

Department of Classics

About the department

The Classics Department is a centre of excellence for both teaching and research. Our staff are international specialists who publish regularly in all branches of classical literature, ancient history, philosophy, art and archaeology. A wide selection of courses is available to visiting students from language work to literary, historical, archaeological and philosophical topics. **The following is a complete list of all the Classics courses available to Visiting Students.** If there are issues on which you have questions which are not addressed here, you will have an opportunity to raise them with Dr Efi Spentzou E.Spentzou@rhul.ac.uk, your personal advisor. You are also at liberty to raise questions at any time with your tutors, or by appointment, the Head of the Classics Department (contact the Departmental Manager, either by email: m.scrivner@rhul.ac.uk or tel. 01784 443203).

Entry requirements

The courses listed below are open to all Study Abroad, International and Erasmus students, subject to any required previous knowledge or qualifications, as stated in the course outlines below.

Each course is either ½ or 1 unit and starts in either the Autumn Term (September) or the Spring Term (January).

When the college timetable finalises in September, it may become necessary to change/swap a course due to a clash either with another chosen course within Classics or, more often, with other chosen courses from other Departments. In such a case, the Classics Advisor will offer advice and guidance on possible alternative Classics course from the present list.

The information contained in the course outlines on the following pages is correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change as part of our policy of continuous improvement and development.



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Course options for visiting students

Course code	Course name	½ or 1 unit	Start date	Course description/pre-requisites
<i>Level 1 Courses</i>				
CL1705	Beginner's Greek	This course runs for the full year (1 unit), but may be taken in Term 1 for half a unit.	September 2018	An introduction to the ancient Greek language.
CL1715	Intermediate Greek	This course runs for the full year (1 unit), but may be taken in Term 1 for half a unit.	September 2018	Students must have a background of study of Greek. A course intended to extend the students' knowledge of Greek to the point where they are ready to read substantial texts.
CL1726	Greek Language and Reading (one level above CL1715)	This course runs for the full year (1 unit), but may be taken in Term 1 for half a unit.	September 2018	Students must have a background of study of Greek. A course which through the study of extensive texts in the original seeks to improve further the linguistic skills of participants, preparatory to the reading of language-testing author units.
CL1755	Beginner's Latin	This course runs for the full year (1 unit), but may be taken in Term 1 for half a unit.	September 2018	An introduction to the Latin language for complete beginners, intended to bring them to a point where they can read simple texts in Latin.
CL1765	Intermediate Latin	This course runs for the full year (1 unit), but may be taken in Term 1 for half a unit.	September 2018	Students must have a background of study of Latin. A course intended to extend the students' knowledge of Latin to the point where they are ready to read substantial texts.
CL1776	Latin Language and Reading (one level above CL1765)	This course runs for the full year (1 unit), but may be taken in Term 1 for half a unit.	September 2018	Students must have a background of study of Latin. A course which through study of extensive texts in the original seeks to improve further the linguistic skills of the participants preparatory to the reading of language-testing author units.



Course options for visiting students

CL1530	Introduction to Greek Literature	½ Unit	September 2018	An introductory historical and critical survey of classical Greek literature from Homer to the end of paganism, with texts studied in translation.
CL1534	Roman Literature of the Empire	½ Unit	January 2019	An introductory course studying Roman literature produced under the Julio-Claudian emperors, with specific considerations of issues such as the impact of the Principate and civil war on literature; how to write history after Augustus; whether we should take love poetry seriously; the Roman theatre of cruelty; and whether the Romans invented the novel. Authors to be considered are Livy, Ovid, Seneca the younger, Petronius and Lucan, with reference to select works in translation.
PY1541	Introduction of Ancient Philosophy	½ Unit	January 2019	Note: Registration for this course is now within the Department of Politics and International Relations. The course aims both to inform students about ancient philosophical ideas and to introduce them to philosophical argument. It combines a brief survey of the principal ancient philosophers, from the Presocratics to Aristotle, with study of selected texts on the topic of courage, including Plato's <i>Laches</i> .
CL1550	Greek History and the City State	½ Unit	September 2018	An introductory course examining Greek history, society, and institutions from the beginning to the late fourth century B.C., with particular attention to the problems and methods of reconstructing the past from ancient sources, the historical context of Greek literature, and the development of the city-state.



Course options for visiting students

CL1560	Key Themes in Roman History	½ Unit	January 2019	An introductory course dealing with the history and the political, social and economic institutions of Rome. The course covers the full chronological range of Roman historiography from the Republic to the Empire to establish certain broad characteristics of periods. Themes will include: Early Rome: Traditions and the City State; The Republic Emerges; From City State to Empire; The Fall of the Republic; Imperial Monarchy; Imperial Society and Social Forms; Late Antiquity: A Transformed World; The Fall of Rome and the Emergence of the Medieval World.
CL1580	Introduction to Greek Archaeology	½ Unit	September 2018	The main aim of the course is to familiarise students with the material culture of Greek civilisation from the Bronze Age to the Hellenistic period. The principal forms of Greek art and architecture, with their stylistic development and social context, will also be covered. Throughout the course we shall consider different archaeological theories and interpretations and their relationship with Greek archaeology.
CL1581	Introduction to Roman Archaeology	½ Unit	January 2019	The course aims to familiarize students with the principal forms of Roman material culture (architecture, painting and mosaics, statuary, sarcophagi, coins, metal-ware, glass and pottery) from the 2nd century BC to the early 4th century AD, and with past and current theories regarding their use as evidence of political intellectual, social and economic life in the Roman Empire.



Course options for visiting students

Level 2 Courses

CL2463	Tacitus and the Making of Empire	This course runs for the full year (1 unit), but may be taken in either Term 1 or Term 2 for half a unit.	September 2018 and/or January 2019	Students must have some background in Roman History. Tacitus is one of the major political thinkers of antiquity. This course focuses on the <i>Annales</i> , pursuing issues of the nature of power, corruption, and regime formation. We examine key figures, such as Germanicus, Seneca, Thrasea Paetus and the emperors themselves as models of behaviour and ways in which the traumas of Empire were enacted. In particular, there is a focus on morals and the relationship, on rules of gender, and on the nature of Roman identity.
CL2352	Greek History to 322BC	This course runs for the full year (1 unit), but may be taken in Term 1 for half a unit.	September 2018	Students must have a basic knowledge of Greek History. This course covers Greek political and social history from Homer to Alexander, from the emergence of classical Greek civilisation and institutions in the ninth century BC to the break-up of the classical Greek world at the hands of Macedon.
CL2193	Archaeology of Ancient Italy and Sicily	This course runs for the full year (1 unit), but may be taken in Term 1 for half a unit.	September 2018	Students must have some background in Greek or Roman Archaeology. The course introduces students to the practice of Greek and Roman architecture and construction in the Italian peninsula and Sicily. The investigated themes include building materials, pre-Roman architecture in the region, design and use of architectural orders, town planning, and civic, religious and domestic building types. How did architecture reflect and respond to cultural and political changes? What impact did new construction materials and technologies have on architecture? This course is intended to provide students with additional skills and project experience required for possible employment in the cultural heritage sector.



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CL2436	Homer (in translation)	This course runs for the full year (1 unit), but may be taken in either Term 1 or Term 2 for half a unit.	September 2018 and/or January 2019	Students must have taken a related course at their home institution and have some knowledge of the Classical world. Term 1 – Iliad Term 2 – Odyssey A study of the <i>Iliad</i> and the <i>Odyssey</i> , consisting of close study of the text and of broad themes, and of the historical and artistic background.
CL2448	Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i> : Art and Power in Augustan Rome (in translation)	½ Unit	January 2019	Students must have taken a related course at their home institution and have some knowledge of the Classical world. The course will start with an overview and appreciation of the new epic code in Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i> : what is at stake intellectually, artistically, politically. Weekly sessions will concern themselves with issues and themes such as: • What is metamorphosis? • Story telling • The Artist in the poem • Love in the epic • Gender and transgression • Subverting the epic genre • Politics and Rome
CL2488	Virgil's <i>Aeneid</i> : The Empire in the Literary Imagination	½ Unit	September 2018	Students must have taken a related course at their home institution and have some knowledge of the Classical world. This course assumes no previous knowledge of Virgil. The primary text will provide the main focus of study. There will be seminar preparation each week followed by a lecture that will broaden on the themes touched upon during the seminar discussions. Weekly sessions will explore the epic in clusters of Books, discussing issues such Leaving Homer's Troy behind; The Roman Odyssey; Italian pastoral; Gods and Humans; Female Lament; Young Deaths; Public vs Private, Narrators and Story Telling; Roman and Italian Nationalisms.



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PY2655	The Good Life in Ancient Philosophy	1 Unit	September 2018	<p>Note: Registration for this course is now within the Department of Politics and International Relations.</p> <p>What is the best kind of life? Is moral virtue sufficient for happiness? Does morality require a special kind of knowledge or wisdom? Is a good life a pleasant life and are some pleasures better than others? This course examines the answers given by Greek philosophers to questions such as these. After initial consideration of early Greek views about the good life, the first term of the course will concentrate on relevant works of Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus and Diogenes Laertius.</p>
CL2816	Imperial Greek Literature (Advanced Greek literature in the original language)	This course runs for the full year (1 unit), but may be taken in either Term 1 or Term 2 for half a unit.	September 2018 and/or January 2019	Students must have a background of study of Greek. The course will comprise study in the original ancient Greek of a selected number of texts written during the first three centuries A.D. in both prose and verse, an area seldom studied elsewhere at this level. The 15-credit V version of the whole year 30-credit course will focus upon either prose or verse texts, depending on whether the student takes the course in the Autumn or Spring term.
CL2835	Tacitus on Being Roman (Advanced Latin literature course in the original language)	This course runs for the full year (1 unit), but may be taken in Term 1 for half a unit.	September 2018	Students must have a background of study of Latin. This course explores the ways in which Tacitus poses and addresses the question of what it means to be Roman in the early imperial age, through selected key passages from the <i>Agricola</i> , <i>Historiae</i> and <i>Annales</i> which will enable us to ask important questions about the literary, moral and political preoccupations that shape Tacitus' historiography and so his portrait of Roman identity. In Term One the course will examine the ways in which Tacitus defines Roman identity; in Term Two we shall explore how Tacitus represents the experience of being Roman.

