

Classics GE Track

This track acquaints you with the study of ancient Greece and Rome and their political, social, artistic, and intellectual legacy. The area of inquiry spans more than two thousand years, from the art and archaeology of the Mediterranean Bronze Age (ca. 1700 B.C.E.) to the breakdown of the Roman empire in Late Antiquity (ca. 400 C.E.). The interdisciplinary nature of the track offers its students a broad range of courses in the fields of language, literature, religion, mythology, philosophy, political history, cultural studies, digital humanities, virtual reality, archaeology, art, and film. The Classics GE track offers a unique perspective on relations between the past and the present and cultivates both breadth of knowledge and precision in writing and thinking. This track is an ideal complement to an Engineering education. It should be of particular interest to students who are intellectually curious and who wish to receive an expansive and exciting introduction to humanistic inquiry.

List of Courses by GE Foundation Area

Click on a Foundation Area or scroll below to see list of courses and descriptions.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES - LITERARY AND CULTURAL ANALYSIS (12 COURSES)

ARTS AND HUMANITIES - PHILOSOPHICAL AND LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS (2 COURSES)

ARTS AND HUMANITIES - VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS ANALYSIS (3 COURSES)

SOCIETY AND CULTURE - HISTORICAL ANALYSIS (3 COURSES)

SOCIETY AND CULTURE - SOCIAL ANALYSIS (1 COURSE)

SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY - LIFE SCIENCE (0 COURSES)

ARTS AND HUMANITIES - LITERARY AND CULTURAL ANALYSIS (12 COURSES)

CLASSIC 10 – Discovering the Greeks. Knowledge of Greek not required. Study of Greek life and culture from age of Homer to Roman conquest. Readings focus on selections from works of ancient authors in translation. Lectures illustrated with images of art, architecture, and material culture. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

CLASSIC 20 – Discovering the Romans. Knowledge of Latin not required. Study of Roman life and culture from time of city's legendary foundations to end of classical antiquity. Readings focus on selections from works of ancient authors in translation. Lectures illustrated with images of art, architecture, and material culture. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

CLASSIC 30 – Classical Mythology. Introduction to myths and legends of ancient Greece and/or Rome, role of those stories in their societies, and modern approaches to studying them. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

CLASSIC 40W – Reading Greek Literature: Writing-Intensive. Requisite: English Composition 3. Exploration in detail and from variety of critical perspectives of carefully selected literary texts characteristic of ancient Greece and significant in Western literary tradition. Satisfies Writing II requirement. Letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

CLASSIC 41W – Reading Roman Literature: Writing-Intensive. Requisite: English Composition 3. Exploration in detail and from variety of critical perspectives of carefully selected set of literary texts characteristic of ancient Rome and significant in Western literary tradition. Satisfies Writing II requirement. Letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

CLASSIC 42 – Cinema and Ancient World. Use of popular culture and cinema to introduce students to ancient Greek and/or Roman culture; focus at discretion of instructor. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

CLASSIC 48 – Ancient Greek and Roman Medicine. Introduction to Greek and Roman medicine in its intellectual and cultural context. Examination of construction of concepts such as health, disease, physician, man, woman, cause, and difference. Readings from Greek literature and healing in cult of Asclepius. Readings of texts from Hippocratic collection, thought to be close to practice and theory of 5th-century BCE Greek physician, relating them to medical practice, competition for students and patients, intellectual display, developing scientific methods, ethnography, and Greek philosophy. Discussion of plagues as attempts to view such outbreaks as social phenomena. Examination of how Hippocratic understanding of how—or whether—we can know about what happens inside body was developed and challenged in 3rd-century BCE Alexandria. Study of Prince of Physicians, Galen, champion of Hippocratic medicine, influential into 18th century. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

CLASSIC 51A – Art and Archaeology of Ancient Greece. Survey of major period, theme, or medium of Greek art and archaeology at discretion of instructor. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

CLASSIC 51B – Art and Archaeology of Ancient Rome. Survey of major period, theme, or medium of Roman art and archaeology at discretion of instructor. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

CLASSIC 60 – Fantastic Journey: Antiquity and Beyond. Investigation of phenomenon of fantastic or imaginary journey, from Homer’s “Odyssey” to Stanley Kubrick’s “2001: A Space Odyssey.” Examination of ways in which travel to strange or new worlds is presented through number of texts (and occasionally films) across different cultures and periods, with focus primarily on antiquity but also looking at how important motifs from ancient Greek and Roman travel narratives have endured to present day. Issues include cultural relativism, what makes space either familiar or alien, rebuilding of home in fantastic territories, methods of travel (both fantastic and mundane), methods of measuring time and distance across space, modern

classifications of fantasy and science fiction, and to what extent these terms are applicable to ancient world. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

CLASSIC 88GE – General Education Seminar. Focused study of one aspect of ancient Greek or Roman culture or reception of classical tradition. Topics are interdisciplinary in nature (literature, arts, religion, politics, culture) and make connections between ancient and postclassical eras. Topics include rediscovery of Pompeii and Herculaneum; Roman religion and literature; pleasures of Greek or Roman body; and 18th-century British literature and reception of classics. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

CLASSIC 148 – Early Greek Medicine and Thought. Versions of medical theory and practice in context of Greek intellectual and cultural developments. Readings from medical, philosophical, and historical texts. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES - PHILOSOPHICAL AND LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS (2 COURSES)

CLASSIC 148 – Early Greek Medicine and Thought. Versions of medical theory and practice in context of Greek intellectual and cultural developments. Readings from medical, philosophical, and historical texts. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

CLASSIC 185 – Origins and Nature of English Vocabulary. Origins and nature of English vocabulary, from Proto-Indo-European prehistory to current slang. Topics include Greek and Latin component in English (including technical terminology), alphabet and English spelling, semantic change and word formation, vocabulary in literature and film. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES - VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS ANALYSIS (3 COURSES)

CLASSIC 42 – Cinema and Ancient World. Use of popular culture and cinema to introduce students to ancient Greek and/or Roman culture; focus at discretion of instructor. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

CLASSIC 51A – Art and Archaeology of Ancient Greece. Survey of major period, theme, or medium of Greek art and archaeology at discretion of instructor. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

CLASSIC 51B – Art and Archaeology of Ancient Rome. Survey of major period, theme, or medium of Roman art and archaeology at discretion of instructor. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

SOCIETY AND CULTURE - HISTORICAL ANALYSIS (3 COURSES)

CLASSIC 10 – Discovering the Greeks. Knowledge of Greek not required. Study of Greek life and culture from age of Homer to Roman conquest. Readings focus on selections from works of ancient authors in translation. Lectures illustrated with images of art, architecture, and material culture. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

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SOCIETY AND CULTURE - SOCIAL ANALYSIS (1 COURSE)

CLASSIC 30 – Classical Mythology. Introduction to myths and legends of ancient Greece and/or Rome, role of those stories in their societies, and modern approaches to studying them. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY - LIFE SCIENCE (0 COURSES)

No courses for this GE Foundation area in this track