Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations

The School of Humanities

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Degree Offered: B.A.

This interdisciplinary major in the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome, Judaism, early Christianity, and early Islam, as well as their antecedents, explores these traditions both for their intrinsic interest and for the contributions each has made to contemporary Western society. This combined focus on ancient cultural history in its broadest sense and on perspectives offered by cultural criticism enables students to examine the beginnings of the civilization in which they now participate.

Courses for this major address common questions about the transmission and transformation of cultures in the ancient Mediterranean world. Students examine sources, such as texts, artifacts, and institutions that illuminate the process. They study how shifting cultural centers and frontiers in this world are delineated, and they explore the general integration and disintegration of specific ancient cultures. This major also offers opportunities for archaeological fieldwork and study abroad.

Rice is a sponsor of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, the American School of Oriental Research, and the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome. Students majoring in Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations are encouraged to study in these programs as well as in the College Year in Athens program.

Degree Requirements for B.A. in Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations

For general university requirements, see General Graduation Requirements (pages 18–20). Majors in Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations must complete at least 30 semester hours (10 courses). Students must take a core course (AMC 200, CLAS 207, or CLAS 208) near the beginning of their studies, and may select from the following courses to fulfill their requirements for the major.

Core Courses

AMC 200 Ancient Empires
CLAS 207 Greek Civilization: From Homer to Alexander the Great
CLAS 208 Roman Civilization

Anthropology

ANTH 203 Human Antiquity: An Introduction to Physical Anthropology and Prehistory
ANTH 205 Introduction to Archaeology
ANTH 325 Self, Sex, and Society in Ancient Greece
ANTH 345 The Politics of the Past: Archaeology in Social Context
ANTH 362 Archaeological Field Techniques
ANTH 363 Early Civilizations
ANTH 377 The Ancient City
ANTH 460 Advanced Archaeological Theory
ANTH 474 Advanced Seminar on the Prehistoric Landscape

Classical Studies

CLAS 209 Greek and Roman Drama
CLAS 220 The Novel in Classical Antiquity
CLAS 222 Perspectives on Greek Tragedy
CLAS 225 Women in Greece and Rome
CLAS 315 Socrates: The Man and His Philosophy
CLAS 316 Democracy and Political Theory in Ancient Greece
CLAS 318 The Invention of Paganism in the Roman Empire
CLAS 335 Myth and Storytelling: Ancient, Medieval, and Modern Traditions
CLAS 337 Epic and Novel
CLAS 351 Epic and Saga
CLAS 352 Periclean Athens
CLAS 491 Special Topics
CLAS 492 Special Topics

Greek Studies

GREE 101 Introduction to Ancient Greek I
GREE 102 Introduction to Ancient Greek II
GREE 201 Intermediate Greek I: Prose
GREE 202 Intermediate Greek II
GREE 301 Advanced Greek I
GREE 302 Advanced Greek II
GREE 491 Directed Reading
GREE 492 Directed Reading

Latin

LATI 101 Elementary Latin I
LATI 102 Elementary Latin II
LATI 201 Intermediate Latin I: Prose
LATI 202 Intermediate Latin II
LATI 301 Advanced Latin I
LATI 302 Advanced Latin II
LATI 310 Advanced Latin
LATI 312 Advanced Latin
LATI 313 Advanced Latin
LATI 491 Directed Reading
LATI 492 Directed Reading

History

HIST 113 God, Time, and History
HIST 152 Freshman Seminar in Ancient History
HIST 200 Ancient Empires
HIST 202 Introduction to Medieval Civilization: The Early Middle Ages
HIST 207 Greek Civilization: From Homer to Alexander the Great
HIST 273 Ancient and Medieval Jewish History: 70–1492
HIST 281 The Middle East from the Prophet Muhammad to Muhammad Ali
HIST 283 Women in the Islamic World
HIST 306 Politics and Society in Ancient Greece
HIST 307 Imperial Rome, from Caesar to Diocletian
HIST 308 The World of Late Antiquity
HIST 309 Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire
HIST 316 The Invention of Paganism in the Roman Empire
HIST 320 Science in Antiquity and the Middle Ages
HIST 325 Introduction to Medieval Civilization: The Early Middle Ages (enriched version)
HIST 373 Ancient and Medieval Jewish History: 70–1492 (enriched version)
HIST 382 Classical Islamic Cultures
HIST 445 Jews and Christians: Perceptions of the Other
HIST 451 Philosophies and Theologies of History
HIST 460 Advanced Seminar in Ancient History

History of Art
HART 101 Introduction to the History of Western Art: Prehistoric to Gothic
HART 205 Architecture and the City I: Antiquity–17th Century
HART 229 Independent Study in Early Christian, Byzantine, and Islamic Art
HART 310 The First Civilizations
HART 311 Art of the Ancient Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean
HART 312 Greek Art and Architecture
HART 313 The Discovery of the Mind
HART 314 Art and Architecture in the Hellenistic World
HART 315 Roman Art and Architecture
HART 316 Greek Sculpture
HART 318 Special Topics in Ancient Art
HART 319 Independent Study in Ancient Art
HART 320 Age of Augustus

Linguistics
LING 437 History of Linguistics

Philosophy
PHIL 201 History of Philosophy I
PHIL 301 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
PHIL 307 Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL 327 History of Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL 501 Seminar in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy

Religious Studies
RELI 122 The Bible and Its Interpreters
RELI 125 Introduction to Biblical Hebrew I
RELI 126 Introduction to Biblical Hebrew II
RELI 200 The Bible in Western Tradition
RELI 221 The Life of the Prophet Muhammad
RELI 223 Qur'an and Commentary
RELI 302 Jewish–Christian Dialogue
RELI 307 History of Christianity: The First Four Centuries
RELI 308 Canonical Gospels: Narrative and Social Setting
RELI 350 Sacred Scriptures in Monotheistic Faiths
RELI 370 Dynamics of Classical Judaism
RELI 382 Biblical Theology
RELI 383 The Dead Sea Scrolls
RELI 410 Apocalypse Then and Now
RELI 441 Popular Religion in the Middle East

University Courses
UNIV 302 Communication, Cognition, and Culture

See AMC in the Courses of Instruction section.