

Classical and Near Eastern Studies

(undergraduate)

FACULTY

*Year of initial appointment at Binghamton

Kadish, Gerald E., *Professor of History and Near Eastern Studies*, PhD, 1964, University of Chicago: Ancient Egyptian. (1963)*

Lacey, R. Kevin, *Associate Professor of Arabic*, PhD, 1984, Harvard University: Arabic language and literature, Arabic language teaching, Islamic intellectual history, Islamic mysticism, Persian language and literature. (1990)

Levin, Saul, *Distinguished Professor of Ancient Languages and Department Chair*, PhD, 1949, University of Chicago: Comparative linguistics, early literature, Bible. (1961)

Mittelstadt, Michael C., *Bartle Professor of Classics*, PhD, 1964, Stanford University: Classical Greek and Latin languages and literature, Greek and Roman drama, ancient Greek novel. (1965)

Pavlovskis-Petit, Zoja, *Professor of Comparative Literature and Classics*, PhD, 1962, Cornell University: Classical Greek and Latin literature, satire, irony, pastoral poetry, mythology. (1962)

Semaan, Khalil I., *Professor Emeritus of Arabic*, PhD, 1959, Columbia University: Arabic and Islamic thought and letters. (1965)

Williman, Daniel, *Professor of Latin and History*, PhD, 1973, University of Toronto: Medieval Europe; institutional and cultural history; Latin language and medieval Latin literature; history of European law; codicology and library history; paleography and diplomatics; Avignonese papacy, 1316-1420. (1974)

PROGRAMS

This department provides instruction in certain languages and literatures that are among the oldest written foundations of our civilization, especially Greek, Latin and Arabic. The department offers basic courses in the languages and in translation for the benefit of students in all areas of arts and sciences, and gives its own majors a thorough preparation in language and culture, from which they can advance to further study and application of ancient, Near Eastern and medieval history; history of philosophy and art; comparative literature; and philology. Instruction in the spoken and written languages of the Near East has obvious and immediate application.

Major Programs in Classical Studies

Three specializations are offered within the classical studies major: classical civilization; classics, Greek and Latin; and Latin. A course in which a student receives the grade of P or D cannot count for the major.

CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION

This specialization offers a grounding in the classical cultures, but does not require reading knowledge of the original languages.

number of courses

Any courses listed under Classics, or Greek, or Latin	6 or 7
Courses in ancient history, ancient philosophy, ancient art, or other courses in classical civilization approved by the classics undergraduate adviser	4 or 3
TOTAL	10

CLASSICS, GREEK, AND LATIN

This rich and demanding major program prepares students for serious scholarly work in Latin and Greek. With departmental approval, a special program may be devised that emphasizes both languages equally, or in which one language predominates. For example:

Courses beyond 203 in either Greek or Latin	4
Courses in the other language (Greek or Latin)	2
Courses chosen with departmental approval from other departmental offerings, or from ancient history, ancient philosophy, ancient art or medieval studies	4
TOTAL	10

LATIN

This major builds on a foundation of classical Latin for concentration in ancient or medieval Latin literature and culture.

At least five Latin courses beyond 203 (a composition course is particularly recommended)	5
Roman history	1
Courses approved by the department from department offerings, or ancient or medieval history, philosophy, art or religion	4
TOTAL	10

Major Program In Arabic

The Arabic major offers a curriculum leading to the BA degree for students wishing to specialize in the language and culture of the Arabic-speaking Near East.

Arabic courses including 101, 102, 203, 204	6
Islamic civilization or equivalent course	1
Additional courses from departmental offerings in Arabic or from other departments, as approved by the department	2
TOTAL	9

Requirements For Minors

Minor In Latin: Six courses (24 credits) in Latin, of which at least two courses must be above LAT 204.

Minor In Arabic: Five courses (20 credits) in Arabic, of which at least one is above ARAB 204, and one related course either offered or approved by the department.

Study Abroad In Arabic

Binghamton University-sponsored study-abroad opportunities are available for Arabic studies students in Tangier, Morocco, as well as Ifrane, Morocco (al-Akhawayn University, where Binghamton has established an exchange program for fall and/or spring semesters).

COURSE OFFERINGS

NOTE: Unless otherwise noted, all undergraduate courses carry 4 credits and are offered every year.

Classics

Courses under the Classics rubric do not require reading knowledge of a classical language.

CLAS 111. WORD ORIGINS

Derivation of English vocabulary from Latin and Greek bases, prefixes and suffixes.

CLAS 121. SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

Principles and methods of analyzing English words of Greek and Latin derivation. Word formation. Modification of root concepts by formative additions. Word structure and vocabulary building, emphasizing scientific and medical terms.

CLAS 214. GREEK DRAMA

Development of the Greek concept of tragedy from the origins through the highest form of development in Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides. Followed by a study of Greek social, political and literary satire in the comedies of Aristophanes. Open to majors and nonmajors. No prerequisites.

CLAS 221. THE BIBLE, PART I

fall 1999

The five books of Moses, followed by the history of Israel and Judah (down to the destruction of Jerusalem) and the books of prophecy. Texts read in translation. Open to majors and nonmajors.

CLAS 222. THE BIBLE, PART II

spring 2000

The third section of the Hebrew canon (the "writings"), also selections from the Apocrypha and the entire New Testament texts read in translation. Open to majors and nonmajors. No course prerequisites, but those unfamiliar with the earlier books of the Bible will have to read Genesis, Exodus, Samuel and Isaiah or Jeremiah.

CLAS 232. CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY

Greek myths as prerational statements of experience. Their apparent meaning, symbolic interpretation. Variability, expressing individual difference and social needs.

CLAS 380-389. TOPICS IN CLASSICAL CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION IN TRANSLATION

variable credit

Study of major writer, movement, genre or aspect of Greco-Roman civilization. Topic announced in advance. May be repeated with different content.

CLAS 391. PRACTICUM IN COLLEGE TEACHING

variable credit

Independent study by means of teaching in particular course in Classical and Near Eastern Studies Department. Various assignments closely directed by instructor in that course, including development of syllabi and other course materials; construction and reading of examinations; lecturing and/or discussion leadership; laboratory supervision; academic counseling of students. May be repeated for total of no more than eight credits. Credit may not be earned in conjunction with course in which student is concurrently enrolled. Does not satisfy major or all-college requirements. Prerequisites: consent of instructor and department. P/F only.

CLAS 397. INDEPENDENT STUDY

variable credit

Independent study under supervision of faculty member. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

CLAS 498-499. SENIOR HONORS THESIS

variable credit

Independent reading and research in field of specialization leading to senior thesis or equivalent independent work. Extends over two semesters.

Greek

GRK 101. ELEMENTARY GREEK I

Essentials of Attic grammar and basic vocabulary for skill in reading authentic ancient texts. Four hours a week, plus one in language laboratory at instructor's discretion. Open to majors and nonmajors.

GRK 102. ELEMENTARY GREEK II

Completion and review of essential grammar. Reading of simple classical texts. Four hours a week. Prerequisite: GRK 101. Open to majors and nonmajors.

GRK 203. INTERMEDIATE GREEK

Reading of classical Greek texts with special attention to grammar and style. Prerequisite: GRK 102 or equivalent.

GRK 204. READINGS IN GREEK LITERATURE

Characterization and dramatization of myths from Homer through tragedy to Plato. Prerequisite: GRK 203 or equivalent.

GRK 380-389. STUDIES IN GREEK LITERATURE

variable credit

Reading and study of major authors, movements or genres. Course may be repeated with different content. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

GRK 397. INDEPENDENT STUDY

variable credit

Independent study under supervision of faculty member. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

Modern Greek

MGRK 101. INTRODUCTION TO MODERN GREEK

Basic course for beginners and for those with little knowledge of modern Greek. Intended to develop comprehension and communication skills and to acquaint students with modern Greek grammar and with cultural aspects of the language. Three hours a week plus language lab (or use of individual cassettes). Open to majors and nonmajors. No prerequisites.

Latin

LAT 101. ELEMENTARY LATIN

Introduction to classical Latin vocabulary, word forms, syntax. Four hours classwork, plus laboratory work at instructor's discretion. Open to majors and nonmajors.

LAT 102. ELEMENTARY LATIN II

Second half of introduction to classical Latin vocabulary, forms, syntax, with reading of text. Four hours classwork per week. Prerequisite: LAT 101 or equivalent. Open to majors and nonmajors.

LAT 203. INTERMEDIATE LATIN

Reading of classical Latin texts, with special attention to grammar and style. Prerequisite: LAT 102 or equivalent.

LAT 204. READINGS IN LATIN LITERATURE

Major texts of enduring influence, extended readings. Prerequisite: LAT 203 or equivalent.

LAT 321. EARLY MEDIEVAL LATIN LITERATURE

fall 1999

Principal authors, genres and themes of medieval Latin literature, from Latin Vulgate of Jerome to 12th-century renaissance. Prerequisite: basic reading knowledge of Latin or LAT 102.

LAT 322. LATE MEDIEVAL LATIN LITERATURE

spring 2000

Latin literature from Abelard to Gutenberg: literature and writers of universities, drama, liturgy, travel, political invective. Prerequisite: basic reading knowledge of Latin, or LAT 102.

LAT 380-389. STUDIES IN LATIN LITERATURE

variable credit

Reading and study of major authors, movements or genres. May be repeated with different content. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

LAT 397. INDEPENDENT STUDY

variable credit

Independent study under supervision of faculty member. Consent of instructor and department required.

LAT 521. EARLY MEDIEVAL LATIN LITERATURE

fall 1999

A survey of the history of Latin writing from the third century to the 12th-century Renaissance, with training in the bibliographical resources of the field and the peculiarities of the language, and special emphasis on some 10 or 12 most-used authors or works. Seminar format, research paper required. Prerequisite: A reading knowledge of Latin.

LAT 522. LATE MEDIEVAL LATIN LITERATURE

spring 2000

A survey of the history of Latin writing from the 12th century to the 15th century, with training in the bibliographical resources of the field and the peculiarities of the language, and special emphasis on 10 to 12 writers representing different concerns and uses of literature. Seminar format, research paper required. Prerequisite: A reading knowledge of Latin.

LAT 525. LATIN PALEOGRAPHY

1999-2000

A survey of writing in the Latin alphabet from its earliest relics to the invention of printing. The course is designed to enable a student to recognize, date and accurately read handwritten Latin of any age, and to deal familiarly with Latin manuscript books. Seminar format, research paper required. Prerequisite: a reading knowledge of Latin.

Arabic

ARAB 101. ELEMENTARY ARABIC I

Begins the process of training the student to read, and to respond orally to, simple modern standard Arabic, the form of Arabic taught in the Arabic-speaking world from Morocco to the Arab Gulf. Writing in Arabic is also taught and drilled. Through the memorization of "Basic Texts," and drilling on sounds, structures and vocabulary, the student develops the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills that provide the proper foundation for more extensive study of Arabic. Five class meetings. Open to majors and nonmajors. No prerequisite.

ARAB 102. ELEMENTARY ARABIC II

Continues the study of Modern Standard Arabic commenced in ARAB 101, with emphasis on more complicated grammar and sentence structure, enhanced root/pattern identification skills, and reading and listening to increasingly longer passages of Arabic. Five class meetings, supplemented by individually scheduled use of language tapes. Open to majors and nonmajors. Prerequisite: ARAB 101 or consent of instructor.

ARAB 110. EGYPTIAN COLLOQUIAL ARABIC I

Training in the spoken Arabic of Cairo, used throughout Egypt and understood in surrounding Arabic-speaking countries. A systematic explanation of the grammar, an introduction to the vocabulary, and opportunities for listening and speaking. Assigned textbook uses an English-based transliteration; Arabic script is not introduced. Open to majors and nonmajors.

ARAB 111. EGYPTIAN COLLOQUIAL ARABIC II

Continuation of ARAB 110. Increasingly more sophisticated sentence structures and conversational situations. The Arabic script is briefly introduced toward the end of the semester for the sake of those who want to make the transition to the study of modern standard Arabic. Open to majors and nonmajors. Prerequisite: ARAB 110 or consent of the instructor.

ARAB 203. INTERMEDIATE ARABIC I

A continuation of ARAB 101 and 102. Develops in the students the ability to read and comprehend higher levels of modern standard Arabic in a variety of fields and genres. Improves aural comprehension of modern standard Arabic as it is spoken on the radio and at formal or polite occasions, and the ability to converse and discuss and to write simple, but correct, serviceable prose. Three one-hour class meetings, plus extensive work with language tapes. Open to majors and nonmajors. Prerequisite: ARAB 102 or consent of instructor.

ARAB 204. INTERMEDIATE ARABIC II

A continuation of ARAB 203, with longer and more challenging texts providing the point of departure of further development of reading, speaking and listening skills. Longer (but controlled) writing assignments are also encountered. Three one-hour class meetings, plus extensive work with language tapes. Open to majors and nonmajors. Prerequisite: ARAB 203 or consent of instructor.

ARAB 301. ARABIC CONVERSATION AND

COMPOSITION *variable credit*
Concentrated attention to composition in Modern Standard Arabic via written translations from English to Arabic. Final revisions of each translation are analyzed and discussed in class. Conversation and some written work revolves around diverse recorded material, which is listened to and discussed in class. Prerequisite: ARAB 203.

ARAB 380-89. STUDIES IN ARABIC

Deals with a specific issue or broad genre in the Arab intellectual tradition, classical or modern. Classical: Islamic texts (including Qur'an, tafsir and hadith), historiography, Arabic rhetoric and literary criticism, philology. Modern: social realism in fiction, Arab theater (problems and development), romantic school (European influences and the uniqueness of its Arabic version), colloquial literature. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

ARAB 391. PRACTICUM IN COLLEGE TEACHING

variable credit
Independent study by means of participating in the teaching of a particular course in Arabic. Various assignments closely directed by the instructor in the course, including development of syllabi and other materials, construction and reading of examinations, lecturing and/or discussion leadership, and laboratory supervision. May be repeated for total of no more than 8 credits. Credit may not be earned in conjunction with course in which student is concurrently enrolled. Does not satisfy major or all-college requirements. Prerequisites: Consent of instructor and department. P/F only.

ARAB 397. INDEPENDENT STUDY *variable credit*
Independent work under supervision of faculty member. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

Persian

PERS 397. INDEPENDENT STUDY *variable credit*
Independent work under supervision of faculty member. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

Egyptian

EGYN 201. MIDDLE EGYPTIAN I *fall 1999*
Introduction to the classical stage of the ancient Egyptian language, employed from about 2200 to 1400 BCE, and to the hieroglyphic script in which it was written. Vocabulary,

grammar and syntax leading to the reading of ancient texts. No prerequisites.

EGYN 202. MIDDLE EGYPTIAN II *spring 2000*
Continues the study of the classical stage of the ancient Egyptian language begun in EGYN 201. Completion of basic grammar; concentration on reading of ancient historical, literary, religious and biographical texts. Prerequisite: EGYN 201.

Honors

CLAS 393-394. JUNIOR HONORS
CLAS 498-499. SENIOR HONORS
GRK 393-394. JUNIOR HONORS
GRK 498-499. SENIOR HONORS
LAT 393-394. JUNIOR HONORS
LAT 498-499. SENIOR HONORS
ARAB 393-394. JUNIOR HONORS
ARAB 498-499. SENIOR HONORS

Graduate-Level Courses

CLAS 597. INDEPENDENT STUDY *variable credit*
GRK 597. INDEPENDENT STUDY *variable credit*
GRK 707. RESEARCH SKILLS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS *variable credit*
LAT 597. INDEPENDENT STUDY *variable credit*
LAT 707. RESEARCH SKILLS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS *variable credit*
ARAB 597. INDEPENDENT STUDY *variable credit*
ARAB 707. RESEARCH SKILLS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS *variable credit*
PERS 597. INDEPENDENT STUDY *variable credit*
PERS 707. RESEARCH SKILLS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS *variable credit*