Did you know that you can major in Classics?

Here at CSB/SJU, students can pursue a Classical Languages major (30 credits), which emphasizes the study of Greek and/or Latin languages, or a Classical Studies major (46 credits) through the European Studies program, which allows them the flexibility to study a broad range of courses in literature, history, archaeology, religion, and philosophy. Students can even minor in Greek or Latin (12 credits beyond the elementary sequence)!

Classics offers insight into many timeless questions. How can one cope with mortality? What is the character of human responsibility and justice? How should people govern society? What leads to its peace and prosperity, what to its violence and decline? What does it mean to be a good (or bad) man, woman, husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter, and friend? How do literature and art reflect and shape a society’s beliefs, desires, and fears?

If you ever ask and grapple with these questions, Classics may be for you!

For more information on Classics at CSB/SJU, check out www.csbsju.edu/languages-and-cultures.

Classics Program
Department of Languages and Cultures

College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University
Quad 257, P.O. Box 2000
Collegeville, MN 56321
What is Classics?

Classics is the interdisciplinary study of the ancient Greek and Roman peoples and their interactions with other populations and cultures of the broader Mediterranean. It is an attempt to understand origins of our western civilization through study of Greek and Latin languages, literature, history, archaeology, religion, and philosophy.

Classics is not only fascinating but also practical. Classics students are capable and successful. They are agile thinkers and articulate and persuasive citizens. It is no wonder they become effective teachers, educational administrators, museum curators, lawyers, doctors, librarians, and businesspersons.

Meet some of your professors!

Scott Richardson, Ph.D., is an experienced linguist with expertise in literature, ancient and modern. He is an authority on Homeric poetry and also researches and writes on the literature and cultures of Scandinavia and Great Britain.

Jason Schlude, Ph.D., is an ancient historian, archaeologist, and essayist specializing in Rome and the Middle East. He is Co-Director of the Omrit Settlement Excavation Project in Israel.

Morgan King, Ph.D., is a linguist and cultural historian, specializing in Roman literature and its cultural contexts. She also teaches, researches, and writes on love poetry and the epic tradition.

John Houston, Ph.D., is a philosopher specializing in ancient philosophy, especially the life and thought of Aristotle. He also researches, teaches, and writes on medieval and modern philosophy.

Jessica Harkins, Ph.D., is a poet and medievalist who focuses on Italian literature, translation, mythopoetics, and relationships between ancient and medieval literature. She is the co-director of the Creative Writing program at CSBSJU and directs a study abroad program in Pavia, Italy.

Check out a few future courses!

History 130: The Ancient World (offered every fall) A study of the literary and archaeological evidence pertaining to the Trojan War, Sparta and Athens, Alexander the Great, and Roman city of Pompeii.

Humanities 221: The Golden Age of Athens (offered alternate falls) The greatest hits of 5th-century Greece: historians, playwrights, and a philosopher.

English 221B: Homer to Dante (offered every year) A close reading of works by the Greek poets Homer and Sappho and the Roman poets Virgil and Ovid, followed by a close look at how Dante and other medieval Christian authors transformed the pagan stories.

Humanities 327: Classical Mythology (offered alternate springs) A close look at the Greek myths themselves and at many literary works, ancient and modern, that use the myths for their plots.

History 330: Greece in the Classical Period (offered alternate springs) An exploration of ancient Greek identity construction in the context of politics, war, theater performance, funerals, philosophy, public trials, parties, and athletic events.

History 332: The Roman Empire (offered alternate springs) An examination of the famed city of Rome and its empire from Augustus to Constantine, with special treatment of the Middle East.

Philosophy 331: Ancient Philosophy (offered every spring) An investigation into ancient philosophy as a whole with concentration on the great thinkers of Greece, especially Plato and Aristotle.