University; B.A., Xavier University.

PHILIP VENTICINQUE *Associate Professor of Classics*

Teaches Greek and Roman History, Egypt After the Pyramids, Egypt in the Imagination, and courses in Greek and Latin language and literature. He was awarded fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, Harvard’s Center for Hellenic Studies, and the Loeb Classical Library Foundation to support the writing of “Honor Among Thieves: Craftsmen, Merchants, and Associations in Roman and Late Roman Egypt” (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2016). His research has been published in *Historia*, *Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies*, and *The Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists*. Ph.D., M.A, B.A., University of Chicago.



ancient topics through the most contemporary conversations regarding them.

CLASSICS AND THE NEAR EAST

Greece and Rome are studied as part of the larger ancient Mediterranean world. The Near East has a strong place in the curriculum, whether in Greek and Roman history surveys where students delve deeper into life in the Roman provinces and on the periphery of the Greek world, or in stand-alone courses such as Classical Crossroads: Egypt, Greece, and Persia or Egypt after the Pyramids: Roman and Byzantine Egypt.

TEXTS AND MATERIAL CONTEXTS

Most classical studies programs focus primarily on the reading of Greek and Latin literary texts, but Cornell faculty additionally seek to push the boundaries of the discipline by working with archaeological evidence to focus on the societies and economies in which those texts were produced. Learning to work with material culture and archaeological evidence—from large scale monumental remains to papyri—is a mainstay of Cornell's program, both in the classroom and during off-campus trips. The study of papyrological documents is integrated into courses to give students experience working with evidence of daily social, economic, political, and religious life in the ancient world.

STUDENT RESEARCH

Student research takes many shapes, from traditional research papers to the development of online web pages for Greek gods. The program encourages seniors to develop research projects in an area of interest and present them at the Cornell College Student Symposium. A strong tradition of collaborative student-faculty research exists in the classics program.

INTERNSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS

Students have recently held internships or fellowships at the following locations:

- Global Zero, Washington, D.C.
- Center for Hellenic Studies/Sunoikisis Archaeological Field School, Kenchreai, Greece
- Persepolis Fortification Project, Chicago
- Alliance Francaise, Milwaukee
- Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa City, Iowa
- The African American Museum of Iowa, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- World Trade Press, Petaluma, California

AFTER CORNELL

ALUMNI CAREERS

Americorp Vista, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
(Class of 2015)

Archaeological field technician, SWCA Environmental Consultants, Middleburg, Pennsylvania (Class of 2015)

Issue resolution analyst, Western Paper Distributors, Denver, Colorado (Class of 2015)

Assistant for the American Museum of Asmat Art, St. Thomas University, Minneapolis, Minnesota (Class of 2014)

Natural resources specialist, the State of Alaska, Anchorage, Alaska (Class of 2014)

Associate scientist, Environmental Works, Inc., Kansas City, Missouri (Class of 2013)

Conversation assistant, Xunta de Galicia, Santiago De Compostela, Spain (Class of 2013)

Web content creator, CreatiVagabond Media Labs, Arlington, Texas (Class of 2013)

Marketing director, Mind Over Matter Studio Method, Chesterton, Indiana (Class of 2013)

Teacher, San Francisco Unified School District, Fairfax, California (Class of 2012)

Latin teacher, Cave Spring High and Hidden Valley Middle schools, Yorkville, Illinois (Class of 2011)

Fiction librarian, Schaumburg Township District Library, Lake Zurich, Illinois (Class of 2010)

Research librarian, Legislative Research Unit of the Illinois General Assembly, Springfield, Illinois (Class of 2006)

Electronic information management consultant, U.S. Government, Washington, D.C. (Class of 2004)

Theatre arts teacher, Denver Public Schools, Denver, Colorado (Class of 2003)

Project manager, SWCA Environmental Consultants, Denver, Colorado (Class of 2003)

Graduate teaching assistant, City University, Hong Kong (Class of 2003)

GRADUATE SCHOOLS ATTENDED

M. A., international relations, Oxford University, Cambridge, U.K. (Class of 2014)

M.A., art history, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota (Class of 2014)

M.A., maritime archaeology, University of Southampton, England (Class of 2013)

M.A., history, Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, Texas (Class of 2012)

M.A., art history and archaeology, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana; pursuing Ph.D., University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois (Class of 2012)

M.A., classics, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland (Class of 2011)

GENEVIEVE MIGELY

Associate Professor of Philosophy

Does work in the history of ancient and early modern philosophy and the philosophy of law. Her courses include Ancient Philosophy and Philosophy of Law. Ph.D. and M.A., Claremont Graduate University; B.A., Northwestern University.

CHRISTINA MORRIS PENN-GOETSCH

Professor of Art History

Teaches the classical studies courses Roman and Etruscan Art and City of Rome (taught in Italy). Ph.D. and M.A., University of Iowa; B.A., University of Virginia.