

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 Classics Department at Virginia Wesleyan University offers majors in Classical Studies and in Latin; students may also choose to minor in either of these tracks.

THE MAJOR

Two major programs are available to students interested in Classics. The major in Classical Studies 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 appropriate for students interested in graduate study or teaching in fields such as history, art history, or art, or in careers in museum studies, business or government.

Students seeking a more focused program based in language study, with the option of seeking teaching credentials, may elect the major in Latin. Because VWU has a teaching endorsement in Latin, a major in Latin is an ideal route to a secondary teaching career in a state with a historically strong demand for high school 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; it 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 CLAS 356, Classical Studies Abroad.

INTERNSHIPS/UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

A student majoring in Classics will conduct sustained research on a chosen topic for the completion of their senior seminar in Classics. The results of their research is documented in a substantial (20-30 page) piece of work. Upon completion of the project, students present their work in a public oral defense.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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