Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations

The School of Humanities

Director and Adviser
Michael Maas

Professors
James D. Faubion
Werner H. Kelber
Michael Maas
Roderick J. McIntosh
Susan Keech McIntosh
Donald Ray Morrison
Harvey E. Yunis

Associate Professors
Hilary S. Mackie
Carol E. Quillen
Paula Sanders

Assistant Professors
David Cook
Eva Haverkamp
Matthias Henze
Scott McGill
Caroline Quenemoen
Lecturer
Kristine Gilmartin Wallace

Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow
Michael Decker

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 20–23). Majors in Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations must compete 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.
Students must take one course from three of the five following categories: 1) Graeco-Roman Civilization, 2) Islamic Civilization, 3) Jewish Civilization, 4) Christian Civilization, and 5) Archaeological Methods & Theory. In addition, students must take one course that addresses the creation, transmission, and reception of traditions in the Mediterranean world. Courses that meet this requirement are designated as “Themes Across Time.”

Students must also fulfill a comparative requirement by taking either one course that, in and of itself, treats two different cultural traditions (designated “Comparative”) or two separate courses on similar themes but from different cultures (e.g., Women in Greece & Rome, Women in the Islamic World). Although not required, courses in ancient languages are recommended. A minimum of five courses must be taken at the 300 level or above.

Please note that not all courses listed below will be offered during the academic year. For a current list of all AMC courses that will be offered in fall 2003 and spring 2004, please visit the AMC web site at http://amc.rice.edu.

Core Courses
AMC 200 Origins of Western Civilization
CLAS 207 Greek Civilization: From Homer to Alexander the Great
CLAS 208 Roman Civilization

Graeco-Roman Civilization
AMC 200 Origins of Western Civilization
ANTH 325 Self, Sex, and Society in Ancient Greece
ANTH 363 Early Civilizations
ANTH 377 The Ancient City
CLAS 101 First-Year Seminar: Socrates: The Man & His Philosophy
CLAS 207 Greek Civilization: From Homer to Alexander the Great
CLAS 208 Roman Civilization
CLAS 209 Greek & Roman Drama
CLAS 212 Classical Civilization: Rome
CLAS 220 The Novel in Classical Antiquity
CLAS 222 Perspectives on Greek Tragedy
CLAS 225 Women in Greece & Rome
CLAS 312 Greek Art & Architecture
CLAS 315 Roman Art & Architecture
CLAS 316 Democracy & Political Theory in Ancient Greece
CLAS 318 The Invention of Paganism in the Roman Empire
CLAS 335 Myth & Storytelling: Ancient, Medieval, & Modern Traditions
CLAS 337 Epic & Novel
CLAS 351 Epic & Saga

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
HART 205 Architecture & the City I: Antiquity through the 17th Century
HART 310 The First Civilizations
HART 312 Greek Art & Architecture
HART 313 The Discovery of the Mind
HART 315 Roman Art & Architecture
HART 417 Buried Cities: The Art & Architecture of Akrotiri, Pompeii, & Herculaneum
HIST 113 God, Time & History
HIST 151 First Seminar: The Hero & His Companion from Gilgamesh to Sam Spade
HIST 200 Origins of Western Civilizations
HIST 202 Introduction to Medieval Civilization I: The Early Middle Ages
HIST 207 Greek Civilization: From Homer to Alexander the Great
HIST 289 Greek & Latin Readings
HIST 307 Imperial Rome from Caesar to Diocletian
HIST 308 The World of Late Antiquity
HIST 316 The Invention of Paganism in the Roman Empire
HIST 325 Introduction to Medieval Civilization I: The Early Middle Ages (enriched version)
HIST 460  Advanced Seminar in Ancient History
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: Literature of Exile in the Roman Tradition
LATI 302  Advanced Latin: Roman Epic
LATI 303  Advanced Latin: Cicero & Catullus
LATI 310  Advanced Latin: Virgil
LATI 311  Latin Pastoral Poetry
LATI 312  Advanced Latin: Ovid
LATI 313  Advanced Latin: Literature & Society in the Latin Republic & Catullus

Islamic Civilization
HIST 281  Pre-Modern Middle East History: The Middle East from the Prophet Muhammad to Muhammad Ali
REL 141  Introduction to Islam
REL 221  The Life of the Prophet Muhammad
REL 350  Scriptures in Monotheistic Faiths
REL 354  Asian Apocalyptic Movements
REL 441  Popular Religion & Magic

Jewish Civilization
HIST 445  Jews & Christians: Perceptions of the Other
REL 350  Scriptures in Monotheistic Faiths

Christian Civilization
HIST 445  Jews & Christians: Perceptions of the Other
REL 122  The Bible & Its Interpreters
REL 125  Introduction to Biblical Hebrew I
REL 126  Introduction to Biblical Hebrew II
REL 127  Intermediate Biblical Hebrew Hebrew III
REL 128  Intermediate Biblical Hebrew Hebrew IV
REL 200  The Bible in Western Tradition

ARCH 223  Qu’ran & Commentary
REL 308  Canonical Gospels: Narrative & Social Setting
REL 350  Scriptures in Monotheistic Faiths
REL 354  Asian Apocalyptic Movements
REL 383  The Dead Sea Scrolls
REL 410  Apocalypse Then & Now

Archaeological Methods & Theory
ANTH 203  Human Antiquity: An Introduction to Physical Anthropology & Prehistory
ANTH 205  Introduction to Archaeology
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 425  Advanced Topics in Archaeology
ANTH 460  Advanced Archaeological Theory
ANTH 474  Advanced Seminar on the Prehistoric Landscape

Themes Across Time
AMC 200  Origins of Western Civilizations
ANTH 363  Early Civilizations
HART 310  The First Civilizations

Comparative
CLAS 225  Women in Greece & Rome
HIST 445  Jews & Christians: Perceptions of the Other

Other Courses
HART 101  Introduction to the History of Western Art: Prehistoric to Gothic
PHIL 201  History of Philosophy I
PHIL 301  Ancient & Medieval Philosophy
PHIL 307  Social & Political Philosophy
PHIL 327  History of Social & Political Philosophy
PHIL 501  Seminar in Ancient & Medieval Philosophy

See AMC in the Courses of Instruction section.