

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

SUSAN S. GOODE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Classics is the study of the languages and cultures of the ancient Mediterranean world, especially Greece and Rome. The Greeks and the Romans gave us tragedy and comedy, democracy and a theory of republican government, the greater share of the words in our English language, inspired the Italian Renaissance, and influenced the architectural vocabulary of many of the buildings that surround us every day. Spanning three continents, Classics not only provides insight into the history and literature of ancient Greece and Rome, but also offers some of the most valuable literary testimonia to the civilizations of the Near East and North Africa.

THE PROGRAM

The Department of Classics at Virginia Wesleyan University offers two major tracks, one in Classical Civilization and the other in Latin; students may also choose to minor in either of these tracks.

THE MAJOR

The major in Classical Civilization offers intensive study of the history, myths, and literature of ancient Greece and Rome, with a small amount of required coursework in ancient language. This major, in conjunction with an appropriate second major, is beneficial for students considering a career teaching a subject such as history or art, as well as for students contemplating graduate study or a career in museum studies, business, technology, government, and more.

Students seeking to focus more intensively on language study, with the option of obtaining teaching credentials, may elect the major track in Latin. Because VWU has a teaching endorsement in Latin, a major in Latin is an ideal route to a secondary teaching career in Virginia, which historically has a strong demand for high school Latin teachers. Students planning to attend graduate school in classics or archaeology, or to teach high school Latin, should major in Latin and undertake a significant amount of coursework in Greek. Latin is also a useful second major for medical or law school.

THE COURSES

Classes at Virginia Wesleyan University are small and interactive. Some of the courses within the classics program are Ancient Greek language, Latin language, Classical Mythology, Greek History, Roman History, World History, Classical Epic & the Epic Tradition, and Ancient Greek Philosophy. Special topics include The Ancient World in Cinema, Women in the Ancient World, and Classical Virginia. Students may also engage in faculty-led, short-term study abroad through Classical Studies Abroad.

INTERNSHIPS/UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

A student majoring in Classics will conduct sustained research documented in a substantial (20 page) paper or a capstone project (e.g., theatrical production). Upon completion of the project, students present their work in a public oral defense.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

A number of historical sites and active archaeological digs such as Colonial Williamsburg and Jamestown, as well as close proximity to excellent museums, opera, and symphony, make Virginia Wesleyan University an ideal place to study the classical world. Either the Latin or the Classical Civilization track within the Classics major can be a great path to a career. According to one study, classics and math majors tie for highest success rate in law school. Also, those majoring in classics in conjunction with a science major had a better rate of admission to medical school than those who majored in biology alone.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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