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Studying Classics at NUI Galway

Welcome to Classics at NUI Galway. We've put together this handbook to tell you a bit more about the modules we offer and to give you a few tips for success as you begin your studies in Galway.

The Classics course in Galway will introduce you to some of the oldest (and newest) ways of answering such fundamental questions as 'What makes us human beings?' The core modules in the first year give you an introduction to Greek and Roman cultures, both literary and material. You will read Greek myths and Roman poetry while studying the historical background of those literatures. In 'Written Words and Spoken Languages' you will study the origins and development of languages and the writing systems used to record them. Finally, 'Classics in Twenty Objects' gives you a tour of Classical studies from the Ancient Mediterranean to Renaissance Europe by focusing on the objects of our research. No previous knowledge of Classics is necessary for any of these modules.

During the year you will also gain valuable skills: You will learn how to write an academic essay, complete with references and bibliography, how to give a short presentation, how to discuss your views in small groups, and how to become an independent learner.

In second- and final-year Classics at Galway you will have the opportunity to continue working on many of the same themes in greater depth. The course focuses on history, language and literature, and the classical tradition. In addition, you have the option to begin studying Latin or Greek in second year and to continue in the third year if you find you enjoy it.

Engagement

Our university is a community of women and men dedicated to teaching, learning, and research. We depend upon each member of the community to be an active participant, and as a student, you participate by attending lectures and tutorials and submitting assignments. We hope that you will participate in other ways as well. For example, we hope that you will find the material we study together stimulating and engaging and that this will lead you to more active engagement with the subject. For example, whenever things are not clear to you, be sure to ask a lecturer or tutor—and please keep asking until they are clear. You can also participate by joining the Classics Society, which sponsors a series of lectures each year, as well as a trip.

Developing skills

The Arts subjects you study at university are not only ends in themselves: the skills you acquire here will also serve you well in life after university. One of the skills you'll need to learn quickly is how to manage your time. It may seem that you have a great deal of free time, but that is an illusion. We expect that you will spend two to three hours in study and preparation for each hour you spend in lectures. So you can see that you should be spending about 40 hours per week on lectures and study—a full-time job. Each of the modules you take will be introducing you to large amounts of new and complex information every week, and the best way to cope with this is to manage your time by working regularly and consistently.

We would strongly suggest that you make two schedules at the beginning of the semester. First make a weekly schedule that includes all lectures and two to three hours of scheduled study and reading time for each class hour (see Requirements below). Second, make a schedule of the semester with all assignments and exams marked, with preliminary plans to schedule your work to meet the deadlines.

Aside from time-management, we also hope that you will grow in confidence as you acquire other skills, such as using primary and secondary sources to write analytical essays, articulating and refining your ideas by discussing them and helping others do the same, and presenting your work in front of an audience.

Requirements for modules

Each module has explicit requirements such as lectures, tutorials, examinations, essays, presentations, and tutorial essays. These are listed in the module's course outline along with the amount each contributes to the final mark. You are responsible for fulfilling these requirements in a timely manner. There are also requirements that are not explicit, but equally important:

First, we expect that you will spend two to three hours of study at home for every hour in class.

Second we expect that you will be on time for lectures, tutorials, and meetings.

Third, we expect that you will participate actively in lectures and discussions.

Lectures

Lectures are the foundation of most modules, and if you do not attend consistently, you will miss much of what the module has to offer. For this reason, attendance at lectures is obligatory. You'll find that the Blackboard Website is essential for most modules, so you should become familiar with it as soon as possible. Many lecturers upload copies of slides to the Blackboard site in order to help students recall the lecture content with the aid of their notes, not as a substitute for attendance at lectures.

Tutorials

Tutorials, in which smaller groups of students meet with a tutor, complement lectures and are an essential part of each module. Attendance at weekly tutorials is thus also obligatory.

To sign up for Tutorials: Look for details on the Blackboard page of CC108. You will be able to choose a tutorial time that fits your schedule there.

An Ghaeilge i nDisciplín an Léinn Chlasaíoch

Tá lucht na rannóige tugtha do staidéar comparáideach ar chultúir agus teangacha, rud a fhágann go dtugaimid an-tacaíocht don Ghaeilge mar staidéar inti fhéin agus mar mheán cumarsáide. Cé go ndéantar ár gcuid teagaisc trí mheán an Bhéarla amháin, beidh caoi agat Gaeilge a úsáid freisin sa ghnó laethúil nó i do chuid scríbhneoireachta. Más mian leat, beidh Michael Clarke, Jacopo Bisagni nó Pádraic Moran an-toilteanach Gaeilge a labhairt leat.

Class representatives and first-year co-ordinator

Every year students in the first year elect class representatives. The class reps provide another avenue for communication between individual students, the class as a whole and the Classics staff. If you are interested in becoming a class representative or learning more about what's involved, please talk with any member of staff. More information is also available from the Students' Union at <http://services.su.nuigalway.ie/site/view/3185/class-reps/>

In addition, one member of academic staff is responsible for co-ordinating communication and resolving any issues with the first year of the Classics course. Please feel free to approach him with any questions or concerns. The first-year co-ordinator is:

Dr Pádraic Moran (padraic.moran@nuigalway.ie; Room 510, top floor, Tower 2)

Where we are

We are located on the top floor of Tower 2 on the Arts Concourse. To get there, walk to the northern end of the Concourse (toward the Bank of Ireland), and just before the end look for the lift and stairs on the right. We're on the top floor (Floor 3).

We'd encourage you to visit the department as soon as you start and get to know the place. In particular, you should introduce yourself to the Classics Administrator, Ms Margaret Logan in TB508. She is available from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Other staff members are in the offices from TB504 to TB510, and postgraduates are based in the Research Room (TB509). Each member of staff will have two hours per week dedicated to seeing students (these will be posted). You should feel free to drop in without an appointment at these times, or to make an appointment with any staff member at any time.

The hall outside TB508 also has bulletin boards with announcements from the department and the university, as well as information about events of interest to Classics students. You should, of course, get to know our web pages as well, on which all important information will be posted, at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/classics>

Outside of TB508 there is also a locked wooden box that you can use to submit essays or written work of any kind to the department. It is checked daily.

Support

University life and its demands can be a difficult time for all of us. It is not unusual to be stressed about a paper or an exam, but if you find the stress in your life becomes overwhelming, please talk to someone about it. Often your lecturers will be able to offer advice about how to deal with your academic work, and they may be able to point you to other sources of help as well. Many kinds of support are available: educational, personal, financial, health, disability, to name only a few. To get in touch with Student Services in Aras Uí Chathail ring 091 492364 or follow this link:

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/student-services/>

Again, please feel free to speak with any member of staff at any time—and remember that it is often better to address issues when they're starting to become a problem rather than later.



Suggested reading

Education and our place in it

- V. Woolf, *A room of one's own* (Penguin Classics)
Petrarch, *The ascent of Mount Ventoux* (<http://history.hanover.edu/texts/petrarch/pet17.html>)
M. de Montaigne, *On the education of children* (PDF)
P. Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (Penguin)

Ethics and the good life

- Seneca, *On the happy life* (trans. J. Ker; Chicago)
St Augustine, *Confessions* (trans. P. Brown; Oxford World's Classics)

Historical narratives

- P. Salway, *Roman Britain, A very short introduction* (OUP; 2nd ed)
C. Kelly, *The Roman Empire, A very short introduction* (OUP)
D. H. Fischer, *Historians' Fallacies*
(<https://archive.org/details/HistoriansFallaciesTowardALogicOfHistoricalThought>)
C. Freeman, *Egypt, Greece and Rome* (Oxford)
C. Wickham, *The Inheritance of Rome* (Penguin)
E. Bispham, *Roman Europe* (Oxford)
C. Meier, *A Culture of Freedom : Ancient Greece and the Origins of Europe* (Oxford)
S. Price and P. Thonemann, *A History of Classical Europe* (Penguin)
C. Broodbank, *The Making of the Middle Sea* (Thames and Hudson)
E. J. Kenney, *The Classical Text* (Berkeley)

Language

- D. Crystal, *How Language Works* (Penguin)
F. de Saussure, *Course in General Linguistics* (trans. R. Harris; Bloomsbury)
T. Janson, *The History of Languages: an Introduction* (OUP)

Literature

- Ovid, *Sorrows of an exile* (trans. A. Melville; Oxford)
Vergil, *Eclogues and Georgics* (trans. C. Day Lewis; Oxford World's Classics)
Vergil, *The Aeneid* (trans. R. Fagles; Penguin)
Hesiod, *Works and Days* (trans. G. Most; Harvard: Loeb Classical Library)
Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (trans. A. Melville; Oxford World's Classics)

Myths and ideas

- Herodotus, *Histories* (trans. T. Holland; Penguin)
Apollodorus, *Library of Greek Mythology* (trans. R. Hard; Oxford World's Classics)
C. Lopez-Ruiz, *Heroes, Gods and Monsters: a Sourcebook* (Oxford)
Plato, *Timaeus* in *Timaeus and Critias* (trans. D. Lee; Penguin)
C. Segal, *Myth: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford)
The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles in *The New Testament* (trans. R. Lattimore; Chicago)
F. D. Logan, *A History of the Church in the Middle Ages* (Routledge)

Visual and material culture

- J. Berger, *Ways of seeing* (Penguin)
P. Barolsky, *Ovid and the Metamorphoses of Western Art* (Yale)
A. Schnapp, *Discovery of the Past* (British Museum Press)
N. McGregor, *A History of the World in 100 Objects* (Penguin)

People in Classics

Prof. Brian Arkins

Professor of Classics (emeritus)

Roman poetry; Classical themes in Renaissance and modern literatures

Dr Jacopo Bisagni (jacopo.bisagni@nuigalway.ie)

Lecturer in Classics. Room 505. Third-year co-ordinator.

Historical linguistics, medieval Latinity, early Irish monasticism and monastic poetry

Prof. Michael Clarke (michael.clarke@nuigalway.ie)

Established Professor of Classics. Room 506. MA co-ordinator.

Ancient and medieval languages, comparative mythology, Classical and medieval heroic literature

Dr Edward Herring (edward.herring@nuigalway.ie)

Senior Lecturer in Classics. (On research sabbatical 2017–18)

Archaeology of South Italy, ethnicity in Antiquity

Ms Margaret Logan (margaret.logan@nuigalway.ie)

Classics Administrator. Room 508.

Dr Pádraic Moran (padraic.moran@nuigalway.ie)

Lecturer in Classics. Room 510.

Scholarship and education in Antiquity and the early Middle Ages, history of linguistic thought, glosses and glossaries

Dr Mark Stansbury (mark.stansbury@nuigalway.ie)

Lecturer in Classics. Room 504. Second-year co-ordinator.

Manuscript studies, medieval Latin, transmission of texts

For more information, see the staff page of the Classics website at:

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/classics/staff/>

Classics in First-Year Arts

Orientation week

During the First Year Orientation Week (29 August–1 September) you will have an opportunity to attend introductory presentations from all Arts disciplines, as well as sessions on study skills for university, career planning and using online resources. Classics staff will give introductory presentations, which include a visit to the department.

These sessions can be very helpful in explaining what the course is about and will give you an opportunity to meet the staff and ask questions, so it's a good idea to attend one of them.

We also encourage students with queries about Classics to come and visit us at any time. (We are located on the top floor of Tower 2. Take the lift close to the Bank of Ireland on the Arts & Sciences Concourse.) You can speak to our administrator, Margaret Logan, or any member of staff. (See 'Where we are' on p. 4 above)

Lectures and tutorials

Lectures start the week of 4 September and the timetable of Classics lectures is on the next page of this handbook.

In addition to lectures, you will attend weekly one-hour tutorials that cover work done in all of the Classics modules. Tutorials begin later in the semester, and you will be notified of the start date in lectures and through the Blackboard pages of CC108 in the first semester and CC109 in the second semester. Be sure to sign up on Blackboard for a tutorial group that fits your schedule, and if you have any questions, please contact the first-year co-ordinator, Dr Moran.

Choosing your modules

The first-year Classics course consists of four modules of 5 ECTS each and students in the BA Omnibus degree should take all four modules. Those in BA Connect and other denominated programmes *usually* take three of the four modules, dropping CC1100 Classics in Twenty Objects. If you are in any doubt as to which modules you should take, discuss your choices with your course director and the first-year Classics co-ordinator or any member of staff.

The two Core modules, CC108 and CC109, are each one semester long and have two lecture hours per week. The Language and Material Culture modules, CC114 and CC1100, are each two semesters long and have one lecture hour per week.

The core modules are assessed principally by a written examination at the end of each semester. The Language and Material Culture modules are assessed primarily by essays. Details are available in the course outlines for the modules, which will be available at the first meeting of class and on Blackboard. You will also receive coursework from both lecturers and tutors.

You will usually be asked to submit essays in two formats: a printed copy and an electronic copy submitted online through Turnitin, the university's anti-plagiarism system. A locked box for essay submissions is located outside room TB508 on the third floor of Tower 2.

We encourage everyone to consider taking on one of the two ancient languages, Latin or Greek in the second year. The first-year co-ordinator or any member of academic staff will be happy to discuss any questions you might have.

First-Year course structure: Semester One

CC108 Myth & Religion in the Ancient City	Prof. Michael Clarke on Greek mythology and the origins of literature	3 p.m. Mondays, Ó Tnúthail Theatre
	Dr Pádraic Moran on ancient Greek history	5 p.m. Tuesdays, Ó Tnúthail Theatre
CC114 Written Words & Spoken Languages 1	Dr Mark Stansbury on writing and reading in the ancient world	noon Wednesdays, IT125 (first floor)
CC1100 Classics in Twenty Objects 1	Exploring Antiquity through objects—and learning how to explain them to others	noon Thursdays, Ó Tnúthail Theatre

First-Year course structure: Semester Two

CC109 Rome & the Genesis of Europe	Dr Pádraic Moran on the poetry of Virgil and Roman identity	noon Wednesdays IT125G (ground floor)
	Dr Jacopo Bisagni on the history of Rome from its foundation to its fall and reinvention	noon Thursdays Ó Tnúthail Theatre
CC114 Written Words & Spoken Languages 2	Dr Jacopo Bisagni on the roots of European languages	5 p.m. Tuesdays, Ó Tnúthail Theatre
CC1100 Classics in Twenty Objects 2	Exploring Antiquity through objects—and learning how to explain them to others	3 p.m. Mondays, Ó Tnúthail Theatre

First-Year module descriptions

CC108 Myth and Religion in the Ancient City (Semester One)

Lectures: Clarke and Moran. 24 lectures (5 ECTS)

This module provides an introduction to the study of Antiquity by focusing on the thought and creativity of the earliest knowable Europeans in ancient Greece.

Greek Mythology and the Origins of Western Literature (Clarke)

These lectures are focussed on early Greek myth, especially the concept of the hero as a figure poised between men and gods, concentrating on artistic evidence from vase-painting and narrative evidence from early epic poetry. The principal sources studied are the *Odyssey* of Homer, and the anthology of texts collected by Lopez-Ruiz (see below). We will also look at the renewal of Greek myth in later ages, from medieval Ireland to Renaissance Italy.

Introduction to Ancient Greek History (Moran)

These lectures will survey the history of Ancient Greece, with a primary focus on the fifth and fourth centuries BC, a period of dynamic political and cultural innovation. The module will cover topics including the rise (and fall) of Greek democracy, intellectual culture in fifth-century Athens, Sparta, gender and sexuality, Greeks and barbarians, and the spectacular military career of Alexander the Great. Students will be introduced to original sources for Greek history (in translation).



Required reading

B. Powell, ed and tr. 2014. Homer, *Odyssey*. Oxford.

C. Lopez-Ruiz, 2008. *Gods, Heroes and Monsters: A Sourcebook of Greek, Roman and Near Eastern Myths in Translation*. Oxford.

S. B. Pomeroy, S. M. Burstein, W. Donlan, J. Tolbert Roberts, *A Brief History of Greece. Politics, Society and Culture*, 3rd ed., Oxford 2013.

CC114 Written Words and Spoken Languages (Semesters One and Two)

Lectures: Stansbury and Bisagni. 24 lectures (5 ECTS)

This module is an introduction to philology, the study of ancient language and literature and the social and material aspects of their transmission. The weekly lecture in the first semester focuses on writing systems and the history of books and texts; in the second semester we consider the rise and development of languages.

Part 1 (Semester One): Reading and Writing in the Ancient World (Stansbury)

Much of what we know about ancient civilisation comes from written texts like the works of Homer and Cicero. But how were their works preserved and passed down through thousands of years? In this module we will address that question and related ones by examining the origins and development of writing and reading, as well as looking at how the texts of antiquity were transmitted to our day through manuscripts.

Required reading

Robinson, A., 2007. *The Story of Writing*. London: Thames & Hudson.

Winsbury, R., 2009. *The Roman Book*. London: Duckworth.

Part 2 (Semester Two): The Roots of European Languages (Bisagni)

How and why do languages change over time? In this part of the module, we will explore this question by examining both modern languages and the languages of the past. Starting from modern English, we will go back in time, searching for the prehistoric ancestor of the Indo-European linguistic family, to which many of the ancient and modern languages of Europe and Asia belong, including Greek, Latin, Irish, English, Icelandic, Sanskrit (the sacred language of India), and many others. These lectures are a general introduction to the discipline known as historical linguistics, and no prior knowledge of ancient or foreign languages is required, but students who want to pursue this side of Classics will be encouraged to move on to begin the study of one of the ancient languages in the future if they wish to do so.



Required reading

Deutscher, G., 2006. *The Unfolding of Language*. New York: Random House.

Trask, R. L., 2010. *Why Do Languages Change?* Cambridge: CUP.

CC1100 Classics in Twenty Objects (Semesters One and Two)

Lectures: Moran, Bisagni, Clarke, Stansbury. 24 lectures (5 ECTS)

This module will draw together the themes of your other courses and give you an overall guide to Classics. The lectures will introduce you to a series of artefacts – artworks, monuments, written texts – from points in the three thousand years from the beginnings of civilisation, through the heyday of ancient Greece and Rome, all the way to the rise of modern European nations after the collapse of the Roman Empire in the West. Each lecture will be centred around a particular artefact, beginning with the most ancient art of Greece and continuing through the Classical period and into the reception of ancient art and literature in northern Europe and ultimately in Ireland. You will attend a lecture each week, and assessment will be divided between in-class assessment and project work. Your task will be to plan how to pass on your knowledge to others, moving ‘from learner to teacher’ in your own approach to education. The suggested reading below will serve as a set of reference books which you will find useful for all parts of the Classics course.

Suggested reading

M. T. Boatwright et al., 2011. *The Romans: From Village to Empire*. 2nd ed. Oxford: OUP.

C. Freeman, *Egypt, Greece and Rome: Civilizations of the Ancient Mediterranean* (Oxford, 2014)

N. MacGregor, *A History of the World in 100 Objects* (Penguin, 2010)

S. Price and P. Thonemann, *The Birth of Classical Europe* (Penguin, 2010)

CC109 Rome and the Genesis of Europe (Semester Two)

Lectures: Bisagni and Moran 24 lectures (5 ECTS)

This module provides an introduction to the history and literature of the Roman world.

A History of Rome from Romulus to Charlemagne (Bisagni)

This module will examine the rise of Rome from small city-state to global power (eighth to first centuries BC), then the transformation of Roman society in the imperial period (first to fourth centuries AD), the Western Empire’s collapse in the fifth century AD, and its ‘reinvention’ in the Early Middle Ages (fifth to tenth centuries AD). This part of the module will concentrate especially on two key phases of Roman history: first, the political changes that took place under Julius Caesar and then Augustus in the 1st century BC, creating the system that underpinned the Roman Empire;

second, the social, military and political processes that, in addition to bringing about the collapse of the Empire, also created the pre-conditions for the later formation of Europe as we know it.

Required reading

Boatwright, M. T. *et al.*: *The Romans: from Village to Empire*, Oxford: OUP, 2011 (2nd ed.).

Other readings will be indicated in class and distributed through Blackboard.

Virgil and Roman Identity (Moran)

This module aims to provide an introduction to Latin literature for students with no prior knowledge of the subject. It will begin by exploring Virgil's celebrated epic poem, the *Aeneid*. We will first look at what an epic poem is, then examine how Virgil's work not only addressed the literary past by creating a specifically Roman counterpoint to Homer, but also responded to the political and social anarchy of his own lifetime. In doing so, we will examine why this work was regarded as a Classic, almost immediately from its publication.

Required reading

Fagles, R. (tr.), 2007. *Virgil: Aeneid*. Penguin.

Other texts will be distributed on Blackboard.

