

NEWS FROM THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF THE CLASSICS

NOTABENE



VOLUME 30, NO. 2: COMMENCEMENT 2025

Notes from the Chair

by Naomi Weiss

As Spring 2025 draws to a close, I think we are all experiencing a mix of emotions: sadness as well as joy, anxiety as well as excitement. We have a lot to celebrate and look forward to, but we are also saying goodbye to beloved friends and colleagues. We are delighted by our students' achievements but are also worried for their well-being in the face of grave threats to the university. I hope that this issue of *Nota Bene* will remind us all of our department's great strengths regardless of external pressures and keep us optimistic for the future of classical studies at Harvard.

Numerous events this past semester, both within the department and beyond, have brought our community together and expanded our intellectual horizons. In addition to many other talks, we enjoyed three Loeb Classical Lectures: Roger Bagnall (NYU) on "Oil and the Deacon: New Light on the Manichaeans of Egypt's Great Oasis"; John Ma (Columbia) on "Depth and Scale in the History of the *Polis*"; and Hindy Najman (Oxford) on "Pluriformity and Compositional Practices in Ancient Jewish Texts." John Gibert and Yvona Trnka-Amrhein, both alumni of our department, visited us from the University of Colorado Boulder to host a workshop on the new Euripides papyrus, discovered in Egypt in November 2022 and published last August. Nick Cahill (University of Wisconsin-Madison) delivered the Sardis Biennial Lecture. Every session of Comparative Approaches to Language Learning in the Premodern World, a new workshop series, was packed. Ancient Studies at Harvard concluded a year of exciting programming with a faculty symposium. Many of us went to see Kate Hamill's *The Odyssey* at the American Repertory Theater, and David Elmer, Emily Greenwood, and I participated in a panel discussion about the production with an audience of over 300. A few days later, we hosted a Q&A with Kate Hamill herself. Current and prospective concentrators celebrated Valentine's Day by reading ancient letters on papyrus and penning their own. Graduate students presented on their dissertation projects at our Prospectus Colloquium. The Classical Club organized a table reading of Heliodorus's *Aethiopica* with a view to staging a production next year. And that is just a sampling from a single semester! It has been a busy and exciting year.

Now, with Commencement, we celebrate our graduates. You can read about each of them in the pages to come. Departing with their BAs and PhDs in hand, they should all be immensely proud of everything they

Cover: Boylston Hall. Rose Lincoln/ Harvard University.

Next page: Rhododendrons in bloom outside Boylston the week of commencement.



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR (CONT.)

have accomplished here over the past few years. We wish them every success as they embark on new adventures.

Amid such celebration, there is also loss. Jared Hudson, who has been a treasured teacher, advisor, mentor, colleague, and friend in our department for the past eleven years, will leave in July. His absence will be keenly felt. Ryan Pasco, our wonderful Undergraduate Program Coordinator and Publications Coordinator since 2022, is also departing but will continue to work with us through a new role as Associate Director for Fellowships and Academic Programs at Harvard’s Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, DC.

As we turn toward the future, we look forward to welcoming new faculty to the department. Peter Osorio, currently Assistant Professor of Classics at the University of Maryland, College Park, will arrive here in July. An expert on Hellenistic and post-Hellenistic philosophy, Peter will strengthen the study of ancient Greek and Roman philosophy at Harvard. Kathleen Garland, a classical archaeologist, will join us as a lecturer. We feel very lucky indeed that these appointments went through just before the university’s hiring pause.

Finally, a note of thanks as well as celebration. As everyone knows, Teresa Wu, our Director of Administration, has long been the lifeblood of this department. AY 2024–25 has been her 35-year anniversary of working at Harvard. We are hugely grateful to her for three decades of dedicated work and community building in Classics. If you ever want to know anything about this department or indeed university, go to Teresa!

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Class of 2025

Classics Concentrators



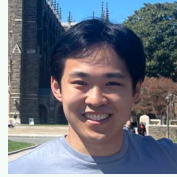
HALEY HARWELL
ALGRANT



KATIE BURSTEIN



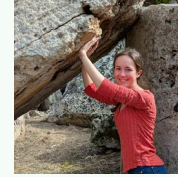
JOHN CORCORAN



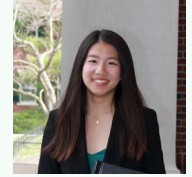
JONATHAN FU



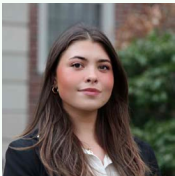
ALEXANDROS
GAFFNEY



OLIVIA GLUNZ



ASHLEY GONG



OLIVIA JASKOLSKA



JANE JOY
JOSEFOWICZ



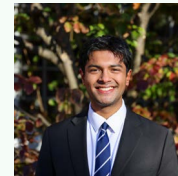
MADELEINE
RISKIN-KUTZ



AIDAN SCULLY



CARTER STEWART



TEJAS S. VADALI



Seniors: Some Future Plans

Katie Burstein will be starting an MPhil in the History and Philosophy of Science at Trinity College, University of Cambridge as a Rausing, Williamson, and Lipton Trust Scholar.

John Corcoran will be looking for clinical research positions in the Boston area with eventual plans to apply to med school.

Jonathan Fu will be working for two years as a paralegal at Skadden before applying to and attending law school.

Olivia Glunz will read the MPhil in Theology at the University of Oxford, with the support of the Barry Scholarship.

Ashley Gong will be a software engineer at Watershed, a climate tech startup based in San Francisco that tracks emissions and sustainability data for corporations.

Alexandros Gaffney will be attending the University of Saint Thomas to finish his last year of Division 1 hockey and hopes to keep playing professionally after that.

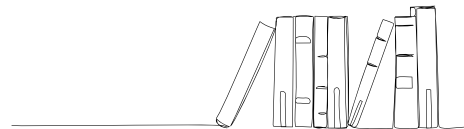
Olivia Jaskolska will be working in wealth management in New York City.

Madeleine Riskin-Kutz will begin an MPhil in Ancient Greek and/or Roman History at the University of Oxford this fall, with the support of the Ertegun Graduate Scholarship.

Aidan Scully will pursue a Master's in Religions in Late Antiquity at the University of Cambridge this fall.

Tejas S. Vadali will be working as an analyst at Kobre & Kim in their New York City office before matriculating at Harvard Law School, tentatively in Fall 2027.

Senior Honors Theses



Haley Harwell Algrant

Art, Film, and Visual Studies (AFVS);
Classical Languages and Literatures

“The Joy of Being Bad: The *Scripta Puella* in Augustan Rome and Reagan’s America”

Advisors: Maryam Hoseini (AFVS), Rachel Love

Katie Burstein

History of Science (HoS); Classical Civilizations

“The Body Restored: Constructions of the Patient in the Cult of Asclepius”

Advisors: Hannah Marcus (HoS), Mark Schiefsky

Jonathan Fu

Classical Languages and Literatures

“Uncovering Similarity in Dissimilarity: Simile in the Works of Catullus”

Advisor: Richard Thomas; Asst. Advisor: Sarah Gonzalez

Alexandros Gaffney

Classical Civilizations

“Adamantios Koraes: The Socrates, Solon and Pericles of Modern Greece”

Advisor: Panagiotis Roilos; Asst. Advisor: Alexander Reed

Olivia Glunz

History; Classical Languages and Literatures

“Beyond Words: *Logos* and Sacramentality in the Pseudo-Dionysian Tradition”

Advisors: James Hankins (History), Jan Ziolkowski

Ashley Gong

Computer Science (CS); Classical Languages and Literatures

“Intertext.AI: Augmented Close Reading for Classical Latin using AI for Intertextual Exploration”

Advisors: Elena Glassman (CS), Mark Schiefsky

Olivia Jaskolska

Classical Languages and Literatures

“Why Friends Are Indispensable: The Importance of Friendship for the Good Life in Seneca’s *Epistulae Morales ad Lucilium*”

Advisor: Kathleen Coleman; Asst. Advisor: Will Edwards

Jane Joy Josefowicz

History of Art and Architecture (HAA); Classical Civilizations

“Paradise in the Reconquered City: Light, Revelation, and Justinianic Propaganda in the Mosaics of Ravenna’s San Vitale”

Advisors: Ioli Kalavrezou (HAA), Meg Andrews

Madeleine Riskin-Kutz

Classical Languages and Literatures; Linguistics

“The Witches and River Goddesses of Ancient Gaul in their Inscribed Traces: A Study of the Adaptation of Greco-Roman Inscriptional Practices to the Gaulish Language”

Advisors: David Elmer, Jay Jasanoff (Linguistics)

Carter Stewart

Classical Civilizations

“Gregory of Tours and the Perception of the Fall of Rome”

Advisor: Alexander Riehle; Asst. Advisor: Louis Zweig

Tejas S. Vadali

Classical Civilizations; Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC)

“The Monsoon Road: The Stratigraphy of Terminology in the Shadow of ‘Indo-Roman Trade’”

Advisors: Paul Kosmin, Peter Der Manuelian (NELC)

Senior Department Awards

Corey Fellowship

for graduates pursuing further study of classics in Europe

Aidan Scully

Department Prizes

for academic achievement and contributions to the departmental community

Haley Algrant, Katie Burstein, John Corcoran, Ashley Gong, Madeleine Riskin-Kutz, Tejas S. Vadali

Louis Curtis Prize

for excellence in Latin

John Corcoran, Ashley Gong, Aidan Scully

William King Richardson Scholarship

for excellence in Greek and Latin

Jonathan Fu, Olivia Glunz

David Taggart Clark Prize

for the senior chosen to deliver the Latin oration at Commencement

Aidan Scully

Department Thesis Prizes

Classical Reception Thesis Prize

for a thesis in classical reception

Olivia Glunz

History Thesis Prize

for a thesis in history

Tejas S. Vadali

Pease Thesis Prize

for a thesis in Latin

Ashley Gong

Smyth Thesis Prize

for a thesis in Greek

Katie Burstein

Vermeule Thesis Prize

for a thesis in classical archaeology

Jane Joy Josefowicz and Madeleine Riskin-Kutz

Senior Reflections

Read farewell messages from some of our graduating seniors.



Haley Algrant

I would like to thank all of my advisors, mentors, and friends from Harvard for helping me along the journey. And congratulations to all of the graduates and their families!

Exploring the world with faculty has been an amazing privilege and thrill, and these adventures cultivated remarkable memories that I will cherish for a lifetime.

I will carry with me the questions, values, and wonder that the department and its commitment to humanistic scholarship have instilled in me, as well as immense gratitude for the people who made it all possible.



Katie Burstein

The Classics Department has been my Academy and my Agora at Harvard, a marvelous center of learning and friendship. It has shaped the way that I see the past and present, and formed me as an interdis-

ciplinary scholar. I am deeply grateful for the incredible mentors, lifelong friends, and joy that the department has fostered.

In courses throughout my time in the department, I have been profoundly inspired by the urgency with which faculty have approached connecting their work with topics that expand what studying the classics can and should mean. From Bob Dylan's intertextuality to archaeological urban fabrics, their teaching has shown how this field speaks meaningfully to the concerns of our present moment, and challenged me to ask new questions of the ancient past.

I am particularly thankful to the faculty members who have shared their infectious love of classics with me and provided innumerable chances for intellectual adventure, including Professors Mark Schiefsky, Greg Nagy, Emma Dench, Paul Kosmin, Richard Thomas, Margaret Andrews, David Elmer, Emily Greenwood, and Naomi Weiss. Additionally, I am particularly grateful to Ryan, Teresa, and Alyson, for their welcoming smiles and steadfast support.

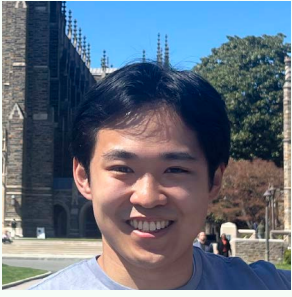
A special joy has been the opportunity to travel through courses and summer programming with fellow students and faculty mentors.



John Corcoran

Over the past four years, I have found the Classics Department to be my home on this campus. Coming in as a premed freshman, I never would have imagined that I would one day call myself a classics concentrator, yet now as a premed senior I couldn't be any prouder to. Discovering my passion for Latin, traveling to ancient palaces a continent away, and dining at the Faculty Club don't even begin to cover the wonderful experiences I have had with the department, turning a curriculum into a home. I can't begin to express all my gratitude in a single reflection, but I would like to thank Naomi Weiss, Ryan Pasco, Teresa Wu, and Alyson Lynch for guiding me on my course of study; Ivy Livingston, Allison Resnick, Philip Wilson, Rachel Philbrick, Jared Hudson, and Phoebe Lakin for honing my love for Latin; Paul Kosmin, Emma Dench, Mark Schiefsky, Eli Aizikowitz, and Alex Vega for introducing me to classical history and philosophy; and Kathleen Coleman for always being a friendly face and excellent resource. You were all beyond helpful and always welcoming, and I am happy to have you as friends and mentors. You made my time here nothing short of magical.

SENIOR REFLECTIONS (CONT.)



Jonathan Fu

There are so many people in the department that I would like to thank. Whether it be my wonderful first-year advisor Teresa Wu, my thesis advisor Richard Thomas, or the

many graduate students who have helped me along the way—John Kee, Xiaoxiao Chen, Nate Herter, and Sarah Gonzalez—the wonderful assortment of students and faculty in Boylston have made my experience of Harvard and the Classics Department all the more enjoyable.



Alexandros Gaffney

My time at Harvard was special. My time here and at the Classics Department made me the person I am today. I learned the depth of the Ancient Greek language, the difference between just and unjust wars and the rich morals that transcend time through the Ancient Greek playwrights.

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Olivia Glunz

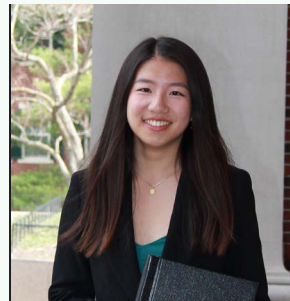
Though I did not initially intend to study classics in college, this wonderful department has become an intellectual and personal home for me at Harvard. My courses, from Professor

Rau's Herodotus class to Professor Hudson's Latin composition seminar, have introduced me to myriad thinkers, locations, disciplines, and ideas. I came into Harvard knowing very little about ancient and medieval history, philosophy, and literature; now, after countless fascinating discussions in and out of the classroom, research projects, translation assignments, visits to Houghton and the Harvard Art Museum, and a trip to Sicily, I will leave college with a greater understanding of the classical and medieval worlds and a deep

appreciation for their relevance to our own age.

Particularly memorable and enjoyable was my thesis experience. Exploring the philosophical and theological thought of Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite and his earliest Western successors provided a delightful challenge and served as a wonderful climax to my undergraduate studies. I am so grateful to my phenomenal adviser, Jan Ziolkowski, who has time and again impressed me with his brilliant insights, helpful edits, and unflagging enthusiasm. Jan, thank you for your guidance, your brilliance, and your generosity.

I would also like to thank Naomi Weiss, Paul Kosmin, and Ryan Pasco for their kindness and support over the last four years; my professors and teaching fellows, especially Alex Riehle and Susannah Wright; and my good friends Christine Corcoran and Joseph Foo. *Amicitiae nostrae memoriam spero sempiternam fore* (Cic. *Amic.* 15). I will miss you all!



Ashley Gong

My first-ever experience with classics at Harvard was waking up at 8:52 a.m. for my 9:00 a.m. Greek 1 class. I sprinted to Sever, only to be greeted by the most

encouraging Teaching Fellow and classmates as I began one of my most difficult subjects to date. Safe to say, the rest is history. I am truly so grateful for all the wonderful people I've met in the department and all the rich, complex, and rewarding courses I've taken in Boylston. From learning about intertextuality for the first time in Richard Thomas's *Eclogues* and *Georgics* course and struggling through Persius in Latin 112b, to singing karaoke on my last night in Sicily, I've learned so much more about how to read and learn curiously, how to appreciate history and cultural identity, and how to enjoy moments today by enriching them with the memories of the past.

Throughout my time at Harvard, the Classics Department has supported anything I

SENIOR REFLECTIONS (CONT.)

wanted to try. I am so grateful for how easy it was to pursue a joint concentration in computer science and classics, and I've easily waded my way through an unconventional courseload with incredible advising and even better student-faculty lunches. My senior thesis, which would not exist with the department's support and the guidance of my advisor, Mark Schiefsky, will hopefully give back a bit to this department and the field of classics: I introduce AI as a tool to enhance current literary methods rather than replace them with poorly generated conjectures. Each class I've taken at the department helped me hone the skills to closely read a text and define the need I tried to address in that process.

Overall, I cannot express anything beyond the deepest gratitude for everyone I've met in the department and all the wonderful memories I've made in these four years. To my classmates, user study participants, and fellow Sicilian buffoons, thank you for making me laugh, think, ask questions, and make libations. Thank you as well to all of my professors, teaching fellows, and the department administrators who make everything happen. I'm eternally grateful to the Classics Department!



Olivia Jaskolska

Concentrating in classics was one of the most fulfilling parts of my time at Harvard. The level of dedication and support from the department is unlike any I have ever experienced.

My intellectual curiosity has been shaped and refined during my time studying classics, and I am beyond grateful that I had the opportunity to explore my passion for Latin and Ancient Greek language. Writing my senior thesis was one of the greatest challenges I've faced, and I am so overjoyed to have been able to complete a work I am proud of and I am forever thankful for the advice I received along the way. I will be forever grateful for the Classics Department and the love for the classics that it has fostered in me.



Madeleine Riskin-Kutz

More than any other place on campus, the Classics Department has been my home away from home for four years. From my

freshman fall Latin course on Cicero's and Pliny the Younger's letters with Dr. Rachel Philbrick to my thesis in classics and linguistics supervised by Professors David Elmer and Jay Jasanoff on the disappearance of the Gaulish language, each course has not only shaped the way I think about the ancient world, but transformed my thinking across disciplines.

I really admire the way the department's faculty members, both in their own research and in their teaching, urge the classics community to think critically about our field's past, and to look at the understudied aspects of the ancient world. Their deeply reflective dedication to the continued pursuit of humanistic study has been foundational in defining my values and goals as a scholar and a person.

I'm so grateful to the professors who have given me the tools of language study, writing, critical and historical thinking, and an introduction to the many subfields of classics: Professors Kathleen Coleman, Emma Dench, Susanne Ebbinghaus, David Elmer, Jared Hudson, Paul Kosmin, Gregory Nagy, Rachel Philbrick, Richard Thomas, and Naomi Weiss.

Heartfelt thanks to Alyson Lynch, Ryan Pasco, and Teresa Wu for their warm and expert support in my school year and summer endeavors, and their guidance and kindness throughout. Thanks to the wonderful graduate students who have been mentors and friends both inside and outside classes, and to my friends and classmates who are inspiring and so much fun in conversation and collaboration.

I will miss the Classics Department very much, but I know I will always carry with me the gifts it has given me.



Aidan Scully

My training in the classics, which began in earnest with my dad reading me bedtime stories from *The Aeneid for Boys and Girls*, has flourished here at Harvard. I have been supremely

fortunate to have studied antiquity here, and I owe a debt of gratitude to scholars too numerous to count.

My Harvard instructors have exposed me to new ways of approaching, understanding, and employing the classics that have encouraged me to reflect not only on antiquity but also on the continuing relevance of antiquity today. Prof. Rachel Love’s Latin literature course on Livy and the Gauls brought ancient racial and ethnic dialogues into modernity. Prof. Kimberley Patton’s course *Lives of the Special Dead* situated Greek and Roman funerary and commemorative practices in religious histories extending to the modern day. An unforgettable junior tutorial with Louie Zweig encouraged me to think critically about intercultural dialogue in antiquity and how we selectively receive those dialogues in the modern world. In each of these courses (and many more), I have been reminded that our work can and must strive toward the betterment of the world.

We live in a pivotal time for the study of the ancient past. All around us, the models of Greece and Rome are marshalled in support of political causes that seek to undermine equality and human flourishing. If my time in Harvard’s Classics Department has taught me one thing, it is that our discipline must not be an ivory tower, a repository for *recherché* discussions conducted only for the benefit of those deemed worthy. We must be scholars of antiquity in and of the world; that is the classics I crave, and that is the classics I have found here at Harvard. To the many professors, instructors, and peers who have shaped my academic and personal journey: thank you, and I look forward to supporting your work to better our discipline and our world.



Tejas S. Vadali

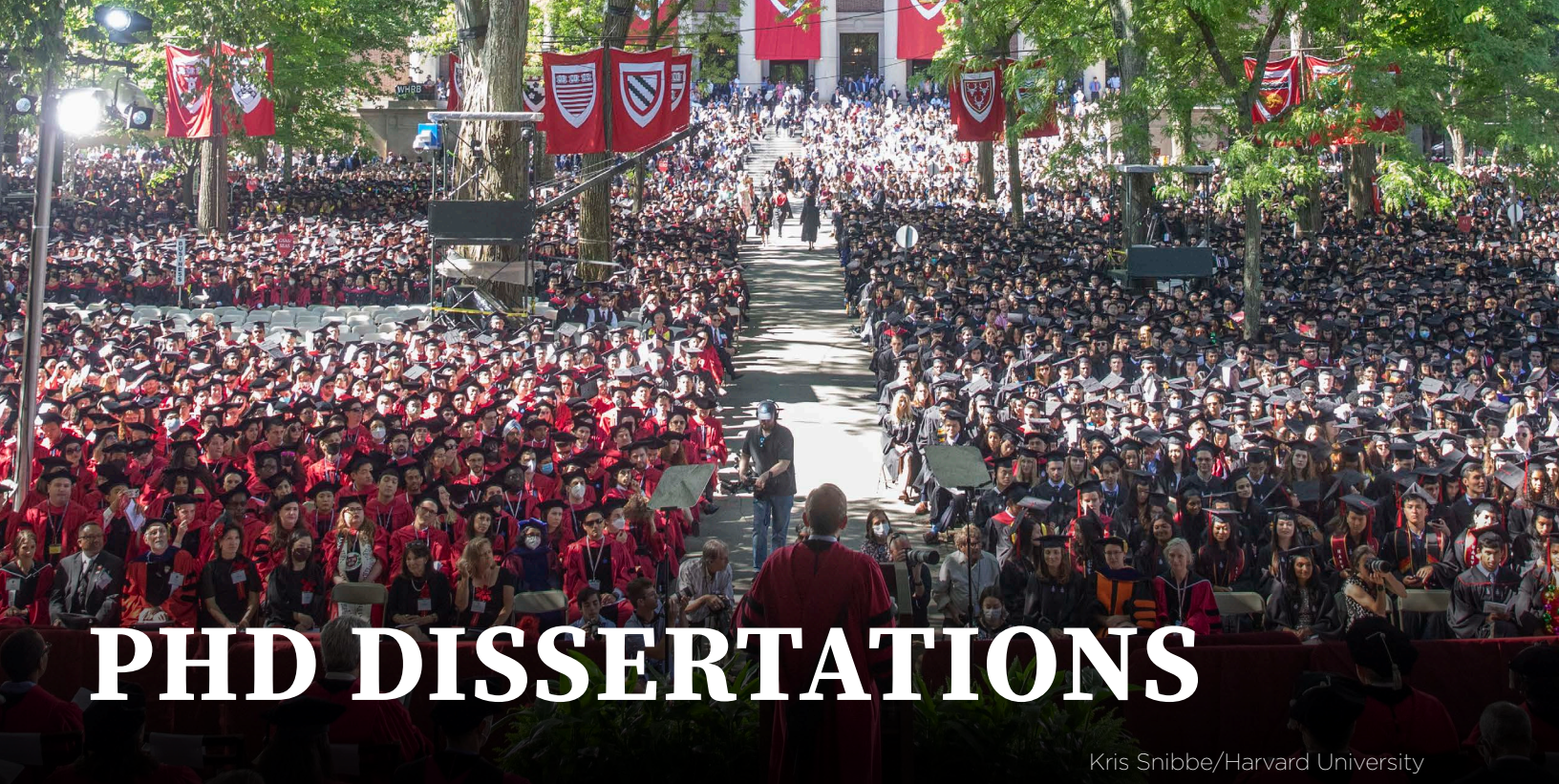
I came to Harvard, I am sure like many other concentrators in our department, having studied Latin and not particularly concerned with much of what “classics” meant beyond

philology. In the four years since, I have been indebted to the department for guiding me, often serendipitously, further into the non-philological facets of classics. After adding a joint concentration with the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations my sophomore year, I set out to craft a course of study that was more “ancient studies” than anything, and the Classics Department encouraged me wholeheartedly. Through the department’s support and generosity, I have been able to not only study but set foot on archaeological sites in Greece and India, to comb through the complex and intertwined histories of coffee and sugar as a curatorial intern at Dumbarton Oaks, and explore late antique Roman demographic changes as a Radcliffe Research Partner.

Throughout this time, I’ve had the privilege of exploring a broad range of coursework under the guidance of some of the best teachers I have ever had—to them I am grateful. To Professor Kosmin, in particular, I am grateful for the opportunities he gave me not just to prove myself but to push myself in my pursuits. Being able to work with him for the past three years has been amongst my greatest privileges.

Lastly, I am immensely thankful for all of the hard work Teresa and Ryan have contributed to supporting me both within and beyond the classroom. They, alongside the department as a whole, have truly made my college experience feel complete.





Kris Snibbe/Harvard University

Xiaoxiao Chen

PhD in Classical Philosophy

“Discovery and Purity in Archimedes”

Advisor: Mark Schiefsky

Julia Judge Mulhall

PhD in Classical Archaeology

“Beholding Greece: Viewing Panhellenic Sanctuaries in Late Antiquity”

Advisor: Adrian Stähli

Emily Mitchell

PhD in Classical Philology

“Remembering the Enslaved and the Emancipated in Latin Verse Epitaphs, Epigrams, and Poems of Consolation”

Advisor: Kathleen Coleman

Andrew Harrison Ntupalis

PhD in Modern Greek

“A Metanational Modernism: Yannis Ritsos, Tradition, and the Poetics of Return”

Advisor: Panagiotis Roilos

Hannelore Segers

PhD in Classical Philology

“Paraphrasis and Cento: A Comparative Analysis of Late Antique Greek and Latin Versification”

Advisor: Alexander Riehle

Alexander Vega

PhD in Classical Philosophy

“Augustine on Friendship and Belief”

Advisor: Mark Schiefsky

Jorge Alejandro Wong Medina

PhD in Classical Philology

“Homer and the Lesbians: Dialect Variation in Archaic Greek Poetry”

Advisor: Jeremy Rau

Louis Zweig

PhD in Medieval Latin

“The Biblical Exodus in Late Antique and Early Medieval Latin Poetry”

Advisor: Jan Ziolkowski

Graduate Student Reflections

Read farewell messages from some of this year's PhD recipients.



Xiaoxiao Chen

It's been a long journey. I'm grateful for the mental growth I experienced here. Many thanks to everyone who has supported me. I will miss you.



Emily Mitchell

My time in Harvard's Classics Department has been formative, both intellectually and personally. When I began my PhD in 2018, I had never studied, nor expected to study, ancient inscriptions; in my first semester, I took Kathleen Coleman's Latin Epigraphy seminar, which reoriented my approach to analyzing ancient texts and set me on the path towards what is now my dissertation project. Discussions with my talented and engaged students in Harvard College, Harvard Summer School, and the Scholars-in-Training Program have likewise encouraged me to think outside the box and to explore the Greek and Roman world from new perspectives. Finally, the department has introduced me to wonderful colleagues and friends, whom I am profoundly glad to know and with whom I share many unforgettable memories—ranging from Starburst-fuelled study sessions in the computer lab to the

eighteen months' worth of Friday happy hours held over Zoom during the pandemic! I want to thank the entire departmental community for their kindness and support over the past seven years; I owe a special debt of gratitude to my dissertation committee (Kathy, Emma, and Jared), to my cohort (Davide, Susannah, and Louie), and, of course, to Alyson, Ryan, and Teresa. After graduation, I look forward to continuing my research with the support of a two-year Loeb Classical Library Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship; I'm excited to see where my work will take me next!

Above, Emily Mitchell: Photo by Daniele Molajoli, courtesy of the American Academy in Rome.



Julia Judge Mulhall

While I could fill this page and many more with words of what it has meant to me to be a part of the Classics Department, these words of farewell will be far better spent by expressing my deepest gratitude to everyone in the department who has been by my side over the past decade: gratitude to my fellow graduate students, for their buoying camaraderie, and to all the departmental and affiliated faculty, and especially: David Elmer, for his generosity in supporting my academic and professional development on innumerable occasions; Ivy Livingston, for her kindness, mentorship, and good-humored perspective; Emma Dench, for her time when there was none and for our Crema Café conversations, which remain a highlight of my Harvard career; Kathy Coleman, for nurturing my growth as a scholar with boundless patience and genuine care; and Adrian Stähli, who shaped

my thinking indelibly and modeled a spirit of scholarly exploration that I will always aspire to emulate. Finally my profound thanks to Alyson Lynch and Teresa Wu, without whom I would not be in the position today of looking back on so many amazing years as a student in this program.



Andrew Harrison Ntapalis

As a newly arrived PhD student in the fall of 2019, I remember walking to my first department cocktail hour thinking two things: “Should I have worn a tie?” and “This is going to be a long six years.” Less concerned about the tie, I now find myself asking “Where did the time go?” After the department toasted us G1s that evening, we were officially catechumens embarking on a rigorous academic and intellectual journey of initiation. As if playing out one of Sir Alec Guinness’s famous lines, I knew I had taken my “first step into a larger world”—one of opportunities, but also uncertainties. So much was new and unfamiliar. Each program milestone a self-contained rite, each pushing your abilities to new limits, beyond old comfort zones, beyond what you knew, demanding more than you thought you could give. Other challenges arose, from the pandemic and remote

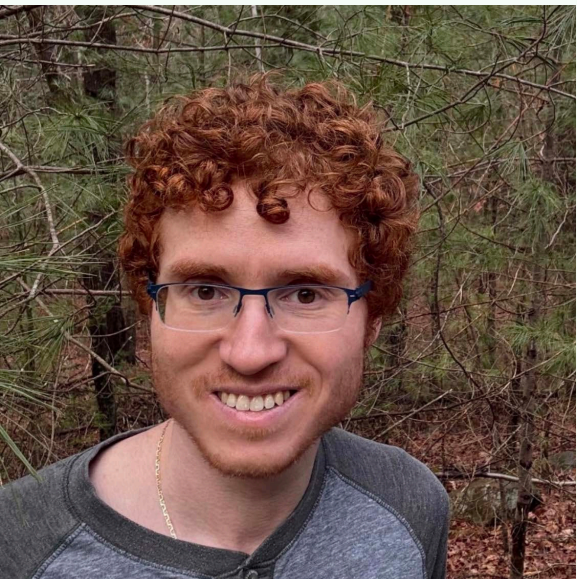
learning to those hitting closer to home. One guiding voice through it all was the memory of my late great-uncle George’s immortal words: “Keep your eye on the ball, kid.” I did. And what a journey it’s been. I gained much along the way, including a second family here in the department. I look forward to another year as Preceptor in Modern Greek. In the meantime, I’m counting the days to some long-overdue R&R—maybe I’ll have time now to write that cookbook I’ve kept on the backburner. Thinking back or to what’s ahead, the object of any journey is that when you return, you do so a better version of the same person who set out—that’s my hope, anyway.



Hannelore Segers

As I reach the end of my graduate studies at Harvard, I reflect warmly upon the last few years—the classes, teaching, and even the exams—as well as the incredible opportunities I am so grateful to have received. Throughout my time here at the Classics Department, I know that I have grown so much, both academically and personally. The passion and expertise others shared, both in the classroom and during the dissertation stage, have encouraged me to look at the classics through new perspectives and have made a lasting impact on my career. I would like to give a special thanks to my advisers, Prof. Alexander Riehle and Prof. Jan Ziolkowski, for their continual and tireless support. I would also like to recognize the incredible work and encouragement of Alyson, Teresa, and Ryan, without whom I am sure reaching this milestone would not have been possible. I look

forward to continuing my work at the Beinecke Rare Book Library and as lecturer in Latin paleography at Yale University. Fortunately, this position doesn't take me too far away from Cambridge and I hope to return often and visit the campus and people I've grown to love.



Alexander Vega

While words could not adequately capture my gratitude for these eight years at Harvard, I would like to thank all in the department who have mentored, taught, and supported me. I have been grateful for the opportunity to research such fascinating philosophical texts and to learn from others working in such a wide variety of areas. I want to convey my appreciation to my dissertation committee chair Professor Mark Schiefsky and all committee members for providing thorough comments and suggestions, which have helped me to substantially strengthen my arguments. Throughout my time at Harvard, I have appreciated the department's friendly, welcoming, and supportive community, which stood out from the first day I visited. I will fondly remember the happy hours, cohort dinners, and times spent sharing the joy of reading Latin and Ancient Greek. I have also thoroughly enjoyed teaching at Harvard. I am glad to have had

the opportunity to explore ideas with so many enthusiastic, intellectually curious students both during the academic year and in the wonderful Scholars-in-Training Summer Program, and I am grateful for Dr. Ivy Livingston's mentorship as I have taught language courses.

I am excited to begin a one-year term as an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Grinnell College in the fall. I would like to thank Professor Irene Peirano Garrison and all who gave me such helpful guidance with the job search process. It has been a joy to study Classics at Harvard, and I will be sure to visit in the coming years.



Jorge Alejandro Wong Medina

It is a strange thing to write a valediction two years after leaving Cambridge and one year removed from the PhD. It is especially strange because I do not yet feel that I have left, or, rather, that the department is no longer home. I would like to thank Teresa, Alyson, Ryan, my peers, and the faculty for filling Boylston with warmth, community and *euphrosynē*. I have spent some of the best years of my life at Harvard, and that time has prepared me well for my new role as Assistant Professor of Classical Studies at the University of Richmond. This year I taught Introductory and Intermediate Greek, Greek Lyric, and Introduction to Indo-European Linguistics. I led a group of students to Greece this May before returning to Cambridge for commencement. I have never been good at saying goodbye and I will avoid doing so just yet. I look forward to seeing y'all soon. ¡Sale y vale!



Louis Zweig

It has been the gift of a lifetime to get to learn and teach as part of this community. When I arrived, fresh from working in the UK, I did not really know what was in store. Now, seven years later, after writing a dissertation on authors I had not known about then, I leave with a new appreciation for what is left to learn. While this was certainly the “Harvard” chapter of my life, I spent much of it away from Cambridge. The pandemic brought me back home to California, and then I worked in Germany, first with support from the DAAD, and then on entries for the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*. Upon my return, the department welcomed me back with open arms. I developed my research, taught extremely impressive students, and benefitted from a stint as the department’s Pedagogy Fellow. I owe the richness of these years to my mentors, col-

leagues, and students. Jan Ziolkowski helped me every step of the way. Kathleen Coleman found the best in me, as a teacher, dissertation committee member, and lead instructor. Alyson, Teresa, and Ryan saved me countless times. Although it is sad to leave, I am glad that I will not be too far away. Next year, I will take up a position in the Princeton Society of Fellows, where I will continue to write about Latin poetry, and I will teach in Humanistic Studies and Classics. Many thanks to everyone, and please stay in touch.





Above: Emily Mitchell with her dissertation committee at her public defense: Jared Hudson, Kathleen Coleman, Emily, and Emma Dench).

Below: Julia Judge Mulhall, Emily Mitchell, Andrew Ntapolis, Louis Zweig, and Alexander Vega at Commencement Morning Exercises.



UNDERGRAD NEWS

Haley Algrant ('25) was awarded the Albert Alcalay Prize by the Department of Art, Film, and Visual Studies. This prize is awarded to the best undergraduate student in workshop studios.

Katie Burstein ('25) was awarded the Rausling, Williamson, and Lipton Trust Scholarship to support her study at the University of Cambridge.

Katie Burstein ('25) and **Jameson Cohen** ('25) were awarded the Bowdoin Prize for a translation into Latin.

Katie Burstein ('25), **Olivia Glunz** ('25), and **Mac Mertens** ('26) were all awarded Newbold Rhinelander Landon Memorial Scholarships, given to students with a strong grounding in Classics who intend to go to law school or pursue other training for government service.

Katie Burstein ('25), **Olivia Glunz** ('25), **Ashley Gong** ('25), **Aidan Scully** ('25), and **Tejas Vadali** ('25) were elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Iota of Massachusetts.

Katie Burstein ('25) and **Aidan Scully** ('25) received Hoopes Prizes for their senior theses.

Christine Corcoran ('26) received the Lowell House Franklin Ford Award. This prize is given to a Lowell House student who shares Franklin Ford's scholarly interest in academic subjects, strong intellectual ability, and dry wit.

Olivia Glunz ('25) was awarded the John and Daria Barry Scholarship for graduate study at the University of Oxford. Olivia also received the Department of History Prize, awarded to the graduating senior with the best cumulative record as a History concentrator by the end of the senior year.

Lorenzo Levy ('27) received the Detur Book Prize, which recognizes sophomores who attain very high academic standing in their first three semesters.

Elena Lu ('26) received the William Scott Ferguson Prize for the best History 97 paper. Elena's paper is entitled "The Successful 'Académie Générale': Recruiting and Organizing an *Académie des Sciences*."

Fiona McFerrin-Clancy ('25) was this year's recipient of the John Osborne Sargent Prize for English translation of an ode of Horace. Read her entry on page 31. Fiona was also awarded the [2025 General Education Prize](#) for a reflection on Greg Nagy's GENED 1074: The Ancient Greek Hero.

Madeline Riskin-Kutz ('25) was awarded the Ertegun Graduate Scholarship to support study at the University of Oxford.

Carl Scandellius ('27) was awarded the George Emerson Lowell Scholarship Prize for the best performance in an examination on Greek.

Aidan Scully ('25) received the David Taggart Clark Prize for the Undergraduate Latin Commencement Oration. Read the text of his speech in the [Harvard Magazine](#) and watch it on [YouTube](#). Aidan was also awarded the Class of 1955/Robert T. Coolidge Undergraduate Thesis Prize in Medieval Studies. The title of his thesis is "'The Reign of Caesar and the Birth of Christ': Constructing the Christian Roman Empire in Rufinus and Orosius." Finally, Aidan received the Sophia Freund Prize, which is awarded annually to the students in the senior class of Harvard College who are graduating *summa cum laude* with the highest grade point average.

Livingston Zug ('26) received the Philip Hofer Prize for Collecting Books or Art, awarded by Houghton Library to a student whose collection of books or works of art best exemplifies the traditions of breadth, coherence, and imagination represented by Philip Hofer, founder and first Curator of the Department of Printing and Graphic Arts in Houghton Library. Livy's essay about his collection is entitled "The Modern Library of Ancient Greece: Reception and Reimagination."

Check out the Fall 2024 issue of our undergraduate journal, [Persephone](#), which features an exciting range of contributions by Harvard undergraduates. This collection of essays came together thanks to the hard work and dedication of the editorial team, comprised of Frances Campos, Natasha Chamitoff, Christine Corcoran, Thomas Ferro, India Jayanti, Devin Kancherla, Moeka Koyama, Neeraja Kumar, Isabella McMillen, Lucy Nathwani, Corbin Robinson, and Livingston Zug, and headed by Jane Lilly.



FACULTY NEWS

Meg Andrews has been named a [Joukowsky Lecturer](#) by the Archaeological Institute of America for the 2025–26 National Lecture Program season.

Kathleen Coleman is the inaugural winner of the [Faculty Prize for Excellence in General Education](#) for her course GENED 1131: Loss. Established to recognize outstanding course design and pedagogy in Gen Ed, this prize is awarded annually to the lead instructor of a transformative General Education course that models exemplary pedagogical practices.

Kathleen Coleman and **Emily Greenwood** were both awarded an extra term of paid sabbatical leave through the FAS Sabbatical Recognition Program. This is in recognition of their extraordinary contributions and remarkable dedication to their students, colleagues, and the University.

Paul Kosmin was chosen as a [Walter Channing Cabot Fellow](#) for the 2024–25 academic year. Cabot fellowships are given annually to a handful of faculty colleagues at Harvard in recognition of their achievements and scholarly eminence in the fields of “literature, his-

tory or art.”

In April, **Rachel Love** was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with effect from July 1, 2025.

Alexander Riehle and **Irene Soto Marín** received awards from the Dean’s Competitive Fund for Promising Scholarship. Their projects are, respectively, “Miniature Manuscripts: Byzantine Books of Diminutive Dimensions” and “Cosmopolis: An Economic History of Roman Alexandria.”

Richard Tarrant has won the [Premio Internazionale “Antonio Feltrinelli”](#) at the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Italy, for his contributions to classical studies.

Naomi Weiss received the [2024 Charles J. Goodwin Award of Merit](#) for her monograph, *Seeing Theater: The Phenomenology of Classical Greek Drama* (Oakland: University of California Press, 2023). The Goodwin Award is the Society of Classical Studies’ main recognition for “outstanding contributions to classical scholarship.”

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

In December 2024, **Eli Aizikowitz** completed his Special Examinations in “The Greeks and the Material,” “Religion and Ancient History: Pagans and Christians,” and “The Rabbinic Anomaly.”

In March 2025, **William Edwards** presented his dissertation prospectus, entitled “A Practical Aesthetics in the Prose of Seneca the Younger.”

In May 2025, **Sarah Gonzalez** completed her Special Examinations in “Tragic Fragments,” “Pastoral Literature,” and “Reception Theory and Practice.”

Hannah Hoffman has received a 2025 Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative (HMUI) Urban Research Grant. The HMUI is an initiative funded by Harvard University and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to expand understanding about urban life, social and political structures, design, and history across diverse sites and scales. Hannah’s project focuses on the material culture of intra-urban migration at Sardis in the early second century BCE, immediately following the Treaty of Apamea.

In November 2024, **Luby Kiriakidi** presented her dissertation prospectus, entitled “*A VI MENTIS: Vates, Epiphanies, and Etymological Wordplay in Ovid’s Fasti.*” Luby also worked as Department Pedagogy Fellow this past academic year. Her capstone project is a YouTube series called “Ubi Luby.” Ubi Luby is an educational video series in Latin that aims to bridge two pedagogical camps: Grammar Translation (learning about Latin in English) and Communicative Approaches (learning Latin in Latin). It is meant as a supplement for Harvard undergraduate beginner and intermediate Latin students with input illustrated by familiar sites on campus, but it is open access online. Luby hopes to keep adding to this series while at Harvard and beyond to make Latin accessible for students of all backgrounds. Check it out on [YouTube!](#)

Phoebe Lakin won this year’s Bowdoin Graduate Prize in Latin with an entry entitled “*Tractatus de signis designandi.*”

In May 2025, **Hannah Lynch** completed her Special Examinations in “Multiculturalism in the Successor Kingdoms,” “Hellenistic Court Literature and Its Roman Reception,” and “Approaching Identity in Antiquity (Historical Methods and Critical Theorizations).”

In May 2025, **Arsen Nisanyan** completed his Special Examinations in “The Anatolian Peninsula in the Longue Durée: The First Millennium BCE,” “Roman Asia Minor: Integration, Localism, and Crisis,” and “Travel Cultures in the Roman World.”

Alexander Reed received a Harvard Griffin GSAS Merit/Graduate Society Term-Time Research Fellowship to support one semester of research in the 2025–26 academic year. In February 2025, Alexander also presented his dissertation prospectus, entitled “Peasant Economies of the Roman West (1-150 CE).”

In October 2024, **Sammi Richter** presented her dissertation prospectus, entitled “Languages of Contact: A Shared Iconography of the Classical Mediterranean World.”



Above: Cover image from the second video in the “Ubi Luby” series.

GRAD NEWS (CONT.)

Alexander Vega was selected as a finalist in the Harvard Horizons Scholars competition. Alexander was also featured on the GSAS website in their “Dissertation in One Minute” video series. Check out the video about his dissertation: [“Should We Risk Friendship?”](#)

In May 2025, **Kevin Wong** completed his Special Examinations in “The Epic Paradigm: Genre and Adaptation,” “Roman Love Elegy in an Age of Technologically-Mediated Love,” and “Historiography and Worldbuilding.” Kevin also received a Summer School Tuition Fellowship for language study at the Harvard Summer School.



Above: Alexander Vega in the “Dissertation in One Minute” series.



Above: Harvard contingent at the New York Metro Papyrology Workshop, hosted in April at the Institute for Study of the Ancient World at NYU. From left to right, Hannah Hoffman, Irene Soto Marín, Gabriel Parlin, Riccardo Altieri, Phoebe Hyun, Marianna Daniel, and incoming student Callum Lang.



Above: Dawn on the Mare Piccolo, Taranto. Photo by Phoebe Lakin.

Virgil in the Anthropocene

Phoebe Lakin, PhD Candidate in Classical Philology, tours sites significant to her dissertation on Virgil's *Georgics* and conceptions of nature and the environment.

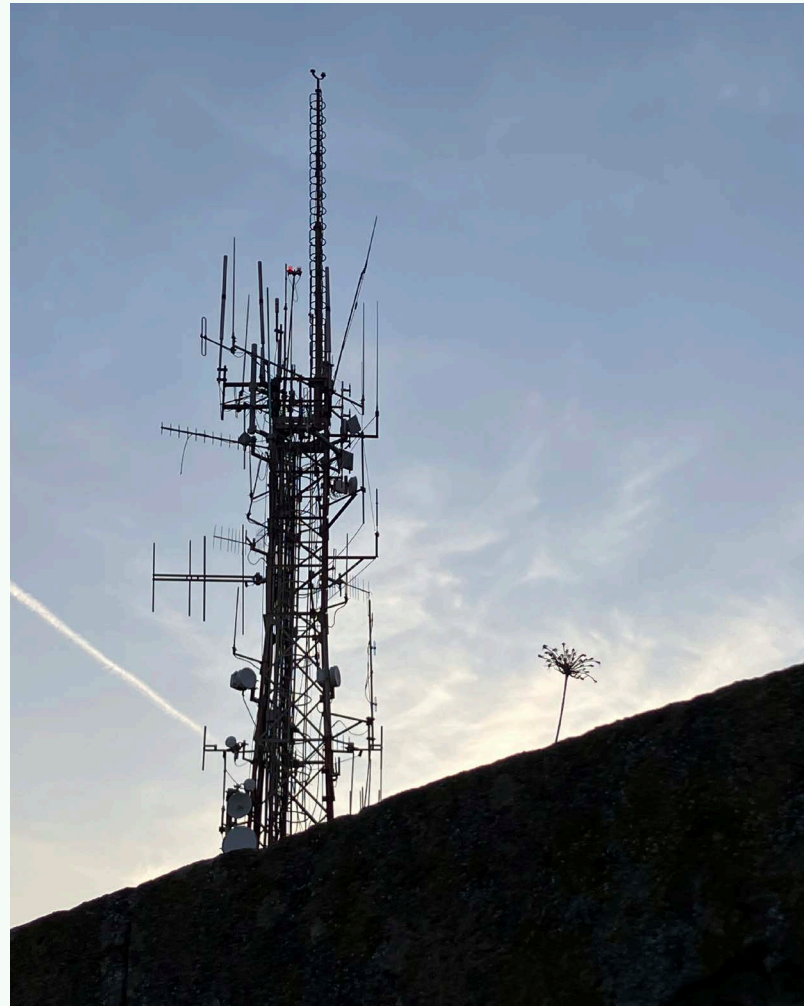
This semester, thanks to the trifecta of a GSAS Merit fellowship and grants from the Segal and Norton funds, I spent nearly two months in southern Italy and Athens, at work on my dissertation. My research examines the interplay between the reception of Virgil's *Georgics* and his readers' conceptions of nature and the environment, so this was a great chance to visit the places described in the brief but important horticultural excursus at *Georgics* 4.116–48. The trip was also methodologically informative. It allowed me to consider firsthand the ways in which these landscapes and their meaning have been shaped by human and environmental fac-

VIRGIL IN THE ANTHROPOCENE (CONT.)

tors far beyond their significance for the *Georgics* itself.

My route was designed around Virgilian gardens; it also happened to trace the final weeks of the poet's life, in reverse. I started out in Naples, the site of his tomb (unfortunately closed), and stopped in Paestum to see the twice-bearing roses mentioned at *G.* 4.119 (open!). Next, traveling from Campania to Puglia, I stayed for a week in Taranto, then traveled by ferry and bus from Brindisi, a candidate for Virgil's place of death, to Athens, where he had allegedly been finishing the *Aeneid* when Augustus coaxed him back to Italy. Virgil, it is said, took ill in Megara; after a night and day on sea and mountain road, I too was not feeling my best when my bus passed through this city on the last leg of its journey. But here the similarities end: a warm welcome at the American School of Classical Studies led into a pleasant month of writing in the stacks and hiking on the Lycabettus. My gratitude to all at the ASCSA for the camaraderie, carrel space in the wonderful Blegen Library, and tutelage in pickleball, a pastime that Virgil, for better or worse, never knew and probably would not have relished.

A crucial stop on the Virgilian itinerary was the Puglian city of Taranto, known for its fertile soil and for the prime mussels raised in its inland bay. Here, "where the dark river Galaeus [possibly the modern Galeso] waters the golden fields" (*G.* 4.125), Virgil locates his description of an old man's marvelously productive garden. Part of my third chapter looks at this passage's reception in travel writing; already in the early twentieth century, tourists waxed nostalgic—sometimes condescendingly so—for the "vanished world" of ancient Tarentum. More pressing are the problems faced by those living in Taranto today, which have been both caused and perpetuated by unregulated industry and social and economic injustices. An oil refinery and the Ilva steelworks, established in the 1960s with high economic hopes, have for decades polluted groundwater, air, and soil with particulate matter and dioxins, severely jeopardizing public health. (Further resources in



Above: Flower and radio tower in Naples. Photo by Phoebe Lakin.

translation on Ilva's history and impact upon request.)

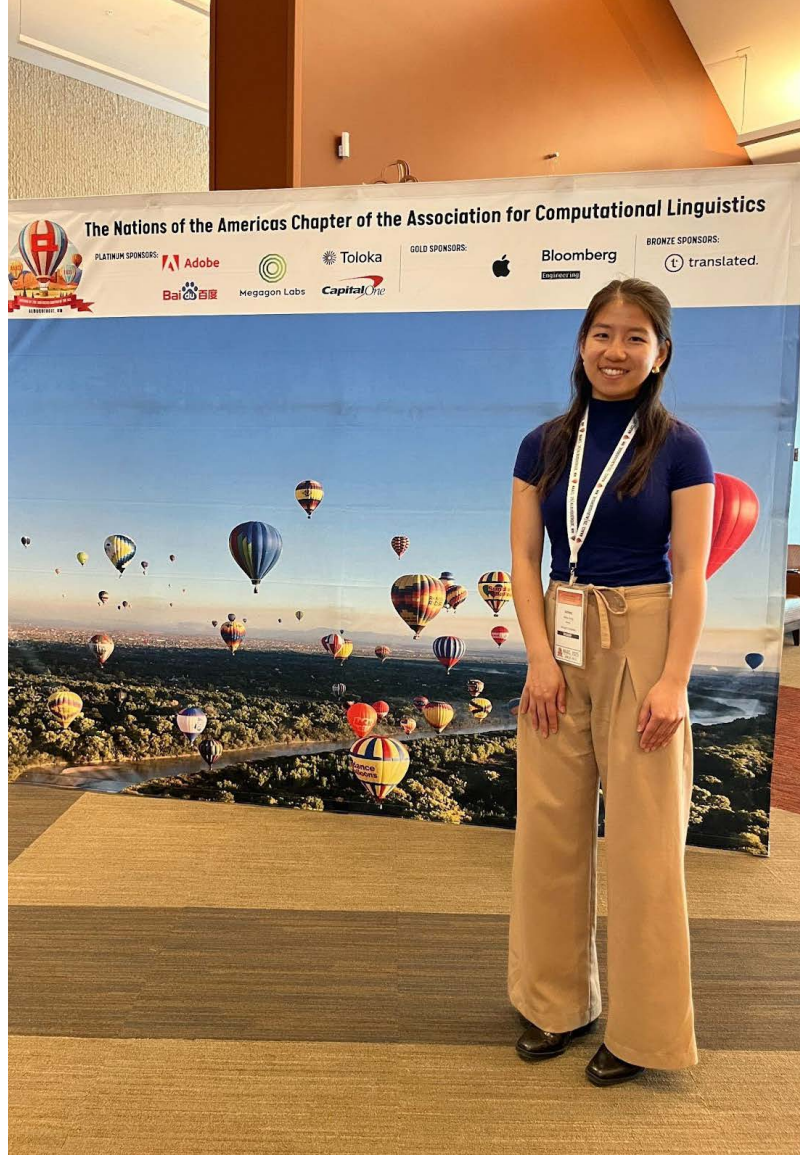
My conversations about these issues with my Airbnb hosts and others in Taranto were informative and moving: a resounding *grazie mille* to Federica, Marco, and Peppe, who were incredibly generous with their time, enthusiasm, and insight. As we drove to the Galeso in the soft rain, they emphasized (and I think Virgil would concur) the importance of not avoiding the unresolvable contradictions of this complicated landscape—between past and present, between what grows and what tries to poison it. Beyond roadside litter, we saw an undulating pelt of green grass and a smoke-pale apple tree in full blossom; over the rubble of an abandoned farmhouse, smokestacks rose in matte colors, like plastic toys. Above the factory's low, persistent roar floated a blackbird's song.

Augmented Close Reading for Classical Latin

Ashley Gong ('25) on presenting research from her joint classics and computer science thesis at an international digital humanities conference.

This May, with the generous support of the Classics Department, I presented a publication I adapted from my senior thesis research, “Augmented Close Reading for Classical Latin using BERT for Intertextual Exploration,” at the 5th International Conference for Natural Language Processing for the Digital Humanities (NLP4DH) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The NLP4DH workshop was co-located at the Nations of the Americas Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL), the premier computational linguistics workshop in the Americas. My senior thesis—and the subsequent short conference paper and presentation—contributes a novel web interface that combines the paradigms of close and distant reading, AI, and human-computer interaction design principles to make AI-powered search tools accessible to classicists interested in finding intertextual allusions more easily.

Presenting my paper to scholars and students from all over the world (Japan, China, Czechia, New Zealand, and more!) conducting all types of valuable digital humanities research was truly a rewarding experience. This was my first academic conference, so I had no idea what to expect! I met a fellow undergrad from Wuhan, China, who conducted a stylometric analysis on ancient Chinese texts, a PhD student from New York who conducted a comprehensive study on the political trends of podcasts on alternative platforms, and a researcher from Japan experimenting with AI-powered machine translation of Ancient Egyptian and Coptic texts! By striking up conversations with peo-



Above: Ashley in front of the conference banner.

ple with different projects and experiences involving AI and the ancient (or modern) humanities, and applying by state-of-the-art language models to higher-level literary tasks—e.g., using large language models (LLMs) to detect rhetorical devices as subtle as irony—I gained so many ideas to expand the capabilities of my thesis tool for different languages, intellectual inquiries, and more advanced models. The digital humanities research community is small yet mighty, tackling cognitive challenges and linguistic investigations that were once thought impossibly difficult. I’m so grateful for the opportunity to inspire and be inspired by this global group of researchers, even as a young and relatively inexperienced undergrad!

Since the NLP4DH workshop was co-located at NAACL, I could also peruse many different computational linguistics work-

AUGMENTED CLOSE READING FOR CLASSICAL LATIN (CONT.)

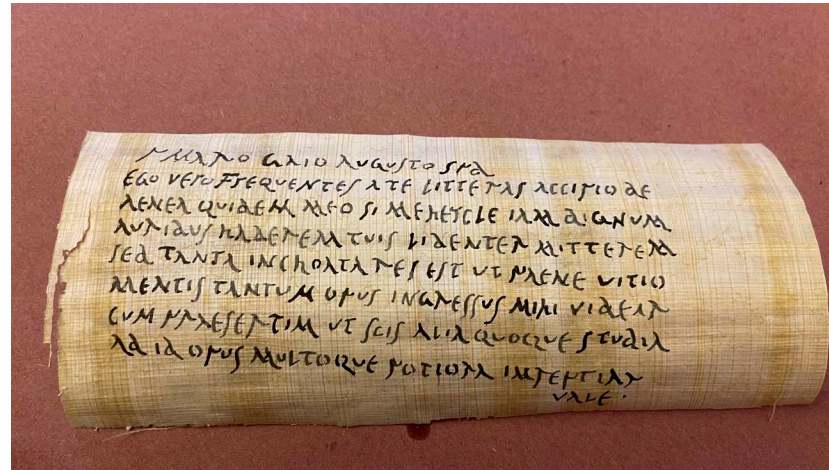
shops with different focuses. I listened to talks by scholars leveraging LLMs to collaborate with authors to streamline the writing process and a keynote by Professor Patrick Burns (NYU ISAW) in a workshop on ancient language processing, whose Latin-trained LLM I used in my own thesis! When I was not wandering around the Albuquerque Convention Center, soaking in an international repository of knowledge, I was exploring the city and its multicultural highlights with my mother! From indigenous Pueblo petroglyphs to New Mexican enchiladas, the city was bursting with culture that differs so greatly and beautifully from Boston. I feel

deeply grateful to the Classics Department for supporting this unparalleled opportunity to engage in a diverse research community. Reflecting on this weekend, I'm invigorated to keep exploring the potential of language models in the digital humanities and building systems that encourage human-AI collaboration in the most rewarding ways. One tool at a time, the multi-millennia-long gap between Virgil and LLMs can begin to close!

You may read Ashley's paper, "Augmented Close Reading for Classical Latin using BERT for Intertextual Exploration," co-authored with Katy Gero and Mark Schiefsky, in [the online conference proceedings](#).

Love & Papyrus

This Valentine's Day, the department invited students to a special papyrus-themed bash! Professor Irene Soto Marín shared examples of ancient letters on papyri, including party invitations, love letters, and wedding invites. Students then tried writing their own messages on papyrus, making valentines, letters, or illustrations, or copying some of their favorite passages.



Above: One of the many papyri written by students.

Left: Participants hard at work!

Photos by Irene Soto Marín.



2025 JACKSON COLLOQUIUM

September 19–20, 2025

Nationalism, Origins, and the Politics of Latin Literature

We are pleased to announce the 2025 Jackson Colloquium on “Nationalism, Origins, and the Politics of Latin Literature,” which will be held **September 19–20, 2025**. This international conference will critically re-examine narratives (both ancient and modern) on the origin of Latin literature. It aims to explore, critique, and expand our grasp of the complex relationship between literary beginnings, story-telling, and national origins that not only drives our conceptualization of Latin literature but also lies at the heart of its post-classical reception.

The conference will be free and open to the public. Please see [our website](#) for more details. Information on registration will be available in the coming months.

Above: “Capitoline Wolf with Romulus and Remus,” c. 200 BCE. Harvard Art Museums, 1995.10. Photo by Aaron Peirano Garrison.

Confirmed Speakers

Alessandro Barchiesi, New York University
Thomas Biggs, University of St. Andrews
Jermaine Bryant, Harvard Society of Fellows
Anna Chahoud, Trinity College, Dublin
Catherine Conybeare, Bryn Mawr College
Curtis Dozier, Vassar College
Olivia Elder, University of Oxford
Jackie Elliott, University of Colorado, Boulder
Constanze Guthenke, University of Oxford
Paul Johnston, Stanford Society of Fellows
Rachel Love, Harvard University
Giuseppe Pezzini, University of Oxford
Stefano Rebeggiani, University of South California Dornsife
Erika Valdivieso, Yale University
Christopher van den Berg, Amherst College
Federico Santangelo, Newcastle University
Alessandro Schiesaro, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa



HARVARD STUDIES IN CLASSICAL PHILOLOGY

Volume 114 of *HSCP* (2025), ed. Jan Ziolkowski, is on its way to print! Copies will soon be available via [Harvard University Press](https://www.harvard.edu/press).

Articles

Eric Cullhed, "Odysseus's Tears on Scheria and the Meaning of (Heroic) Life"

Ruobing Xian, "Narrative Design and Doublets: Democedes in Herodotus's *Histories*"

Daniel Sutton, "Aristotle's *Rhetoric* 2.20 and Thucydides 1.22.4"

Adalberto Magnavacca, "The Maiden and Her Words: Cicero *Carmina* Fr. 10 Blänsdorf Reconsidered"

K. F. B. Fletcher, "Hyginus *Fabulae* 220 (*Cura*): How Two Textual Issues Have Changed the Meaning of a Myth and Affected Its Modern Reception"

Maxwell Hardy, "*Emendationes Tibullianae* II"

Giulio Celotto, "Persius's Didactic Satire: Allusions to Vergil's *Georgics* in *Satires* 1, 3, and 5"

Julia Hejduk, "The Solace of Evil: Punctuation and Paradox in Lucan *BC* 7.180-184"

Gary P. Vos, "Sex and Suffering: A New Acrostic and the Interpretation of *Carmina Priapea* 63"

Julia Mebane, "The Return of Viriathus: A Counterfactual History of the Iberian Wars in *Punica* 10"

About *HSCP*

HSCP welcomes articles dealing with all aspects of the civilizations of ancient Greece and Rome and adheres to an inclusive definition of what constitutes philology. In addition to scholarship on language and written texts from the ancient world, we publish work, for example, on ancient history, philosophy, art history, and the reception of classical culture in late antiquity, the medieval period, and beyond.

Submitting to *HSCP*

For information on submitting to the journal, please [visit our website](https://www.harvard.edu/press).

HIGHLIGHTED FALL COURSES

Visit [our website](#) for a full list of course offerings.



COURSES IN TRANSLATION (FOR UNDERGRADS)

GENED 1074

The Ancient Greek Hero

Greg Nagy

How to face death? Concentrating on this central human question, we will explore some of the greatest works of ancient Greek literature (in English translation). For the Greeks, a special way to address the problem of death was to think long and hard about what they called “heroes” in their myths. Our purpose in this course is to extend that kind of thinking to the present. Assignments invite you to engage in personal reflections on the meaning of life and death in the light of what we read in Greek literature about the ordeals of becoming a hero.

GENED 1198

Ancient Global Economies

Irene Soto Marín

Is today’s global economy truly more advanced and complex than the systems that shaped the world in the ancient past? By analyzing the global connections of well-known ancient civilizations such as the Assyrian, Egyptian, Macedonian, Roman, and Palmyrene Empires, students will learn to see similarities with our own current global economic enterprises and learn not only the challenges but also the social injustices and exploitation that are manifest in these global economic interactions. A particularly poignant example is the week where we study ancient global pandemics, seeing the ways in which they affected the labor force, the lower classes, agricultural production, and even politics, much as they did during our recent COVID-19 pandemic.

COURSES IN TRANSLATION (FOR UNDERGRADS AND GRADS)

CLASARCH 146

The Archaeology of Women and Gender in the Ancient World

Margaret Andrews

Women represent half of humanity, but they have been greatly underrepresented in studies of past cultures and societies. This course provides an introduction to aspects of women’s lives in the ancient Greco-Roman Mediterranean world. We will examine not only what women actually did and did not do in these societies, but also how they were perceived by their male contemporaries and what value to society they were believed to have. Through a comparative and interdisciplinary approach, we will examine the complexities and ambiguities of women’s lives in the ancient Mediterranean and begin to understand the roots of modern conceptions and perceptions of women in the Western world today.

CLASARCH 157

The Roman Villa

Adrian Stähli

In their villas, members of the Roman aristocracy indulged in a lifestyle of leisure and luxury, cultivated their passions for art, literature, scholarship or fish breeding, and refrained deliberately from business and political activities. The course explores the archaeological remains and artifacts—architecture, wall paintings, collections of sculpture, precious silver and gold ware—related to this particularly Roman phenomenon: the so-called *villeggiatura*.

HIGHLIGHTED FALL COURSES

Visit [our website](#) for a full list of course offerings.



CLS-STDY 114 / HDS 1875

Constantinople

Alexander Riehle

Overlooking the Bosphorus Strait, which separates Europe from Asia, the city founded by Constantine I in 324 at the location of ancient Byzantium would become the capital of the Roman Empire, a bustling medieval metropolis, and a site of rich imagination: to the Byzantines it was the “New Rome” or simply “the City,” in foreigners it inspired awe and admiration. This seminar explores the city of Constantinople as a physical and imagined space by examining archaeological remains and textual and visual sources. We will discuss the city’s geography and topography; its place in imperial and religious ideology; private and public institutions such as schools, hospitals, and orphanages; daily life, economy, commerce, and demographics; the excavation, preservation, and transformation of monuments; and native, foreign, and modern-day perceptions.

CLS-STDY 109

Ancient Myth and the Modern World

Kathleen Garland

This course introduces the study of Greco-Roman mythology. Our primary goal will be to familiarize ourselves with some of the core texts that form this tradition. As we become “mythologically literate” in this extended universe, we will also pursue our second goal, surveying how modern readers have approached and responded to these myths. We will consider how the same set of myths can mean radically different things to different people in different periods, and how they have been appropriated to speak to contemporary concerns. At the same time, we will look for commonalities across the different instantiations of these myths, as we attempt to answer the more general questions, “What is myth?” and “What does myth mean to us today?”

CLS-STDY 166 / HUMAN 166

Bob Dylan the Classic

Richard Thomas

This course examines Bob Dylan the creative genius and enduring and continuing musical, literary, and general cultural phenomenon, in the context of popular and higher literary culture of the last 60 years, and of performed literature, and also in the context of those long-lived literary and musical cultures with which he works: the Beats and Moderns of the 20th and Romantics of the 19th century; Poe, Melville, Whitman, and Americana of the same 19th century; Shakespeare and the old ballad traditions; John Donne and the Metaphysical poets; Dante, Petrarch, and the Troubadours; and in more recent songs going back to Homer, Virgil, Ovid, and the western literary canon. It traces the evolution of Dylan’s songs and lyrics from their early folk, blues, rock, gospel, and protest roots, through the transition from acoustic to electric, in studio and performative contexts, and also through the many persona evolutions and reinventions that have characterized and continue to characterize his career in songwriting, performance, literature, film, and painting. Lectures will be complemented by listening to, viewing, and discussing a broad representation of Dylan’s output.

CLS-STDY 172

Romanness after Rome

Jan Ziolkowski

This course explores major issues relating to Rome and Romanness, from antiquity to the present day. Many Romes have existed. At the beginning, why were the Romans called Roman? What was it to be a Roman citizen? From Late Antiquity on, why was there a New Rome or Second Rome? Were the Byzantines Roman? Why was the Church Roman Catholic, the Holy Roman Empire Roman? What makes Roman law Roman? Why was there a Third Rome? What is Romanness today?

HIGHLIGHTED FALL COURSES

Visit [our website](#) for a full list of course offerings.



ADVANCED LANGUAGE (FOR UNDERGRADS AND GRADS)

GREEK 107

Thucydides and Experimental History

Emily Greenwood

It is a truism in scholarship on Thucydides' *History* that Thucydides, in common with other contemporary historians like Herodotus, was making up the conventions for history and historical writing as he composed his account of the war between the Athenians and the Peloponnesians. Even though Thucydides has been claimed retrospectively as the founder of the discipline of history, he is not our colleague, as Nicole Loraux put it memorably. This course will lean into Thucydides' experiment with history writing and consider what it means to read Thucydides as experimental history. We will analyze both how Thucydides created a narrative of a contemporary war (asking ourselves how he wrote it) and the history that he did not write. To help us with the latter thread we will read his contemporaries (Aristophanes, Xenophon), his ancient critics and imitators (Dionysius of Halicarnassus, Plutarch, Lucian), and contemporary writers in genres including essays, poetry, experimental memoirs, documentary fiction, and historical novels.

GREEK 115

The *Odyssey*

David Elmer

The *Odyssey* is unarguably a masterpiece of poetic and narrative art. This course will explore the poem's artistry through study of substantial selections in Greek. Readings will provide the foundation for discussion of the poem's central themes, its extraordinarily complex narrative structure, its relation to the *Iliad* and to oral tradition more generally, its ethical and ideological commitments, and numerous other topics.

LATIN 117

Livy and the Gauls

Rachel Love

As Rome expanded beyond the Italian peninsula, the new empire came into contact with their earliest and longest enduring enemy: the Gauls. In this course, we will read how the Latin historian Livy narrates a series of Rome's interactions with several Gallic tribes across a vast swath of modern-day Europe and Asia (e.g., northern Italy, France, Germany, and Turkey). Throughout our reading, we will pay special attention to Livy's use of the ancient ethnographic tradition and support our Latin readings with modern scholarship on historiography and racecraft.

LATIN 165

Latin Didactic Poetry

Peter Osorio

This course surveys Republican and Imperial didactic poetry. We will read from Lucretius's *De rerum natura* 4 and Ovid's *Remedia amoris* and *Fasti* 4. All three belong to a long tradition of attempts to work out the relations between love and learning. We will consider how Lucretius and Ovid position their attitudes toward love as a distraction from and/or a driving impulse for inquiry. Along the way we will work on building facility in vocabulary, grammar, and prosody. We will also read relevant comparanda in translation, including excerpts from Hesiod, Plato, Cicero, American Shakers, Anne Carson, Richard Rorty, and others.

MEDLATIN 110

Introduction to Medieval Latin Literary Culture: Texts and Contexts

Jan Ziolkowski

This course samples verse and prose, lyric, epic, comedy, biography, commentary, and theology,

HIGHLIGHTED FALL COURSES

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from late antiquity to early modernity. It explores monks and mystics, saints and sinners, women writers, Alexander the Great and King Arthur, Charlemagne and Germanic heroes, Thomas Aquinas and scholasticism, and courts and universities. It attends to Medieval Latin studies as field, philology as discipline, and recent theories. The objective is deeper understanding of the past, wherever that leads.

GRAD COURSES

AFRAMER 234 / CLASPHIL 2234 / COMPLIT 234A

Black Classicisms: A Research Seminar & Pedagogy Workshop

Emily Greenwood

This course will examine uses of ancient Greek and Roman Classics in the literatures, arts, and thought of Africa and the Black diaspora. We will analyze how African and black diasporic authors and intellectuals have engaged with, revised, and reimaged the classics of ancient Greece and Rome, both to expose and critique discourses of racism, imperialism, and colonialism, and as a rich source of radical self-expression and intra-mural critique. At the same time, we will study the emergence of scholarship on black classicisms in the last thirty years and the theoretical underpinnings of this field. The course is offered as a research seminar with an incorporated pedagogy workshop: one of the coursework assignments is to develop a syllabus for a course on an aspect of Black classicisms, and seminars will involve short (ca. 15 minute) segments on pedagogy to help support future teaching.

COMPLIT 278

Hyperreality

Panagiotis Roilos

The crisis of representation in postmodernity—closely connected with social and existential

alienation and technological development—often manifests itself in terms of “hyperreality,” where any distinction between “the real” and “the simulacrum” is blurred. The boundaries between “reality” and “non-reality” and relevant concepts (e.g., originality, authenticity, mimesis, simulacrum) have been explored and challenged from different but comparable perspectives in philosophy, art, and literature since classical antiquity. This seminar will investigate discourses on, or inspired by, “hyperreality” and its epistemological, ontological, and political implications, from antiquity to postmodernity. Authors and thinkers to be discussed include Plato, Descartes, Schopenhauer, Jean Baudrillard, Guy Debord, Gilles Deleuze, Félix Guattari, Umberto Eco, Fredric Jameson, Paul Virilio, Bruno Latour, Elizabeth Grosz, Rosi Braidotti; Lucian, Pedro Calderón de la Barca, Franz Kafka, Jorge Luis Borges, William Gibson, Philip K. Dick, Christine Broke-Rose, Italo Calvino, Don DeLillo, Julian Barnes.

CLS-STDY 215

Ancient Greek History: Topics and Methods

Paul Kosmin

This course will explore (i) central questions in Greek history, broadly understood (e.g., the emergence and nature of the polis, interactions with the Achaemenid empire, the Greek economy, enslavement and subordination, ruler cult), and (ii) key texts in the philosophy and methodology of the historical discipline.

CLASPHIL 249

Mycenaean Greek

Jeremy Rau

A systematic introduction to Mycenaean Greek, including script, synchronic and historical grammar, and the political, cultural, and economic world of the Linear B tablets.

John Osborne Sargent Prize for a Translation of an Ode of Horace

Every year, the Department of the Classics awards a prize for the best metrical translation of a lyric poem of Horace by a Harvard undergraduate. Fiona McFerrin-Clancy ('25) won this year's prize with a translation of Horace *Odes* 2.19.

Horace *Odes* 2.19

Bacchum in remotis carmina rupibus
vidi docentem—credite posteri—
 Nymphasque discentis et auris
 capripedum Satyrorum acutas.

Euhoe, recenti mens trepidat metu
plenoque Bacchi pectore turbidum
 laetatur: Euhoe, parce Liber,
 parce gravi metuende thyrsos!

fas pervicaces est mihi Thyiadas
vinique fontem lactis et uberes
 cantare rivos atque truncis
 lapsa cavis iterare mella:

fas et beatae coniugis additum
stellis honorem tectaque Penthei
 disiecta non leni ruina
 Thracis et exitium Lycurgi.

tu flectis amnis, tu mare barbarum,
tu separatis uvidus in iugis
 nodo coerces viperino
 Bistonidum sine fraude crinis:

tu, cum parentis regna per arduum
cohors Gigantum scanderet impia,
 Rhoetum retorsisti leonis
 unguibus horribilique mala;

quamquam choreis aptior et iocis
ludoque dictus non sat idoneus
 pugnae ferebaris: sed idem
 pacis eras mediusque belli.

te vidit insons Cerberus aureo
cornu decorum leniter atterens
 caudam et recedentis trilingui
 ore pedes tetigitque crura.

Translation

I saw proud Bacchus teaching on the heights,
Believe it, all you heirs of distant years!
The swaying nymphs took up the sacred rites,
And cloven Satyrs pricked their tender ears.

I call with trembling heart: Euhoe, attend!
My soul is seized by wild Bacchic wrath
O Liber, spare me from your madd'ning ends
Most fearsome lord who wields the ivy staff.

With godly favor now I sweetly sing
Of frenzied Maenads, lost in blazing dark
Of milk and wine fresh flowing from the spring,
And golden honey dripping from the bark.

And freely now I praise your maiden scorned,
Whose silver crown was graced with starry birth
The ruined pride of Thracian halls that burned,
Lycurgian king condemned beneath the earth.

You curb the sea when storm-born anger roils
You wander, soaked with wine, the mountain stair
You lift with steady hand the viperous coils
To tame with gentle braids dark Maenad hair.

While guarding father's gates of glowing pearl
When heedless Giants dared the holy house
You tore the skies and mighty Rhoetus hurled,
With savage claw and lion's dreadful mouth.

Though many thought you loathed the weary fight,
Not fit for war but games and joyful dance
You mastered song and battlefield alike,
As eager for the cup as for the lance.

When Cerberus beheld your shining horn,
Your brow adorned with vine and gilded wreath
He wagged his tail and bowed his fearsome form,
And with his tongue thrice-kissed your weary feet.



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