

CLASSICAL LANGUAGES AT SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA

<http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/academics/schools/school-of-liberal-arts/departments-programs/classical-languages/>



If you thought Latin and ancient Greek were “dead” languages, think again...

- Lawyers, doctors, computer analysts and business owners sign up for Latin and Greek studies and find them both enjoyable and useful.

- There is no better preparation for the **pitfalls of Legalese** than the meticulous, logical approach to Greek and Latin texts (which we make sure you adopt as your own).

- Ditto about all you, future scientists – knowledge of the etymology of those **Greco-Latin combo terms** will make your

studies much more enjoyable and effective.

- Those of you planning to enter **graduate studies in Classics, philosophy, art history, theology, archaeology**, etc., should consider the language requirements in those programs: often you need to have **at least one ancient language** under your belt.
- We will not even mention the **overall cultural enrichment** you get along the way – it's one of the **pragmatically desirable perks** of Classical studies.

Your **ultimate goal is fluency** in the language you study. You want to **pick up any Greek or Latin text and read it as you read in your native tongue**. Fluency involves familiarity with the non-linguistic aspects of the text as well – for instance, it will be impossible to read the daily news unless you know the names and background of the people mentioned, or abbreviations like CNN, NFL, etc. With us, you will become familiar with the non-linguistic context of Greek and Latin texts. **What is more, your studies will equip you with strategies to deal with some very tricky English sentences...**



TURN OVER TO FIND OUT...

WHAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH WITH US:

Upon successful completion of the **ELEMENTARY LATIN/GREEK SEQUENCES**, you will be able to:

- Engage in simple interactions in Latin and/or ancient Greek
- Read and understand simple texts with the help of dictionaries and textbook materials
- Translate simple English sentences into idiomatic Latin and/or Greek
- Develop a stable understanding of grammar as a vehicle for logic
- Acquire reliable strategies for approaching sentences in both Latin/Greek and English
- Begin to develop strategies for sight-reading Latin and/or Greek texts (without the help of dictionaries and textbook materials)
- Understand the basic cultural, historical, political, philosophical and mythological background of the texts you read

Upon successful completion of the **INTERMEDIATE LATIN/GREEK SEQUENCES**, you will be able to:

- Engage in more complex interactions in Latin and/or ancient Greek
- Read relatively complex texts with occasional help from dictionaries and textbook materials
- Sight-read basic texts
- Distinguish between writers' styles and develop specific reading strategies for dealing with each author
- Translate sentences into idiomatic Latin and/or Greek in a specific writer's style
- Appreciate the metric and rhythm of Greek and Roman poetry
- Discuss the cultural, historical, political, philosophical and mythological background of the texts you read
- Understand the logical and rhetorical complexities of ancient texts
- Appreciate the creative distortions inevitable in translation
- Perform basic evaluation of selected official translations from Latin and Greek

UPPER-DIVISION COURSES IN LATIN AND/OR GREEK hone the intermediate skills you've acquired:

- Your reactions to the linguistic aspects of the Latin/Greek text should become more or less automatic
- You will sight-read most Latin and Greek texts
- You will be able to read some very difficult texts without losing sight of their non-linguistic dimensions.
- Your proficiency in analyzing the hidden dimensions of any text – English or ancient – will increase dramatically, along with your expanded vocabulary and interpretive sophistication.

For more information, visit the SMC Classical Languages website:

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Integral Preceptorial Fall 2019 – Open to all students!

Quarter Credit Course INTEG 180

Wednesday 2:00-3:30



From Mythology to Philosophy

The myths of early societies express values which modern societies express in the arts, religion and philosophy. Many times the points of these early myths are, however, indistinct remote, or downright bewildering. Many modern accounts of these same myths are just as difficult to decipher. Remarkably, the earliest recorded Greek myths present readily accessible expression of values. This is because Hesiod, the earliest source for these myths, recorded them in a way that shows both how to compare myths and how to interpret their moral value and their philosophical sense. Hesiod himself (perhaps) couldn't read, but he noted and remembered different versions of tales and made up his own-accounts for them. From the vast confusion of popular tales, Hesiod produces a coherent sense of how people must struggle and of how an abstract justice is the source of all authority.

Plato's great myths of the workings of cosmic justice and a similarly cosmic eros have close links to Hesiod; Aristotle himself goes so far as to say that this most popular poet was, in fact, the first philosopher.

This class will examine some texts to illustrate and accounts to elaborate how in detail the earliest Greek philosophy grew out of systems of myths and how in general myth has continued to influence other systems of thought.

Reading list: *Theogony, Works and Days* Hesiod; *Symposium, Phaedo*, Plato; *Ancilla to the Presocratic Philosophers*, Freeman; *Metaphysics*, Aristotle.

For more information contact Prof. Mike Riley at mriley@stmarys-ca.edu