The School of Humanities

Degree Offered: BA

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. Our 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 BA in Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations

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 also must 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.
For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (Undergraduate Students section, pages 2–5). Majors in Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations must complete at least 30 semester hours (10 courses). Students may select from the following courses to fulfill their requirements for the major.

Please note that not all courses listed below will be offered during the academic year. For a current list of AMC courses, please visit the AMC Web site at amc.rice.edu.

**Graeco-Roman Civilization**

ANTH 321 Text as Property, Property as Text: Across the Ages
ANTH 325 Sex, Self, and Society in Ancient Greece
ANTH 363 Early Civilizations
CLAS 101 Socrates: The Man and His Philosophy
CLAS 107 Greek Civilization and Its Legacy
CLAS 108 Roman Civilization and Its Legacy
CLAS 209 Greek and Roman Drama
CLAS 220 The Novel in Classical Antiquity
CLAS 225 Women in Greece and Rome
CLAS 235 Classical Mythology: Interpretation, Origins, and Influence
CLAS 311 Text as Property, Property as Text: Across the Ages
CLAS 312 Greek Art and Architecture
CLAS 315 Roman Art and Architecture
CLAS 316 Democracy and Political Theory in Ancient Greece
CLAS 318 The Invention of Paganism in the Roman Empire
CLAS 320 The Age of Augustus
CLAS 336 The Origin of the Languages of Europe
CLAS 337 Epic and Novel
ENGL 335 Epic and Novel
FSEM 101 Socrates: The Man and His Philosophy
FSEM 151 The Hero and His Companion from Gilgamesh to Sam Spade
GREE 101 Introduction to Ancient Greek I
GREE 102 Elementary Greek II
GREE 201 Intermediate Greek I: Prose
GREE 202 Intermediate Greek II: Prose
GREE 301 Advanced Greek
HART 204 Art as Civilization
HART 218 Special Topics: Ancient Greek Sites
HART 219 Independent Study: Ancient Art
HART 228 Special Topics: Christian, Byzantine, and Islamic Art
HART 229 Independent Study: Christian, Byzantine, and Islamic Art
HART 312 Greek Art and Architecture
HART 315 Roman Art and Architecture
HART 320 The Age of Augustus
HART 417 Buried Cities: The Art and Architecture of Akrotiri, Pompeii, and Herculaneum
HART 428 Special Topics: Early Christian, Byzantine, and Islamic Art
HART 429 Independent Study: Early Christian, Byzantine, and Islamic Art
HIST 113 God, Time, and History
HIST 151 The Hero and His Companion from Gilgamesh to Spiderman
HIST 200 Origins of Western Civilizations: Ancient Empires
HIST 202 Introduction to Medieval Civilization: The Early Middle Ages
HIST 223 Empires and Communities in the Middle Ages
HIST 257 Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe
HIST 262 Rome: City and Empire
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 323 Empires and Communities in the Middle Ages
HIST 357 Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe
HIST 358 European Intellectual History from Augustine to Descartes
HIST 382 Classical Islamic Cultures
HIST 437 Christians and Jews in the Medieval Islamic World
HIST 438 Women and Gender in the Medieval Islamic Societies
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: Literature of Exile in the Roman Tradition
LATI 302 Advanced Latin: Roman Epic
LATI 303 Advanced Latin: Plautus and Terence
LATI 311 Latin Pastoral Poetry
LATI 312 Advanced Latin: Ovid
LATI 313 Cicero and Catullus: Literature and Society in the Roman Republic
MDST 101 Elementary Latin I
MDST 102 Elementary Latin II
MDST 202 Introduction to Medieval Civilization: The Early Middle Ages
MDST 211 Intermediate Latin I: Prose
MDST 212 Intermediate Latin II
MDST 223 Empires and Communities in the Middle Ages
MDST 257 Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe
MDST 308 The World of Late Antiquity
MDST 357 Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe
MDST 358 European Intellectual History from Augustine to Descartes
MDST 382 Classical Islamic Cultures
MDST 385 Christians and Jews in the Medieval Islamic World
MDST 438 Women and Gender in the Medieval Islamic Societies
MDST 460 Advanced Seminar in Ancient History
RELI 123 God, Time, and History
RELI 125 Introduction to Biblical Hebrew I
RELI 127 Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I
RELI 128 Intermediate Biblical Hebrew II
RELI 209 Introduction to Judaism
RELI 350 Sacred Scriptures in Monotheistic Faiths
RELI 383 The Dead Sea Scrolls
VGST 332 Sex, Self, and Society in Ancient Greece
VGST 455 Women and Gender in the Medieval Islamic Societies

Islamic Civilization
ASIA 221 The Life of the Prophet Muhammad
ASIA 441 Popular Religion in the Middle East
HIST 382 Classical Islamic Cultures
HIST 437 Christians and Jews in the Medieval Islamic World
HIST 438 Women and Gender in the Medieval Islamic Societies
MDST 382 Classical Islamic Cultures
MDST 385 Christians and Jews in the Medieval Islamic World
MDST 438 Women and Gender in the Medieval Islamic Societies
RELI 141 Introduction to Islam
RELI 221 The Life of the Prophet Muhammad
RELI 223 Qur'an and Commentary
RELI 350 Sacred Scriptures in Monotheistic Faiths
VGST 455 Women and Gender in the Medieval Islamic Societies

Jewish Civilization
HIST 113 God, Time, and History
HUMA 113 God, Time, and History
RELI 122 The Bible and Its Interpreters
RELI 123 God, Time, and History
RELI 125 Introduction to Biblical Hebrew I
RELI 126 Introduction to Biblical Hebrew II
RELI 127 Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I
RELI 128 Intermediate Biblical Hebrew II
RELI 209 Introduction to Judaism
RELI 210 Ethics in Judaism
RELI 350 Sacred Scriptures in Monotheistic Faiths
RELI 383 The Dead Sea Scrolls

Christian Civilization
RELI 122 The Bible and Its Interpreters
RELI 125 Introduction to Biblical Hebrew I
RELI 126 Introduction to Biblical Hebrew II
RELI 127 Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I
RELI 128 Intermediate Biblical Hebrew II
RELI 223 Qur’an and Commentary
RELI 243 The Book of Genesis
RELI 282 Introduction to Christianity
RELI 350 Sacred Scriptures in Monotheistic Faiths
RELI 381 The Messiah
RELI 383 The Dead Sea Scrolls
RELI 410 Apocalypse Then and Now

Archaeological Methods and Theory
ANTH 203 Human Antiquity: An Introduction to Physical Anthropology and Prehistory
ANTH 205 Introduction to Archaeology
ANTH 345 The Politics of the Past: Archaeology in Social Context
ANTH 362 Archaeological Field Techniques
ANTH 425 Advanced Topics in Archaeology
ANTH 460 Advanced Archaeological Theory

Themes Across Time
ANTH 321 Text as Property, Property as Text: Across the Ages
ANTH 363 Early Civilizations
CLAS 311 Text as Property, Property as Text: Across the Ages
FSEM 151 The Hero and His Companion from Gilgamesh to Sam Spade
HART 101 Introduction to the History of Western Art: Prehistoric to Gothic
HIST 113 God, Time, and History
HIST 151 The Hero and His Companion from Gilgamesh to Spiderman
HIST 200 Origins of Western Civilizations: Ancient Empires
HIST 308 The World of Late Antiquity
HIST 358 European Intellectual History from Augustine to Descartes

HUMA 113 God, Time, and History
MDST 308 The World of Late Antiquity
MDST 358 European Intellectual History from Augustine to Descartes
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
RELI 123 God, Time, and History

Comparative
CLAS 209 Greek and Roman Drama
CLAS 225 Women in Greece and Rome
CLAS 336 The Origin of the Languages of Europe
CLAS 337 Epic and Novel
ENGL 335 Epic and Novel
HIST 357 Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe
HIST 437 Christians and Jews in the Medieval Islamic World
HIST 438 Women and Gender in the Medieval Islamic Societies
MDST 357 Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe
MDST 385 Christians and Jews in the Medieval Islamic World
MDST 438 Women and Gender in the Medieval Islamic Societies
PHIL 501 Seminar in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
WGST 225 Women in Greece and Rome
WGST 455 Women and Gender in the Medieval Islamic Societies