

# CLASSICS

Few cultures have had such a profound impact on Western culture and society as those of ancient Greece and Rome. To this day, their influence can be seen in our system of government, our language, and our philosophical beliefs and debates.

Classics is a quintessentially interdisciplinary field which emphasizes the careful reading and critical study of selected Greek and Latin texts, both in the original and in English translations, as well as the study of ancient history, together with formal study of classical literature, art, linguistics, mythology, culture, and civilization.

The classics department at Lawrence offers three related but distinct concentrations. The traditional concentration in *classical languages* gives you the opportunity to study Greek and Latin and become well versed in classical philology and literature. It also prepares you for teaching certification in Latin, if you wish.

The concentration in *classical civilization* combines Greek and Latin language study with the study of classical culture, ancient history, and classical art, giving you the chance to examine the classical world more broadly.

The concentration in *classical linguistics* provides a more scientific understanding of language, offering you the opportunity to study Latin and Greek while also examining the nature and structure of language in general.

Explorations in the classical origins of your chosen field can add valuable insights, texture, and meaning to your study of romance languages, philosophy, literature, theatre, art, or the natural sciences. Small classes, excellent library holdings and collections, and a fine selection of off-campus opportunities help to bring the classics to life at Lawrence.

## CURRICULUM

The traditional classics major with an emphasis in *classical languages* requires you to complete the introductory- and intermediate-level language sequence in both Greek and Latin. If you have studied either of these languages previously, you may be able to test out of some or all of these classes. Beyond the basic language courses, you will take a minimum of seven more classes, examining some of the major literary works from both cultures in courses such as *Horace and Catullus*, *Plato*, *Homer*, and *Mediaeval Latin*.

For the concentration in *classical civilization*, you may complete the language sequence in either Latin or Greek. Then you will choose nine classes from a variety of upper-level course offerings in the classics, history, philosophy, and art history departments.

To complete the concentration in *classical linguistics*, you will be expected to take both Latin and Greek languages through the intermediate level, as well as *Introduction to Linguistics*. Beyond that, you will choose three advanced courses in ancient languages and three courses in linguistics, such as *Historical Linguistics*, *Introduction to Syntax*, or *The Romance Languages and Their Histories*.

## FACILITIES

Lawrence's Seeley G. Mudd Library contains extensive holdings in the classics, and the Hiram A. Jones Latin Library in Main Hall offers a large collection of texts and bibliographical items.

The Main Hall Computing Lab allows students to research the languages and cultures of the ancient world online. Latin students are supported in their study of

elementary Latin by *Mare Nostrum*, a computer program that aids in the mastery of Latin morphology. Greek students can make use of *Gramma*, a similar computer program for Greek.

The department owns a fine assortment of ancient artifacts, including Roman republican coins, small vases, terra cotta lamps, ancient glassware, bronze implements such as a strigil and bracelets, small pieces of statuary, and two cuneiform tablets, which students have used in conducting independent study projects.

The Ottilia Buerger Collection of Greek and Roman Coins is a numismatic tour de force. Kept in the Wriston Art Center, the coins serve as actual texts for students in classics, history, and art history to study in seminars and tutorials.

#### CLASSICS ON CAMPUS

Every year the classics department sponsors a campus-wide Classics Week. Students and faculty gather at the President's office to hear the official proclamation declaring the start of the festivities.

In the past, activities have included student lectures on "Rome: The Eternal City" and "Images of Antony and Augustus," showings of the films *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *Jason and the Argonauts*, and the dramatic performances of *The Widow of Ephesus* and Aristophanes' *Thezmo-phoriazousai*.

#### FACULTY RESEARCH

Professor Daniel J. Taylor, LU '63, has received numerous awards for his scholarship and teaching. He has received two National Endowment for the Humanities research fellowships, which allowed him to edit and translate the only surviving copy of book ten of Varro's *De Lingua Latina*; in 1983, the American Philological Association recognized him with its Excellence in Teaching Award; in 1990, he was named Distinguished Foreign Language Educator of the Year by the Wisconsin Association of Foreign Language Teachers; and he twice served as president of the North American Association for the History of the Language Sciences. In 2002, he was the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Linguistics at the University of Trieste (Italy). Professor Taylor offers courses in Latin, Greek, and linguistics.

Assistant Professor Randall L. B. McNeill received his A.B. *summa cum laude* from Harvard University in 1992. He joined the classics department from Yale University, where he taught for a year as a Lecturer after receiving his Ph.D. in 1998. He has held a Jacob K. Javits Fellowship and a Robert M. Leylan Fellowship, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He is the author of *Horace: Image, Identity and Audience* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001). Professor McNeill offers courses in Latin, Greek, and ancient history.

Professors in other departments such as art history and religious studies offer exciting courses that augment and enhance the classics curriculum.

#### AFTER LAWRENCE

The study of classics will prepare you well for any field of your choosing. You will learn how to think and how to write, how to approach situations creatively, how to analyze a situation, and how to solve problems wisely and effectively – skills that are needed in every field.

Many of our students go on to graduate school. Recently, three Lawrence classics graduates attended three of the very finest graduate programs in classics in the nation – Brown University, the University of Michigan, and Rutgers University. All three students received prestigious fellowships – one received a Mellon Fellowship – to assist them in their studies.

#### FACULTY

**Daniel J. Taylor**, Hiram A. Jones Professor of Classics  
Lawrence University, B.A.;  
University of Washington, M.A.,  
Ph.D.

Interests: classical linguistic theory,  
Greek poetry, Varro

**Randall L. B. McNeill**, assistant professor of classics  
Harvard University, A.B. *summa cum laude*, Yale University, M.A.,  
Ph.D.

Interests: literary self-presentation,  
ancient propaganda, Roman  
poetry, Greek and Roman history