Ancient History and Classics

Ancient history and classics is an interdisciplinary major offered jointly by the Department of Classics and the Department of History. The major combines two areas of study which are closely related:

- Classics is the study of the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome and the people they directly affected.
- Ancient history is the study of political, military and cultural events and developments the cultures and people of ancient Greece and Rome experienced over time, from the Bronze Age to the beginning of the Middle Ages.

The two fields intersect at many points. Both classics and ancient history involve the study of Greek and Roman political and social institutions such as religious practices and beliefs; laws and legal procedures; the organization of states; the conduct of warfare; expressions of gender, sexuality, age and class; and Greek and Roman art, architecture, science and technology. Both fields rely on the written and material remains of Greek and Roman culture that are preserved through manuscripts on papyrus, parchment and paper; inscriptions on stone and metal; and abundant archaeological material.

Pursuing Ancient History and Classics at Ohio State

All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions.

Students wishing to major in ancient history and classics would benefit from taking Latin in high school.

Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in ancient history and classics within the College of Arts and Sciences. Students interested in the major should contact the director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Classics or the Undergraduate History Office in the Department of History to be assigned a major advisor.

Ancient History and Classics Requirements

Students construct a major program of 30 hours or more with emphasis upon Greek and/or Latin language and selected courses in Greek and/or Roman history. Details of the program should be discussed with a student’s major advisor.

The program will consist of the following:

- Prerequisites: Greek and/or Latin language sequence
- At least 12 hours in Greek and/or Latin literature at the intermediate level
- At least 12 credits in Greek and Roman history courses at the intermediate level.
- Electives in history, classics, Greek, Latin or related fields to total 30 credits toward the major

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

Study Abroad

The Department of Classics encourages participation in study abroad programs such as the College Year in Athens, the Summer programs of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens and the programs sponsored by the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome. The Department of Classics also offers courses that include short-term study abroad programs to Greece and Italy. The department provides some funding. For details, visit classics.osu.edu.

Honorary Societies

Undergraduate majors and minors are invited to join the Classics Club, the National honorary societies for history (Phi Alpha Theta) and also Eta Sigma Phi, a countrywide Honorary Greek Letter Society whose purpose is to develop and promote interest in classical study among students of Ohio State and to provide contacts with classical studies at other universities. More information can be found by contacting the Department of Classics or the Department of History.

For more information, check these websites:

Classics: classics.osu.edu
Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu
History: history.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu
Honors & Scholars Programs
Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students.

Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling and unique housing options.

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities for students to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Learn more at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Career Prospects in Ancient History and Classics
Graduates in classics find their marketable skills considerably enhanced by their humanities education. A major in classics, Greek or Latin in coordination with a minor in some other subject and relevant specialized course work provides excellent preparation for a career in medicine, business, law, education, politics, government, media, publishing and many other areas of employment. Besides these fields, students who achieve an MA or MEd in Latin stand an excellent chance of making successful careers as secondary school Latin or Greek instructors. Achievement of the PhD may lead to an academic career as a professor of Greek and Latin literature, ancient philosophy, ancient history, or archaeology.

Career Counseling and Job Placement
Students can explore career options by utilizing Career Connection as well as the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office. Providing complimentary services, Career Connection focuses on helping students establish a career direction while the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office assists students with finding internships—experiences that are essential to testing the suitability of career fields under consideration. Located in 48 Townshend Hall, the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office also assists seniors and recent graduates with finding entry-level career employment.

More information about both offices is found at asccareerservices.osu.edu and careerconnection.osu.edu.

Revised January 2014. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the ancient history and classics program, please visit classics.osu.edu and history.osu.edu.

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