NEWS FROM THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF THE CLASSICS

NOTA BENE



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In This Issue

Notes from the Chair 2
Undergraduate Student News 4
Class of 2026 Senior Concentrators 7
Some Seniors' Future Plans 9
Senior Honors Theses 11
Undergraduate Prizes 14
Senior Reflections 18
Graduate Student News 26
PhD Dissertations 28
Graduate Student Reflections 30
Faculty News 34
Harvard Studies in Classical Philology 37
Highlighted Fall 2026 Courses 38
John Osborne Sargent Prize for a Translation of an Ode of Horace 43

Cover Image: Flowers outside Boylston Hall. Jon Chase/Harvard University.
Image: Boylston Hall. Kris Snibbe/Harvard University.

Notes from the Chair

Naomi Weiss

I write this on a gorgeous June day, when the bright blue sky seems a world away from the snow day with which the spring semester began. My final "Notes from the Chair" provide a welcome opportunity for reflecting on all that has happened in our department between those cold January beginnings and the warmth of early summer, and for looking back on the academic year as a whole.

In this edition of *Nota Bene*, you will read about the many accomplishments of our students and faculty—degrees awarded, prizes won, and books published. These were achieved within the context of a wonderfully vibrant Classics community. We started the year with the 2025 Jackson Colloquium, a major international conference on nationalism, origins, and the politics of Latin literature. The spring semester began with a packed talk (despite the snow!) by Walter Scheidel (Stanford) entitled "Ancient History as Universal History" and ended with a conference organized by Panagiotis Roilos and Dimiter Angelov entitled "Past and Present: Cultural Politics in Byzantium and Beyond." Halfway through, Greg Woolf (NYU) delivered a Loeb Classical Lecture entitled "The Resilience of Empire and the Weakness of the Emperors." Our departmental seminar series not only hosted visiting speakers from elsewhere but also showcased the pioneering research of our own faculty. Our graduate student workshops provided supportive environments both for workshopping PhD research and for exploring new scholarly approaches through dialogue with experts in the field. Our senior undergraduates presented their own original research in the senior thesis colloquium. Reading groups such as those on Greek philosophical texts and Homer ran throughout the year. Students across many of our classes visited the exciting new exhibition at Harvard Art Museums, "Celtic Art Across the Ages." In celebration of Valentine's Day, students wrote love letters on papyri after looking at ancient examples. And of course, alongside all these things, classes were running on topics ranging from archaic Latin to ancient athletics to modern adaptations of Greek tragedy.

It has been a difficult year, too. Carmen Arnold-Biucchi, the renowned numismatist and our beloved colleague at Harvard Art Museums, passed away in January. We miss her terribly. Alex Riehle, associate professor and leading scholar of Byzantine literature, had his final year here and is about to return to Europe. We will feel his absence very keenly, for he has been a wonderful teacher, mentor, colleague, friend, and, most recently, Director of Graduate Studies.

I am immensely proud of our department. Our successes are not to be taken for granted, and, in the face of cuts across the FAS, we have been working very hard to ensure that our programs remain robust and our students, staff, and faculty are well supported. That work will continue in the year ahead, but I am confident that our community will remain strong.



Image: Professors Richard Thomas and Naomi Weiss meet with students during our “AntiquiTea” event.



Image: (from left to right) Natasha Chamitoff (’27), McKenna McKrell (’26), Christine Corcoran (’26), and Frances Campos (’26).

Undergraduate Student News

This year, our department celebrated the graduation of 18 seniors and welcomed a new cohort of 11 sophomore concentrators to our community. Our students earned university-wide accolades and prizes for their innovative senior theses, language skills, and more, while contributing to the vibrant life of our academic community at various social gatherings and recruitment events.

Our undergraduate community continues to foster a celebratory and collegial atmosphere, highlighted by events such as the Love & Papyrus gathering to celebrate Valentine's Day in February and the spring Student-Faculty Lunch in April. Students made thoughtful contributions at our many department seminars and lectures. The Harvard Classical Club hosted regular get-togethers and gathered to read Aristophanes' *Clouds*. On March 13 (a Friday as Fortuna would have it), the deadline for the submission of honors theses, we assembled to celebrate our sixteen senior thesis writers, recognizing the successful completion of their research projects with a champagne toast and celebratory lunch.

A highlight of the semester was the Classical Studies 112: Regional Study trip to Sicily, led by Professor Margaret Andrews during Spring Break. Professor Andrews and her ten students traveled across the island, with stops in cities such as Palermo, Agrigento, Syracuse, Catania, and Taormina. The group visited a wide range of sites, including the







Image (top): Students use bamboo pens and ink to create valentines on papyrus during our Love & Papyrus event.

Image (middle): Director of Undergraduate Studies David Elmer recognizes senior thesis writers during our celebratory lunch.

Image (bottom): (from left to right): John Rogers ('26) and Theo Glaeser ('26) at Selinunte Archaeological Park.

Villa Romana del Casale, the ancient settlement of Motya, Selinunte Archaeological Park, the Valley of the Temples, the Neopolis Archaeological Park, the Catacombs of San Giovanni in Syracuse, and cathedrals such as Capella Palatina and Cattedrala di Monreale in Palermo. Students presented site reports at each location, providing the class with additional Information and historical context gleaned from their research.



Image: Classical Studies 112 students participate in a virtual reality experience before entering the Catacombs of San Giovanni, Syracuse.

Graduating senior Kiesse Nanor represented the department with great distinction at this year's Commencement Exercises as the Latin Salutatorian, with an oration titled "Harvardianus Esse" ("To Be a Harvardian"). (Read an English translation and watch Kiesse's performance on YouTube).



Image: Margaret Andrews leads Classical Studies 112 students to the acropolis in Selinunte Archaeological Park.

To the surprise and delight of the audience, she returned to the stage later in the ceremony as the piano accompanist for a musical tribute to honorary degree recipient Audra McDonald ("Wheels of a Dream," sung by Gabrielle Greene '27 and Samuel Hines '29). Although we will miss the presence of the Class of 2026 in our classrooms and in our department lounge, we are incredibly proud of their many achievements, detailed elsewhere in this issue. We are excited to witness the positive impact their intellect, kindness, and creative thinking will have on the world. Congratulations to the Class of 2026!



Image: John Nomellini ('27) delivers his site report at Selinunte Archaeological Park.



Image: Kiesse Nanor ('26) delivers the 2026 Latin Salutatory. Niles Singer/Harvard University.

Class of 2026
Classics Concentrators





Roger Brockett



Frances Campos



Christine Corcoran



Megan Degenhardt



Sophia Downs



Emma Lucia Byrnes Finn



Joseph Foo



Theo Glaeser



Jericho Hendershot

Class of 2026
Classics Concentrators





Thomas Juhasz



Elena Lu



Olivia Ma



Fiona McFerrin-Clancy



McKenna McKrell



James McCoy Mertens



Kiesse Nanor



John Rogers



Livingston Zug

Some Seniors' Future Plans

Frances Campos will move to Washington, D.C. to be the Post-Baccalaureate Curatorial Fellow at Dumbarton Oaks. Afterwards, she will pursue an MA in Classical Art and Archaeology at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Christine Corcoran will be moving to Scotland in the fall to begin an MSc in Medieval History at the University of Edinburgh.

Sophia Downs will be spending a year working in Washington, D.C. before pursuing graduate school.

Emma Finn will be pursuing a DPhil in Statistics at the University of Oxford, studying creativity and generalization in generative models.

Joseph Foo will be pursuing an MSc in Digital Scholarship at the University of Oxford.

Theo Glaeser will be working as a Post-Baccalaureate Fellow at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C.

Jericho Hendershot will be attending the University of Arizona to pursue an MA in Classics.

Thomas Juhasz will pursue an MSt in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies at the University of Oxford.

Elena Lu will begin a PhD in Early Modern European History at Stanford University in the fall.

Olivia Ma will pursue an MPhil in Classics at the University of Cambridge before returning to the US to start a PhD in Classics at Princeton University in fall 2027.

Fiona McFerrin-Clancy is currently working on a symbolic logic project related to AI and will be applying to law school this fall.

McKenna McKrell will be moving to Washington, D.C. to be the Post-Baccalaureate Digital Media Fellow at Dumbarton Oaks.

James McCoy Mertens will be teaching Latin and history at St. Andrew's-Sewanee, a boarding school in Sewanee, Tennessee.

Kiesse Nanor will be matriculating at New York University School of Law in the fall.

John Rogers will pursue an MPhil in Classics at the University of Cambridge, where he will be a member of King's College.

Livingston Zug will be pursuing an MPhil in English (on the reception of Lucian in the oeuvre of Christopher Marlowe) at Emmanuel College at the University of Cambridge, and hopes one day to become a high school teacher.



Image: (from left to right) John Rogers ('26), Theo Glaeser ('26), Elena Lu ('26), and Olivia Ma ('26) in Sicily during the Classical Studies 112 class trip.

Senior Honor Theses



Roger Brockett
History of Art and Architecture (HAA); Classical Languages and Literatures
"Prometheus Bound and the Rhetoric of Paint in the Art of Peter Paul Rubens and Frans Snyders"
Advisors: Felipe Pereda (HAA) & Richard Thomas

Frances Campos
Classical Civilizations; Secondary in Women, Gender, and Sexuality
"Breaking Binaries: Representations of Satyrs and Prostitutes in Attic Vase Painting"
Advisor: Irene Soto Marín; Asst. Advisor: Sarah Gonzalez

Christine Corcoran
Ancient History (Greek & Roman)
"A New Barbarian: Oppositional Roman Identity in the Long Twelfth Century, 1081–1216"
Advisors: Dimiter Angelov (History) & Alexander Riehle

Megan Degenhardt
Ancient History (Greek & Roman)
"Redeeming Tragedy: Rewriting Euripides through Christian Identity in the *Christos Paschon*"
Advisors: Alexander Riehle & Dimiter Angelov (History)

Sophia Downs
Classical Languages and Literatures; Secondary in English
"*Leges Sine Moribus*: The *Lex Iulia et Papia*"
Advisor: Irene Soto Marín; Asst. Advisor: Luby Linden

Emma Finn
Mathematics; Classical Languages and Literatures
"Quantifying the Past: Empirical Tropes in Greek Historiography"
Advisor: Emily Greenwood; Asst. Advisor: Connor North

Theo Glaeser
Classical Languages and Literatures; Folklore and Mythology; Secondary in Medieval Studies
"The Phantasm in *De Nugis Curialium*"
Advisors: Jan Ziolkowski & Paul Russell (Celtic Languages and Literatures)

Jericho Hendershot
Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC); Classical Civilizations; Secondary in History
"Panegyric as Genre in Umayyad and Byzantine Praise Poetry: A Comparative Study of al-Akhtal al-Taghlibi's '*Khaffa al Qatinu*' and George Pisides' '*Heracliad*'"
Advisors: Houssem Chachia (NELC) & Alexander Riehle

Thomas Juhasz
Classical Languages and Literatures
"*Translatio* as Mediation: Translation, Metaphor, and the Limits of Language in Boethius"
Advisor: Jan Ziolkowski; Asst. Advisor: Caroline Engelmayer

Elena Lu
Ancient History (Greek & Roman)
"From Authority to History: Comparison and its Limits in 17th- and 18th-Century Homeric Scholarship"
Advisors: Ann Blair (History) & David Elmer

Olivia Ma
Classical Languages and Literatures; Comparative Literature
"Voices of Ambition and Critique: Contrasting Historical Inquiry in Herodotus' *Histories* and Sima Qian's *Shiji*"
Advisors: Emily Greenwood & Benjamin Orion Landauer (East Asian Languages and Civilizations)

Fiona McFerrin-Clancy
Classical Languages and Literatures; Secondary in Medieval Studies
Bittersweet Birds: Women, Lament, and the Visual Language of White-Ground Lekythoi
Advisor: Gregory Nagy; Asst. Advisor: Ollie Cowley (Comparative Literature)

McKenna McKrell
Classical Languages and Literatures; Secondary in Medieval Studies
"In with the New? Faliscan Movement and Memory in the Wake of Roman Conquest"
Advisor: Margaret Andrews; Asst. Advisor: Samantha Richter

James McCoy Mertens
Classical Civilizations; History; Secondary in Comparative Study of Religion
"The Age of Everett: Philhellenism, Abolition, and Classical Education at Harvard and Beyond"
Advisor: Emma Dench; Asst. Advisor: Diontay Wolfries-Thomas

Kiesse Nanor
Classical Languages and Literatures; Economics
"κῆν' ὅττω τις ἔραται: A Study of Complementarity in Lesbian Lyric"
Advisor: David Elmer; Asst. Advisor: Esther Reichek

John Rogers
Classical Languages and Literatures; Secondary in German and Scandinavian Studies
"*Rura cano*: The Speakers of Virgil's Country"
Advisor: Richard Thomas; Asst. Advisor: Phoebe Lakin

Livingston Zug
Classical Civilizations; Secondary in English
"The Long Shadow of Homer: The Greek and Roman Settlement that Dared to Call Itself the Site of Troy"
Advisor: Margaret Andrews; Asst. Advisor: Samantha Richter



Image: Some of the Senior thesis writers. Back row (from left to right): McKenna McKrell, Kiesse Nanor, Elena Lu, Thomas Juhasz, Jericho Hendershot, and Theo Glaeser. Front row (from left to right): Frances Campos, Sophia Downs, Emma Finn, and Olivia Ma.



Undergraduate Prizes

Department Prizes

Bowdoin Prize in Greek (Undergraduate)

for translation into Greek

Lorenzo Levy ('27)

Bowdoin Prize in Latin (Undergraduate)

for translation into Latin

Lorenzo Levy ('27)

George Emerson Lowell Scholarship Prize

for the best performance in an examination on Latin

Lorenzo Levy ('27)

John Osborne Sargent Prize for a Latin Translation

for the best English translation of an Ode of Horace

India Jayanti ('28)

Read India's translation on page 43.

Senior Department Awards

Corey Fellowship

for graduates pursuing further study of Classics in Europe

Christine Corcoran, Megan Degenhardt, Jericho Hendershot, Thomas Juhasz, & John Rogers

Department Prizes

for academic achievement and contributions to the departmental community

Frances Campos, Christine Corcoran, Elena Lu, James McCoy Mertens, Kiesse Nanor, & Livingston Zug

Louis Curtis Prize

for excellence in Latin

Frances Campos, Thomas Juhasz, & John Rogers

William King Richardson Prize

for excellence in Greek and Latin

John Rogers

Senior Thesis Awards

Classical Reception Thesis Prize *for a thesis on classical reception*	Elena Lu
History Thesis Prize *for a thesis on history*	Emma Finn
Smyth Thesis Prize *for a thesis on Greek*	Jericho Hendershot & Kiesse Nanor
Vermeule Thesis Prize *for a thesis on classical archaeology*	McKenna McKrell
Hoopes Prize *for excellence in undergraduate work*	Emma Finn, Elena Lu, & Olivia Ma

Additional Awards and Honors

Joaquim Bocresion ('28), a double concentrator in Classics and Mathematics, has been named the winner of the 2025 Jacob Wendell Prize. The Wendell Prize is one of the most prestigious prizes awarded by the College: "The Jacob Wendell Scholarship Prize, which was established in 1899 by bequest of Jacob Wendell, is awarded to a Harvard College sophomore identified by the selection committee as the most promising and broad-ranging scholar in the student's class."

Christine Corcoran has been awarded the John Petersen Elder Prize, given "to a scholarly Lowell House student who has made a unique contribution to the House."

Frances Campos, a Classics concentrator, and **Jericho Hendershot**, a Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and Classics joint concentrator, have been elected to Phi Beta Kappa, joining the Class of 2026 cohort, which also includes Classics and Statistics double concentrator Emma Finn and Classical Civilizations secondary field students Emily Ding and Helen He. Additionally, **Lorenzo Levy** ('27), a joint concentrator in Classics and Government, has been elected to Phi Beta Kappa as one of only 24 members of the Class of 2027 cohort.

Sophia Downs and **Thomas Juhasz** have been awarded a Newbold Rhinelander Landon Memorial Scholarship Prize, given to students with a strong grounding in Classics who intend to go to law school or pursue other training for government service.

Emma Finn has been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, which will fund her DPhil at the University of Oxford, and the Department of Statistics Concurrent Master's Prize, given "to the graduating student who, having completed the concurrent master's program in the Department of Statistics, has the best overall performance (as indicated by coursework results), has demonstrated achievements in statistics outside of coursework, and has contributed significantly to the department."

Joseph Foo has been awarded the Robert E. Levi Prize, which "recognizes a Harvard College senior who has demonstrated outstanding arts management skills over the course of an undergraduate career," and the Undergraduate Book Collecting Prize (Third Prize) for his project entitled "Folk Stories: A Melting Pot for the Flavors of Life."

Elena Lu has been awarded the Philip Washburn Prize, "offered for the best thesis, of sufficient merit, on a historical subject presented by a successful candidate for the bachelor's degree with honors in the Department of History."

Olivia Ma has been awarded the Paul Williams Scholarship, a Harvard-UK Fellowship that supports "one year of study in 'international' fields of study at Emmanuel College, Cambridge." For her essay, "Forms of Distance in Historical Inquiry: Travel, Reflection, and Critical Perspectives," she has also been awarded the John J. Winkler Memorial Prize, which recognizes the "author of the best undergraduate or graduate essay in any risky or marginal field of classical studies," and the George B. Sohier Prize, "given for the best thesis containing approximately 10,000 words of text presented by a successful candidate for honors in English or in modern literature and in certain cases History and Literature." In addition, she received the Ernst Kitzinger Prize, given "to that student in Lowell House who best exemplifies Ernst Kitzinger's qualities as a scholar and citizen."

Kiesse Nanor has been awarded the David Taggart Clark Prize, which is "awarded to a member of the graduating class of Harvard College selected to make the Latin oration at Commencement."

Livingston Zug has been awarded the Paul Williams Scholarship, a Harvard-UK Fellowship that supports "one year of study in 'international' fields of study at Emmanuel College, Cambridge."



Image: Some Class of 2026 Seniors at our Commencement Party. Back row (from left to right): Elena Lu, John Rogers, and Jericho Hendershot. Middle row (from left to right): Kiesse Nanor, Sophia Downs, Emma Finn, Joseph Foo, and McKenna McKrell. Front row (from left to right): Thomas Juhasz, James McCoy Mertens, Olivia Ma, Christine Corcoran, Megan Degenhardt, and Frances Campos.



Image: Frances Campos (’26) celebrates her election to Phi Beta Kappa.

Senior Reflections

Farewell messages from some of our graduating seniors



Frances Campos

I was first introduced to the Department of the Classics during my Visitas trip in 2022. While excited, I had a hard time shaking my anxiety and impostor syndrome, which mainly stemmed from my lack of formal education in classical history and languages. Aside from a passion for the humanities, a personal research project in high school, and a childhood love for the Percy Jackson series, I had limited exposure to the field before my first semester at Harvard. Yet, I was immediately comforted and encouraged by the faculty and students I met on that day four years ago—because of them, I felt as though I was not only capable of rising to the challenge, but also worthy of contributing a valuable perspective.

Since then, the department never ceased providing that same level of support throughout all my academic endeavors. I grew so much from each and every classics course I took, from Beginner Latin and Greek to a number of niche seminars. The department's endless list of learning opportunities beyond the classroom allowed me to travel the world and gain experiences that I wouldn't have been able to find elsewhere. Through these opportunities, I developed a love for archaeological and museum work that I will continue to pursue post-grad.

I would especially like to thank my thesis advisors Irene Soto Marín and Sarah Gonzalez, whose endless support and positive energy made the research and writing process both intellectually stimulating and rewarding. I would also like to thank everyone in the department and its wider circle of affiliates who contributed to my undergraduate experience, including but not limited to Naomi Weiss, Gregory Nagy, Margaret Andrews, Sammi Richter, Luby Linden, Esther Reichek, Susanne Ebbinghaus, Caitlin Clerkin, Bahadır Yıldırım, Emmi Farrell, Teresa Wu, and Alyson Lynch. I can truly say that these last four years have been life-changing beyond words because of the wonderful people on the second floor of Boylston Hall!



Christine Corcoran

Classics has been such a home for me these last 4 years, and I'll miss you all dearly! Valete, χαίρετε!



Sophia Downs

I'm so grateful for the wonderful individuals in the department who have provided mentorship, introduced me to thought-provoking texts, and encouraged me to think critically. Thank you all!



Emma Finn

I'm so grateful for my time in the Classics department, for all the friends I've made, and especially for the generous mentorship of many professors.



Joseph Foo

My very first class during my first semester in my first year at Harvard was in the Classics department. I'm incredibly grateful for every teacher and peer along the way since then.



Theo Glaeser

Mihi est propositum in taberna mori,
Ut sint vina proxima morientis ori,
Tunc cantabunt laetius Angelorum chori,
"Sit deus propitius huic potatori."



Jericho Hendershot

Thank you for introducing me to the splendor and mysteries of the ancient Mediterranean!



Thomas Juhasz

The Classics department here at Harvard has served both as my intellectual haven and as a source of numerous wonderful memories and friendships. Some of my most intellectually formative experiences were through the Classics department, from my Latin composition class with Professor Hudson, to my Greek paleography class with Professor Riehle, to the numerous classes I took with Professor Thomas.

As an underclassman, I greatly treasured the opportunity to hear each senior present their thesis at the annual senior thesis colloquium. These colloquia fueled my own desire to write a senior thesis on Boethius' translation theory, which was one of my most rewarding experiences during my four years here. I would like to express my utmost gratitude to my two advisors, Professor Jan Ziolkowski and Caroline Engelmayer, for their endless support, encouragement, and brilliant insight throughout the process.

Equally importantly, I reflect with gratitude on the tight community of student-scholars that the Classics department has so successfully cultivated. I trust that the senior thesis chat will continue to be as lively as it is currently and that the trips to Grendel's, although perhaps only a memory, will never be forgotten.

Special thanks to those in the Classics department who imparted their wisdom upon me during my time here at Harvard, including Professors Paul Kosmin, Alexander Riehle, Jared Hudson, Richard Thomas, Kathleen Coleman, and Jan Ziolkowski, as well as Nate Herter, Susannah Wright, Alex Vega, and Will Edwards. I will sorely miss my time here, but I know that I will cherish the knowledge and experiences that have been shared with me.



Elena Lu

As I depart from Harvard, I feel I am bidding farewell to an iteration of myself, the classicist who read all that Homer and reshelved so many books in Smyth. In an important sense, I grew up in this department, and, despite all the growing pains and fits of rebellion, I will remain nostalgic for it for some while. While it is good to know that home is ever only so far away, a few notes of gratitude are in order.

Teresa Wu, Alyson Lynch, Ryan Pasco, and Emmi Farrell have seen me through it all, from stressful tax seasons to dizzying bus rides in Sicily. Each of them has never failed to make me laugh, and their support has made early adulthood much more manageable.

I'm also grateful to have spent these years accompanied by peers much wiser and more capable than myself. Dante's excitement about the ancient past was infectious. Madeleine gave great advice with apparent ease. Mac's wit and charm brought life to every space we share. John offered that rare kind of friendship, where I learned something new in every conversation. The graduate students too made this place my home. When I think back to this time, I will remember HRG with Jorge and Luby, book recs from Connor and Justin, soccer with Will and Sarah, lounge-afternoons with Phoebe L. and Kevin, cooking and eating with Phoebe H. and Felix M., volleyball with Riccardo and Alanis, Sicilian selfies with Diontay, and dinosaurs with Ana Luiza. Somewhere in between these adventures, I became a better classicist and historian, thanks to all of them.

As an undergraduate, I've had the freedom to try on many personas—philologist, linguist, historian—each exceptionally modeled by members of the faculty. Richard Thomas taught me to love the complexities of Virgil and despise those of Lucretius. Emily Greenwood, Greg Nagy, Jeremy Rau, and Naomi Weiss showed me how much Greek literature has to offer. Meg Andrews inspired an excitement about material culture that will do me well over the next years. Paul Kosmin showed me the beauty of good historical questions and compelling historical answers. David Elmer made me a better reader of ancient languages and worlds, not to mention a saner and more interesting person. To them I owe every fruit of subsequent learning. Thank you all.



Olivia Ma

The past four enriching years studying Classics at Harvard have undeniably made this reflection so much more difficult to write. I came to Harvard with some haphazard Latin and Greek and a vague interest in Classics. It is only through the department's continuous guidance and many serendipitous encounters that I was able to find and continue to craft my academic voice. From taking my first class in the department in my freshman fall semester—Greek 10 with Alex Vega—to writing a thesis on Herodotus and Sima Qian under the supervision of Professor Emily Greenwood, I have had such a great honor to explore my interests with the support of faculty members whom I look up to.

I am grateful to all the professors who have taught me, challenged me, and inspired me in various ways: Professors Richard Thomas, Emma Dench, Kathleen Coleman, Jeremy Rau, Paul Kosmin, Naomi Weiss, Margaret Andrews, and Emily Greenwood. They have not only pushed me academically but also shown me much care and kindness in their teaching, which has shaped and will continue to shape how I approach the field as a scholar and who I am as a person. Looking back, writing a joint thesis in Classics and Comparative Literature has been the most fulfilling experience of my undergraduate years, even at times when it did not feel that way. I am grateful to Professor Greenwood and Benjamin Landauer in East Asian Languages and Civilizations for their mentorship and for always encouraging me to think more critically and further beyond Greco-Roman antiquity, narrowly defined. Equally, I am thankful to both the Classics and Comparative Literature departments for supporting this project.

I hold many treasured memories thanks to the Classics department, from traveling to Greece with the Harvard Summer School Program and to Sicily with CLS-STDY 112 to savoring the banana bread pudding and enjoying the conversations at the student-faculty lunches. I thank Teresa Wu, Ryan Pasco, and Emmi Farrell for these moments. Knowing what I enjoy studying is a privilege in itself; being able to pursue it with a clear sense of direction and such strong support is an even greater gift that I will always cherish. I am immensely grateful for the past four enriching years studying Classics at Harvard!



Fiona McFerrin-Clancy

My years in the Department of the Classics shaped me not only intellectually, but personally. The path to completing my degree was far longer and more uncertain than I ever expected, marked by years of profound grief, uncertainty, family hardship, and unexpected interruptions to my academic life. Throughout that time, the department offered me extraordinary generosity, patience, and humanity.

Writing my thesis on birds, souls, and mourning in Greek funerary art became deeply meaningful to me during those years, and I owe particular thanks to Professor Gregory Nagy for his mentorship and faith in my scholarship. I am also especially grateful to Professors Naomi Weiss, David Elmer, Jared Hudson, and Natasha Bershadsky, as well as Teresa Wu, Alyson Lynch, Ryan Pasco, and Emmi Farrell, for their mentorship, kindness, and support throughout my time in the department.

Beyond the classroom, it was an honor to serve as Editor-in-Chief of *Persephone*, President of the Classical Club, and Executive Producer of *Medea: The Musical*, generously sponsored by the Center for Hellenic Studies. These experiences introduced me to a community of extraordinary students, scholars, and friends whose brilliance and warmth I will always carry with me.

I leave Harvard with immense gratitude for the people, ideas, and grace that carried me through these years.



McKenna McKrell

I am incredibly grateful to everyone in the department for making Classics such a welcoming and supportive academic home over the past four years. In particular, I would like to thank my thesis advisors, Professor Andrews and Sammi Richter, all those involved in Classical Studies 112, and my first academic advisor, Professor Coleman. Their enthusiastic guidance truly shaped my academic trajectory, and my memories from trips to Sicily and the Falerii Novi Project will be some of the most cherished from my time at Harvard.



James McCoy Mertens

I came to the Classics at Harvard entirely unsure of my abilities to keep up with the fast pace of college life. I knew I loved Latin and Greek in high school but was scared that would change in college. I couldn't have been more wrong. I have found no greater support system, no kinder group of people, and no more important place in my academic life than Harvard Classics. From undergraduates to tenured faculty, I know I will have friends and mentors whom I love in this department.



Kiesse Nanor

There are few things I love in this world more than the study of classics. When I came to Harvard, the classics community became one of my first homes on campus, and I could not be more grateful to everyone in the department for all that you have done to support my intellectual and personal development.

I am particularly grateful to all the faculty who have guided me throughout these past four years: Professors David Elmer, Greg Nagy, Emily Greenwood, Richard Thomas, Irene Peirano Garrison, Naomi Weiss, Paul Kosmin, and Kathleen Coleman. You all have transformed the way I think about text, language, culture, and history, and I feel incredibly privileged to have been able to look at the ancient world through your eyes as I learned my own way to see.

Heartfelt thanks as well to Teresa Wu and Emmi Farrell, who have never failed to make me laugh as I loiter on the department couches. Thank you as well to all the wonderful graduate students I've been able to learn from over the past four years: Esther Reichek, Alanis Gonzalez, Arsen Nisanyan, Luby Linden, and William Edwards. In all of our interactions, whether in the classroom or at random points throughout the department, you have been such strong inspirations for me, and I am so excited to see all the wonderful things you will do for the discipline in the years to come.

When I first fell in love with Latin poetry in high school, I knew that there was an ancient song buried in those lines that I could not yet fully perceive. Thank you to you all for teaching me not only how to hear that song, but also how to sing.



John Rogers

With Mark Twain, we tend to understand reading the Classics as a social encounter with legitimacy. It is usually an ugly meeting. But "Classics" also start as bare "literature," and that fact perhaps allows a more private engagement with them. Classics become public when they are read by many people of many experiences. They can also be personal if we recreate that variety for ourselves by re-reading them: each time we revisit a text it calls to mind not only our former thoughts, but the past conditions that enabled those thoughts. That process is as little voluntary as it is neutral, but there is some beauty to how constant it is.

That kind of contact is what I value most in this subject. It is also behind my feeling towards this department. Part of spending four years in one place is in noticing how the experience of each year differs from that of the next, especially in ways that have little to do with "development." I have felt and thought differently under different conditions, and it is hard to evaluate either variable against the other. What I can value positively is the persistent company of this group of people and this specific place, because it has allowed me to see so much variation in all its rich and indefinite forms.

Many people have contributed to this effect, but four require particular mention from me. I owe much to Theo Glaeser for his friendship and for the mediaevalist's ability to appreciate randomness as it comes. Phoebe Lakin's example has made more of an impression on me than she knows, and her care is behind whatever instincts I have for Virgil's country poems. There are also certain people here whose character and thinking have been so sympathetic, that I not only ape but regularly misidentify them as my own. Elena Lu has been such a friend and Professor Thomas one such teacher.



Livingston Zug

It's been so wonderful to be in the department these four years, learn from all the amazing professors, and make lifelong friends. I'm so grateful for the Classics Club chairs, the *Persephone* editorial team, and especially the other Classics thesis writers for all the laughter and late nights. Thank you also to Teresa, Alyson, Emmi, Ryan, and Professors Weiss, Kosmin, Nagy, Love, Riehle, Coleman, Angelov, Dench, Elmer, Whittington, Livingston, and, of course, my thesis advisor, Professor Andrews. This intellectual community has nourished my love of the classics into something that I'll always carry with me.

Graduate Student News

In December 2025, **Eli Aizikowitz** presented his dissertation prospectus, entitled “Ancient Greek Political Economy.”

In March 2026, **Caroline Engelmayer** presented her dissertation prospectus, entitled "Ovid’s *Heroides* as *Historia*: Myth and Verisimilitude in the European Renaissance."

In January 2026, **Sarah Gonzalez** presented her dissertation prospectus, entitled “The Hermeneutics of Fragmentation: A Reappraisal of Greek Tragic Fragments.”

Sarah Gonzalez and **Hannah Lynch** received Harvard Griffin GSAS Merit/Graduate Society Term-Time Research Fellowships to support one semester of research in the 2026–27 academic year.

Hannah Hoffman and **Audrey Saint-Juste** have received Graduate Society Summer Predissertation Fellowships for 2026. Hannah will conduct archaeological research in Turkey, and Audrey will attend Summer School in Latin Lexicography at the *Thesaurus linguae Latinae* Institute.

Phoebe Hyun has won the 2025 Erich Gruen Prize for the best graduate research paper on multiculturalism in the ancient Mediterranean. Phoebe’s essay, “Do You Trust Me? Formations of Trust in First- to Fourth-Century CE Erythraean Trade,” was unanimously selected by the committee as this year’s winner: “The committee was impressed by the essay's well-researched investigation of how traders of diverse origins and disparate socio-ethnic backgrounds successfully established trust networks among themselves when conducting business around the Erythraean Sea.”

Phoebe Lakin won this year’s Bowdoin Prize for Graduate Composition in Latin with an entry entitled “*Praecordia aenea*.”

Luby Linden is one the winners of the 2026 Derek C. Bok Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Undergraduates. This award recognizes the most outstanding graduate student instructors from across the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

In May 2026, **Hannah Lynch** presented her dissertation prospectus, entitled “The Possibilities and Limits of Empire: Hellenistic Queenship and the Infrastructures of Imperial Space and Time.”

In May 2026, **Felix Montgomery** completed his special examinations in "Homeric Greek, West Greek Dialects," "Roman Historiography and Ethnic Identity," and "Bronze Age and Iron Age Greece in Archaeology and Literature."

In February 2026, **Arsen Nisanyan** presented his dissertation prospectus, entitled "Anatolia in the Making: From Iron Age to Rome—Scholars, Dynasts, Empires."

In May 2026, **Esther Reichek** completed her special examinations in "Plutarch, Lucian and Reading Culture," "Comparative Greek and Arabic Poetics," and "Horace's *Ars Poetica*."

In May 2026, **Diontay Wolfries-Thomas** completed his special examinations in "Roman slavery," "Greco-Roman peripheries," and "Black Intellectual Thought and Classicism."

In November 2025, **Kevin Wong** presented his dissertation prospectus, entitled "Multiplayer Classicism: Replaying Epic from Greco-Roman Antiquity to Online Gaming Culture." Kevin also received a $5,000 travel grant from the Center for Hellenic Studies to conduct research for his dissertation in Shanghai and Tokyo.



Image: Phoebe Lakin with her dissertation committee (from left to right: Emily Greenwood, Richard Thomas, Phoebe, and Jan Ziolkowski).



Image: (from left to right) PhD graduates John Kee, Greta Galeotti, Vivian Jin, Phoebe Lakin, and Allison Resnick.



PhD Dissertations



Greta Galeotti

PhD in Classical Philology

"The Language of Lesbian Lyric: Local Tradition and Epic Influence in Sappho and Alcaeus"

Advisor: Jeremy Rau



Vivian Jin

PhD in Classical Philology

"Virgilian Vision and Voice"

Advisor: Richard Thomas



John Kee

PhD in Byzantine Studies

"Philology and Empire in Michael Choniates"

Advisors: Alexander Riehle & Dimiter Angelov



PhD Dissertations



Phoebe Lakin

PhD in Classical Philology

"Tending the Plot: Literary Ecology and the Reception of Virgil's *Georgics*"

Advisor: Richard Thomas



Allison Resnick

PhD in Classical Philology

"Poetry under Pressure: The Impact of Imperial Regime Change on Martial, Book 10"

Advisor: Kathleen Coleman



Philip Murray Wilson

PhD in Medieval Latin

"Apocalypse in Arcadia: Eschatological Elements in Latin Pastoral"

Advisor: Jan Ziolkowski

Pages 23 and 24 image: Commencement on Harvard Yard. Kris Snibbe/Harvard University.

Graduate Student Reflections

Farewell messages from our PhD graduates



Greta Galeotti

Trying to describe my time at Harvard is such a task that I've cleaned the entire house in procrastination and still I am struggling to find the words to encompass such a transformative journey. Flashes come to mind: The shock and delight at starting to learn a new culture and academic system. The stress leading up to the generals and the elation at passing them. How Cambridge felt deserted during the pandemic. The joy of finally visiting Greece. Coming up with my prospectus on the flight back from Macedonia. Jumping into the Greek Dialects seminar in my first year and feeling like I had answers and follow-up questions in my last. Most of all, the people I've met and that I've had the privilege to work with. I am full of gratitude for the Classics department for helping me learn what I wanted to study and letting me discover how much more there is to explore. I'm deeply thankful for the support and guidance I've found among the faculty, particularly to Jeremy Rau, Greg Nagy, and Richard Thomas for advising and supporting me from the specials to the end of the dissertation, through innumerable Excel files and drafts full of Italianisms. I'm truly grateful to Viv, Connor, John, Andrew, and Philip for being the best cohort, to Kathy Coleman for strolling along the river with me to check in during the pandemic, and to Alyson Lynch and Teresa Wu for making everything possible. I look forward to three years at Vanderbilt University as Mellon Assistant Professor and to having many opportunities for visiting Cambridge in the coming years!



Vivian Jin

Six years ago I came to Harvard wanting to understand how poetry and language make the ancients and us see, and I leave still wanting that, which I think is the right answer. What I did not expect was how much of that seeing would happen in conversation: over overpriced coffee and drinks, in margins, in classrooms where I learned and taught, in and around Boylston and along the Charles. I am grateful for the Classics community, which made it all possible. To my committee, Richard Thomas, David Elmer, Samantha Matherne, and Leah Kronenberg, thank you for your support, patience, and intellectual generosity, and to Richard in particular for guidance and kindness, and for showing me how to live in a pessimistic world with optimism. To my cohort, the forever Classics G1s, for rare camaraderie. To Alyson, Ryan, and Teresa, thank you for the steady care that held it all

(Fin cont.) together. I depart for a postdoc at NYU Shanghai; using, as Bob Dylan has it, ideas as my maps, we will meet again, soon.



John Kee

After three years away, I had the good luck to return to Cambridge for my defense this April—and was surprised to find that Boylston Hall still felt just like home. Most of the friends who shared my time there have moved on, and others will soon. But it was the same place, and the people I didn't know seemed like friends I hadn't met yet: which must be a sign of community.

This department has been a welcoming home since I arrived in September 2019, and while it will be a bit of a trip to visit from Central Europe, I know that will remain the case for years to come. Many, many thanks to all the people—Teresa and Alyson, fellow students, teachers, and advisors and committee members—who made it a place where I've been able learn so much.



Phoebe Lakin

All told, it has now been a decade that I have passed in our department at play (AB) and work (PhD). When you ask a classicist to reflect on a ten-year period of time, you might expect her to mention either the voyage of Odysseus or the years spent by Virgil composing the *Aeneid*. But neither would be an apt comparison: for one thing, far from all that the son of Laertes had to endure, my own voyage around Boylston Hall has been attended by suffering merely mild and a great amount of delight besides. What's more, unlike the *Aeneid*, my dissertation is complete, and unlike Virgil I probably will not be asking anyone to destroy it. My gratitude on both counts is immense, and even if I had as many mouths as Fama in *Aeneid* 4 I could not say thanks as numerous and profuse as are owed—so here are just a few: to the faculty, especially my dissertation committee; to Alyson and Teresa; to colleagues and friends in the department; to the students I've had the privilege of teaching: thank you! I have learned so much from all of you. I will carry fond memories of my time here across the Atlantic as I commence a two-year Loeb Classical Library Postdoctoral Fellowship at Trinity College, Dublin, in September.



Allison Resnick

While I may have done my best to remain a graduate student in this department forever, the time to compose my own Valete section in Nota Bene has—against all belief—arrived. There are many things I'll remember from my time here—late evenings, cleaning up after G1 happy hours; early mornings, spent finishing up Greek compositions; the frenzied preparation for general examinations with my cohortmates, followed by the more solitary undertaking of specials and then the odyssey that was the dissertation process…. But—as cliché as it may be to say this—the element of this department that has influenced me the most profoundly has been the people within it. I want to extend my thanks to the wonderful faculty in this department that I've had the good fortune of getting to know—as dissertation committee members, professors in my coursework years, course heads who developed and ran the classes that I had the privilege of TFing for, and mentors who were so generous with their time and advice. Particular thanks also must go to Ivy, who helped me to discover my passion for teaching, and to Alyson and Teresa—not just because they keep the department running, but also (and more importantly) for the endless support and encouragement that they provided me from my very first day in Boylston Hall, all the way through to the post-final conversation toast. Last, but certainly not least, I'd like to thank my students—those I got to know as a First-Year Proctor, and those I met in my capacity as a Teaching Fellow—for bringing such joy, good humor, and general shenanigans into days that would otherwise have been consumed by daunting writing deadlines and endless revisions. To everyone who has been a part of my journey here—*vobis gratias ago*.



Philip Murray Wilson

I have come to think of my time at Harvard not so much as the final step in my education, but as a series of first steps in a lifelong journey through the glades of Medieval Latin. The distinctively rigorous requirements in historical linguistics, prose composition, and seminars have afforded me knowledge of aspects of Latin that I simply did not know existed before entering this program. The department's opportunities for travel and research also ensured that whatever I wanted to find, I could seek. I am proud of and grateful for my time with you all.



Image: Allison Resnick with her dissertation committee (from left to right: Emma Dench, Jared Hudson, Allison, and Kathleen Coleman).



Image: John Kee with his dissertation committee (from left to right: Dimiter Angelov, John, Jan Ziolkowski, and Alexander Riehle) after his public defense.



Image: (from left to right) Director of Graduate Studies Alexander Riehle and PhD graduates Greta Galeotti, Vivian Jin, John Kee, Phoebe Lakin, and Allison Resnick at the Commencement Party.

Faculty News

Remembering Carmen Arnold-Biucchi



Carmen Arnold-Biucchi passed away peacefully at her home in Cambridge on January 2, 2026. Carmen came to Harvard in 2002 as the curator of numismatic collections at the Harvard Art Museums and was the inaugural Damarete Curator of Ancient Coins, an endowed position established in 2009. As Harvard's first coin curator, she organized the entire coin collection by mints and by emperors and greatly improved the cataloguing of coins in the museums' database. She also significantly expanded the collection through strategic acquisitions, designed the coin installations in the Ancient galleries, taught courses in our department, and mentored graduate student interns and assistants. From 2009 to 2015, Carmen served as President of the International Numismatic Council. She was awarded the Gunnar Holst Numismatic Foundation Medal in Göteborg in 2012, the Jeton de Vermeil of the French Numismatic Society in 2014, and the Medal of the Royal Numismatic Society, UK in 2022. She retired from Harvard in 2019.

If you would like to learn more about Carmen's work or about ancient coinage in general, you can consult the Special Collections feature that she authored or read her books, *The Randazzo Hoard and Sicilian Chronology in the Early Fifth Century BC* (American Numismatic Society, 1990), *Alexander's Coins and Alexander's Image* (Harvard University Art Museums, 2006), and *Sculpture and Coins: Margarete Bieber as Scholar and Collector* (Harvard University Press, 2018).

Image: Carmen Arnold-Biucchi. Lindsay Ahern/Harvard University.

Faculty Publications, Promotions, & Announcements

Margaret Andrews' monograph, *The Subura of Rome: Landscape and Ideology from the Iron Age to the Early Middle Ages*, was published in February 2026 by Cambridge University Press.

Paul Kosmin has been awarded the American Historical Association 2025 Prize in History Prior to CE 1000 for *The Ancient Shore* (Harvard University Press, 2024). He has also been awarded an extra semester of paid sabbatical leave through the FAS Sabbatical Recognition Program.

Rachel Love is the winner of the Andrew Heiskell Rome Prize. She will spend the 2026–27 academic year at the American Academy in Rome working on her second monograph.

Jeremy Rau has been appointed the Diebold Professor of Indo-European Linguistics and Philology, effective July 1, 2025.

Panagiotis Roilos' edited volume, *From Byzantium to the Early Greek Enlightenment: Books, Writers, and Ideologies in Early Modern Greek Contexts (Late 15th–Early 18th Centuries*, was published by Brill in January 2026.

In May, **Irene Soto Marín** was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with effect from July 1, 2026.

Naomi Weiss will serve as Director of the Center for Hellenic Studies (CHS) in Washington, D.C. Her five-year term begins July 1, 2026. In collaboration with CHS, she has recently launched a new podcast, Ancient Greece Today. The podcast brings scholars together with playwrights, novelists, poets, dancers, and other artists to explore the ancient Greek world and how it is used and reimagined in the present day.

Faculty Administrative Updates

Irene Peirano Garrison will serve as Interim Chair in 2026–27, starting July 1 2026.

Paul Kosmin will serve as Chair of the Department of the Classics for a two-year term beginning on July 1, 2027.

Kathleen Coleman will serve as the Director of Undergraduate Studies for 2026–27 academic year.

Richard Thomas will serve as Director of Graduate Studies in fall 2026, and **Emily Greenwood** will take over in spring 2027.



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Image: Professor Margaret Andrews, students, and staff explore the Roman Amphitheater of Catania

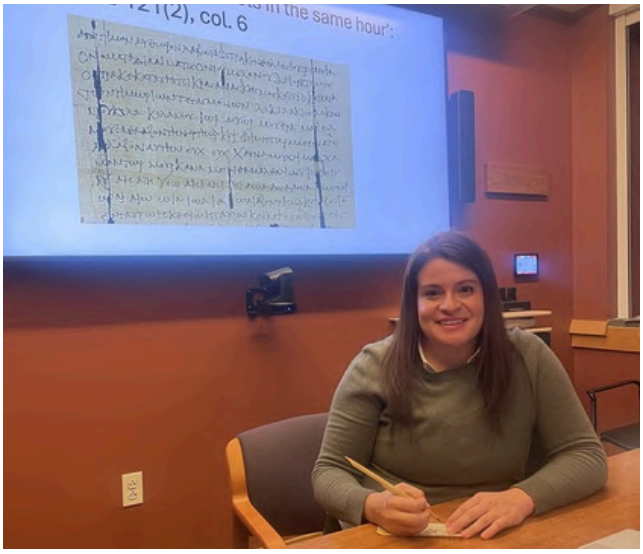


Image: Professor Irene Soto Marín shows examples of ancient love charms on papyri during the Love & Papyrus event.



Highlighted Fall 2026 Courses

Discover more courses and find descriptions on our website.

FYSEMR 65h: The Greatest Love Story of All Time? Heloise and Abelard
Professor Jan Ziolkowski

Ever yearn to travel back in time? Heloise and Peter Abelard, woman and man, student and teacher, nun and monk, embody much that is fascinating about the twelfth century and what subsequent ones, including ours, have made of it. The seminar adventures into letters written by the two, together with adaptations of their lives, from the Middle Ages to the present, into poems, novels, plays, films, and artworks. Along the way, we delve into similarities and differences between handwritten manuscripts on parchment and books printed on paper as well as between spoken and written words. As the title announces, the seminar emphasizes the loves of two extraordinary individuals. The theme encompasses the immense and mystifying spectrum of this feeling, including intense affections within a romantic couple, deep but differing bonds between individual believers and their God, passions that folks feel for vocations and avocations, and other types of pleasure also. It probes central issues of individuality and the power of institutions. We will explore who Abelard and Heloise were as persons and as a couple (before and after his castration), what they reveal about their now-distant days, and what they can help us to perceive about our own selves and moment in history. They taught each other much and can teach us nowadays too. Does human nature change? Are human beings today unique? Should we be as open to the inspiration of people from the past as from other cultures today?

Image: Temple at Selinunte Archaeological Park.

FYSEMR 68h: Examine Everything: Socrates and the Liberal Arts
Professor Peter Osorio

At Harvard you will be freer to do what you want than perhaps at any other time of your life. To what, then, will you be most committed? Your extracurriculars or your coursework? Your friends or your GPA? Your job prospects or your political convictions? It is the purpose of the liberal arts to equip you to direct the course of your own life. This first-year seminar addresses your new freedom and offers the opportunity to re-examine your commitments, through an inquiry into the life and philosophy of Socrates.

CLASARCH 11: Roman Archaeology
Professor Margaret Andrews

Anyone who has ever watched *Gladiator*, *Ben-Hur*, *Spartacus*, *Life of Brian*, *Rome*, or *We Who Are About to Die* has some image of Rome, the Romans, and their empire. This course, while exploring and assessing these influential popular preconceptions, introduces a more balanced view of the archaeology of ancient Rome. On a map of the modern world, the Roman Empire would extend from Great Britain to Syria, from Germany to Egypt. The diversity of its inhabitants was equally stunning, ranging from god-like emperors to beggars and slaves. Out of the innumerable things to study in this imperial world, we will spend time in the city of Rome itself, walk the streets of a doomed Pompeii, sniff out army life on the Roman frontiers, scream for blood in the Colosseum, and take baths with just about anybody. We will also ask a range of other questions. What makes an empire? How was this particular vast and diverse empire governed? Who or what did its inhabitants worship? How did they feel about their emperor? How were they entertained? Why did the Roman Empire "decline and fall" (or did it?)? Are there contemporary lessons to be learned from the Roman experience?

CLASARCH 120: Fake News! Archaeological Fictions and Frauds
Professor Margaret Andrews

Aliens, lost civilizations, conspiracies, and more! Archaeology—the exploration of human history through the study of physical objects made in the past—has inspired countless bogus theories about human history. But how did a discipline grounded in rigorous methodologies, careful accumulation and analysis of data, and scientific method get wrapped up in these associations? This course seeks to explore archaeological fakes and fraudulent theories, otherwise known as pseudoarchaeology. We will investigate a range of pseudoarchaeologies and study how they developed and have been disseminated, including many that are circulating on television and the internet today. Our examination will include Atlantis, the Pyramids, Stonehenge, religious hoaxes, and other fakes or fictions of the past that have captured popular attention.

(CLASARCH 120 cont.) Pseudoarchaeologies can and have been used in powerful, and sometimes sinister, ways to influence modern ideas about the past and the present. The use and misuse of archaeology has supported nationalistic agendas, racial biases, and religious movements. By looking at archaeological ideas—real and fake ones—we can learn how ancient history informs our modern thinking. We will look at how arguments are constructed about the past as a means of demonstrating why evidence matters and how critical it is to give it primacy in discourses about both past and present.

CLASARCH 130: Art and Archaeology of the Prehistoric Aegean
Professor Kathleen Garland

When did Greek-speakers first arrive in the Aegean? Was Minoan Crete ruled by peace-loving, nature-worshipping matriarchs? Did the Trojan War really happen? This course introduces students to the material culture of the Aegean, from the first traces of human habitation to the appearance of the Greek alphabet. We will consider the earliest inter-island networks, the emergence of powerful polities in a hyperconnected and fractious Mediterranean, and the aftermath of their collapse at the end of the Bronze Age. Students will become familiar with a wide variety of methods used to reconstruct political, social, economic, and cultural histories in periods with few or no texts, from art historical approaches to applications of archaeological science, such as survey and remote sensing, paleoclimatology, ancient DNA, isotope analysis, and more. Students will also be introduced to theoretical debates in archaeology which have shaped our interpretations of this data.

MODGRKST 103: The Nazis and the Greeks
Professor Panagiotis Roilos

This course explores the reception of Greek culture in Nazi Germany and the cultural, historical, and political implications of the occupation of Greece by the Nazis. Emphasis will be also placed on holocaust memoirs by Greek Jews. All readings will be available in English. Students who can engage in coursework in Greek can petition to receive foreign language course credit.

GENED 1074: The Ancient Greek Hero
Professor Gregory 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 ancient 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

(*GENED 1074 cont.*) meaning of life and death in the light of what we read in Greek literature about the ordeals of becoming a hero.

LATIN 127: Martial and Latin Epigram
Professor Kathleen Coleman

This course will study selected epigrams by Martial, whose life spanned the reigns of at least ten emperors from Claudius to Trajan. Special attention will be paid to the origin and definition of "epigram"; the epigrammatic tradition inherited from Hellenistic Greece; metre and diction; literary patronage in Imperial Rome; authorial persona; epigram as social critique; the concept of "publication" in antiquity; the structure and arrangement of a book-length collection of epigrams; the chronology of Martial's fifteen surviving collections; the concept of "wit"; the reception of Martial's legacy from antiquity to the present. Some of Martial's attitudes seem offensive today; without condoning them, we will examine the social context that accommodated their expression. Martial is the most famous of all composers of epigram. He makes us ponder whether any two societies, generations, or individuals necessarily find the same things funny.

LATIN 137: Tacitus on the Principate
Professor Richard Thomas

Lectures, discussion, translation, and student presentations on Tacitus, with consideration of his achievement within the Latin literary and historiographical traditions, with a focus on language and style, and on the Tacitean retrospective take on Rome's transition from republic to autocracy. Primary attention on passages from the *Agricola* and on *Annals* 1 and 4, with selections from other books.

MEDLATIN 105: A Germanic Hero and His Afterlife: Walter's Poem
Professor Jan Ziolkowski

Studies a short epic about an early Germanic warrior, Walter of Aquitaine, in the late Roman era of Attila the Hun. Considers date and authorship, heroism and gender roles, tribal and racial rivalries (including Franks and Goths) in Charlemagne's time and later, manuscript transmission, and literary reception (from romanticism through the Nazi era to the present). Sets the style and content of the poem into both Germanic and Latin contexts, with comparison of versions in Old Norse and other languages in translation as well as sources and analogues in Latin.

CLASPHIL 2008: Greek Epigram and its Reception
Professor Richard Thomas

Discussion and presentations on epigrams of the Greek Anthology, chiefly those of the

(*CLASPHIL 2008 cont.*) Hellenistic period (3rd c. to 1st c. BCE), with reception in Catullus, Horace, Martial, Latin Anthology; embedding in more capacious genres; in Greek epigram of the imperial, late antique and Byzantine periods; in humanist poets of the Renaissance and early modern periods (Poliziano, Florent Chrétien, Pontano, Marullo); English poetry of the 17th c. (Donne, Jonson, Herbert, Marvell, Milton); the Modernists to the Beats (Pound, Eliot, H.D., Cavafy, Edgar Lee Masters, Kenneth Rexroth); reception in translation, all languages.

CLASPHIL 2009: Epic Forms
Professor Irene Peirano Garrison

This seminar will focus on the formal structures of the epic genre. Through a comparative approach, we will study the narrative, stylistic and linguistic components of the epic genre across the Greco-Roman epic tradition. Formulae, sacrifices, arming scenes, combat and death, catalogues, storms, and messenger scenes are some examples of recurrent epic structures. What can the handling of these mundane elements of the epic genre tell us about each poet's narrative approach and poetics? What flexibility for innovation is created by the fixity of these structures? What, if any, is the ideology of epic forms and how does it evolve? A comparative study of Homer's *Iliad* and Virgil's *Aeneid* will be used as a point of departure for the study of each device. Class participants will be asked to adopt one other epic work (e.g. *Odyssey*; Apollonius of Rhodes, *Argonautica*; Ovid, *Metamorphoses*; Quintus of Smyrna, *Posthomerica*, etc.) and become class experts over the course of the semester. Scholarship on ancient epic will be read side-by-side with modern theoretical work on epic narrative, time and space.

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. India Jayanti ('28) won this year's prize with a translation of Horace Odes *1.7, ed. Klingner.*

A note on meter from the author: Odes *1.7 is written in First Archilochian (alternating lines of dactylic hexameter and dactylic tetrameter). This creates a long, sweeping first line and a short, punchy second line. To capture this wave-like rhythm in contemporary English without enforcing an unnatural metrical straightjacket, I have chosen to use free verse with alternating line lengths. The longer lines aim for a sweeping, more conversational cadence (often with five to six stresses), while the indented shorter lines provide a rhythmic echo or resolution (usually three to four stresses).*

Laudabunt alii claram Rhodon aut Mytilenen
    aut Epheson bimarisve Corinthi
moenia vel Baccho Thebas vel Apolline Delphos
    insignis aut Thessala Tempe;
sunt quibus unum opus est intactae Palladis urbem
    carmine perpetuo celebrare et
undique decerptam fronti praeponere olivam;
    plurimus in Iunonis honorem
aptum dicet equis Argos ditisque Mycenas:
    me nec tam patiens Lacedaemon
nec tam Larisae percussit campus opimae
    quam domus Albuneae resonantis
et praeceps Anio ac Tiburni lucus et uda
    mobilibus pomaria rivis.
albus ut obscuro deterget nubila caelo
    saepe Notus neque parturit imbris
perpetuos, sic tu sapiens finire memento
    tristitiam vitaeque labores
molli, Plance, mero, seu te fulgentia signis
    castra tenent seu densa tenebit
Tiburis umbra tui. Teucer Salamina patremque
    cum fugeret, tamen uda Lyaeo
tempora populea fertur vinxisse corona
    sic tristis adfatus amicos:
'quo nos cumque feret melior fortuna parente,
    ibimus, o socii comitesque,
nil desperandum Teucro duce et auspice Teucro.
    certus enim promisit Apollo
ambiguam tellure nova Salamina futuram.

Let others praise radiant Rhodes, or Mytilene,
    or Ephesus, or the walls of Corinth
gleaming between two seas.
    Let them sing of Thebes, made glorious by Bacchus,
or Delphi by Apollo, or the valleys of Thessalian Tempe.
    Some make it their sole task to crown
The virgin city of Athena in endless song,
    binding their brows with an olive plucked from every side.
Many a poet, in honor of Juno,
    will tell of Argos, pastureland of horses,
or Mycenae, rich in gold.
    But as for me—neither enduring Sparta,
nor the rich plain of low-lying Larissa,
    have struck so deeply at my heart
as the echoing home of Albunea,
    the plunging waters of the Anio,
the grove of Tiburnus, and the orchards
    kept forever wet by wandering streams.
Just as the white South Wind will often sweep
    the dark skies clean, refusing to breed an endless rain,
so, Plancus, you must wisely remember to end
    the sadness and the toils of life
in mellow wine—whether the camp,
    glittering with banners, holds you now,
or the thick shade of your own Tibur will hold you soon.
    When Teucer fled from Salamis and his father,
they say he still bound his temples, wet with wine,
    with a woven wreath of poplar,
and spoke these words to his sorrowing friends:

o fortes peioraque passi
mecum saepe viri, nunc vino pellite curas:
cras ingens iterabimus aequor.'

"Wherever Fortune—kinder than my father—leads,
there we will go, my comrades and companions.
Despair of nothing under Teucer's lead and Teucer's omens:
for Apollo's unerring oracle has promised
a second Salamis on a new-found shore.
O brave men, who have often suffered worse with me,
drive away your cares today with wine;
tomorrow we shall sail again the boundless sea."





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DEPARTMENT OF THE CLASSICS