

Classics Programme

University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban

Ground Floor Memorial Tower Building G014



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The foyer of the Classics Programme houses a collection of ancient Mediterranean artefacts representing over 3000 years of Egyptian, Greek and Roman culture. Classics also has a small LAN equipped with scanners and software relevant to the study of the ancient world, as well as a Classics library that now holds about 5,000 books and journals.



A coin depicting Alexander the Great as Zeus

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Classics is the study of the mythologies, art and archaeology, history, culture, languages, and literatures of ancient Greece and Rome within their wider historical and geographical context, with particular emphasis on the interrelationships with Africa.

The Classical Civilisation courses offered by the Programme are as follows:

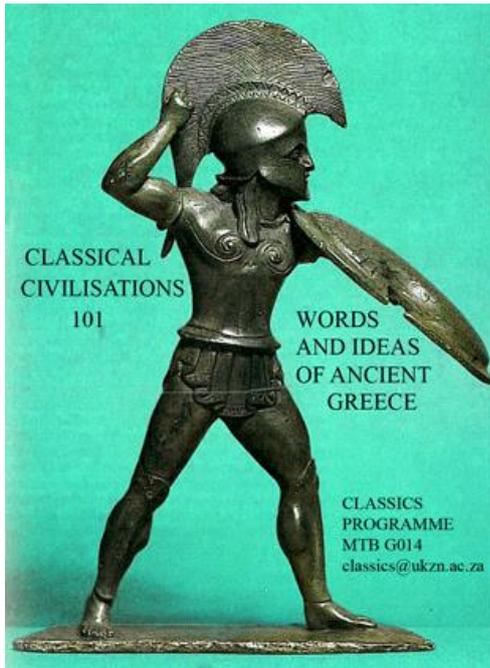
	First Semester	Second Semester	Credits
First Level	<i>Classical Civilisations 101: Words and Ideas of Ancient Greece</i> CCCV101H1	<i>Classical Civilisations 102: Words and Ideas of Ancient Rome</i> CCCV102H2	16
Second Level	<i>Mythology</i> CCCV201H1	<i>Lost Civilisations</i> CCCV202H2	16
	<i>Classics in the Movies</i> CCCV203H1	<i>Ancient Egypt</i> CCCV204H1	16
Third Level	<i>Mythology</i> CCCV301H1	<i>Lost Civilisations</i> CCCV302H2	16
	<i>Classics in the Movies</i> CCCV305H1	<i>Ancient Egypt</i> CCCV306H2	16
Third Level	<i>Additional Module</i> CCCV303H1	<i>Additional Module</i> CCCV304H2	16

In order to major in Classical Civilisation you need at least FIVE Classics modules, two of which must be at third level, plus TWO additional modules at third level, which may be research projects or Classical Language courses.

You will notice that *Mythology*, *Classics in the Movies*, *Lost Civilisations*, and *Ancient Egypt* are offered at both second and third level. Students should do one of these at second level and one at third level in successive years.

FIRST LEVEL COURSES

FIRST SEMESTER

Classical Civilisations 101: Words and Ideas of Ancient Greece
(CCCV101H1)

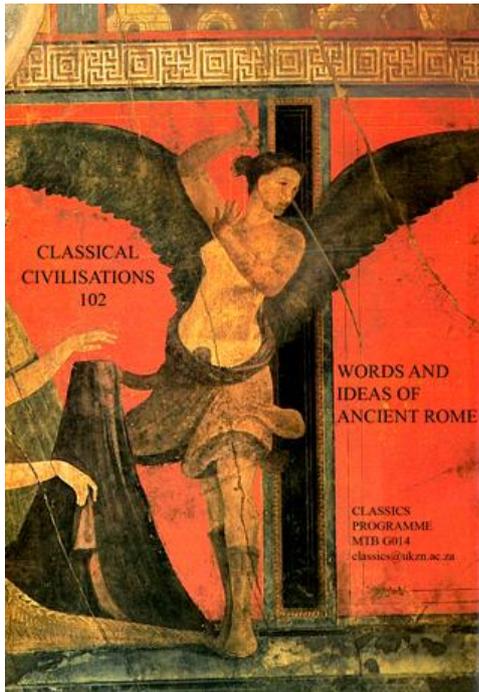
This is a foundational course in Classical Civilisation. It is offered in the first semester of the first level of study. The focus of this module is Classical Greek Civilisation, especially Greek words and ideas that have influenced our own contemporary culture.

In this module you will learn some Greek words that have become part of the English language, such as ‘democracy’. You will learn why these words were made up, how they are constructed, what they tell us about Greek culture, and why they are still an important part of our vocabulary. There are many Greek words that are still used in English relating to many different fields of study, such as geography, medicine and science, law and politics, commerce and economics, philosophy and psychology, art and architecture, history and archaeology. You will study some of these words and their place within the broad context of Greek culture and society.

Assessment: Class Mark (50% tutorial and practical assignments); Test & Examination (50%)

FIRST LEVEL COURSES

SECOND SEMESTER

Classical Civilisations 102: Words and Ideas of Ancient Rome
(CCCV102H2)

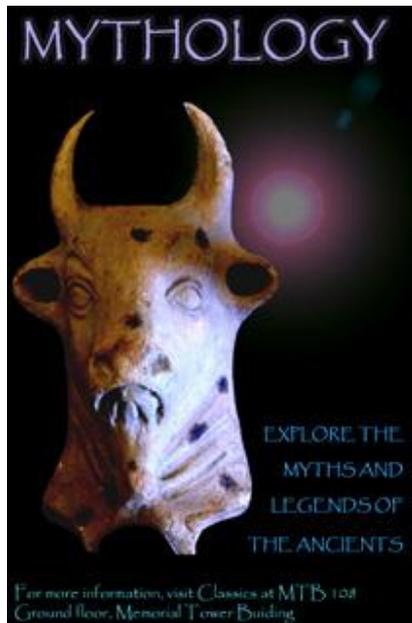
This is a foundational course in Classical Civilisation. It is offered in the second semester of the first level of study. The focus of this module is Roman Civilisation, especially the Latin words and ideas that have influenced our own contemporary culture. Latin was the language spoken by most of the inhabitants of the Roman Empire.

In this module you will learn some Latin words that have become part of the English language. You will learn why these words were made up, how they are constructed, what they tell us about Roman culture, and why they are still an important part of our vocabulary. There are many Latin words that are still used in English relating to many different fields of study, such as geography, medicine and science, law and politics, commerce and economics, philosophy and psychology, art and architecture, history and archaeology. You will study some of these words and their place within the broad context of Roman culture and society.

Assessment: Class Mark (50% tutorial and practical assignments); Test & Examination (50%)

SECOND / THIRD LEVEL COURSES

FIRST SEMESTER

Mythology (CCCV201H1 / CCCV301H1)

The aim of this module is to enable students to understand the nature of mythology and its functions in society. It covers the mythology of ancient Greece and Rome (including narratives in literature and art) and comparison with myths from other cultures, ancient and modern. It examines divine myth, heroic myth, creation myth, saga, and literary myth. A section of the course is devoted to African mythology, another to the reception of Greek myth in (South) African Theatre and Literature.

Assessment: Class Mark (50%); Examination (50%)

Classics in the Movies (CCCV203H1 / CCCV305H1)

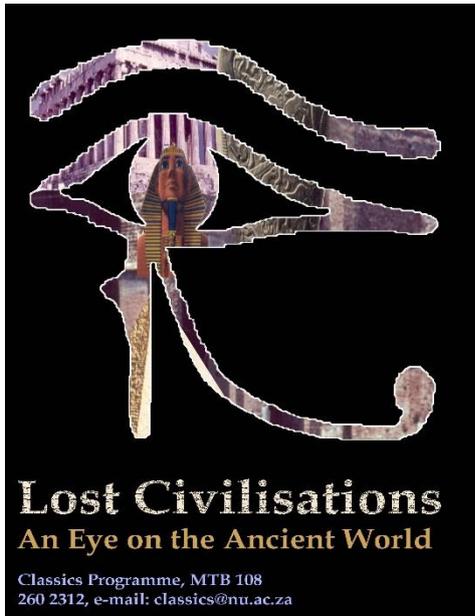
The aim of this module is to introduce students to the study of the reception of ancient history and Classical Greek and Latin literature in film, and to investigate the themes of ancient history or Classical literature on which such films are based. The course introduces students to two

different views of the ancient world: the historical or literary material, as far as we can reconstruct it from our ancient sources, and the modern cinematic representation of this, which the film industry creates for its viewers. Focussing on this gap, a selection of movies, ranging from classical Hollywood through to art cinema, will be discussed.

Assessment: Class Mark (50%); Examination (50%)

SECOND SEMESTER

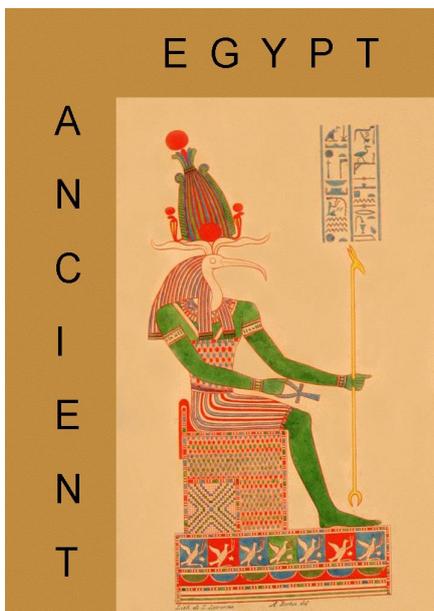
Lost Civilisations (CCCV202H2 / CCCV302H2)



The aim of this module is to examine key aspects of a range of ancient civilisations around the Mediterranean. The module is taught through (illustrated) lectures and tutorials and involves the study of archaeological sites and artefacts, as well as textual documentation, such as the Bronze Age Aegean, mythological civilisations such as Atlantis, the Roman world as preserved in Pompeii, sites in Roman North Africa such as Carthage and African Civilisations, for instance Great Zimbabwe and Ethiopia.

Assessment: Class Mark (50%); Examination (50%)

Ancient Egypt (CCCV204H2 / CCCV306H2)



The purpose of this module is to introduce students to the study of Ancient Egypt in the Pharaonic, Ptolemaic, Roman, and Christian eras. Ancient Egypt provides unique material for the study of archaeological monuments such as pyramids and obelisks and will be of interest to students of Architecture as well as Classics. Ancient Egypt has a rich artistic heritage and students of Fine Art will also find the course rewarding. More importantly, however, the course is essential for students interested in the African Renaissance and the origins of human culture. The module will enter

into the Black Athena debate which will interest students in Politics, Anthropology, and History. There is also a section on the Reception of Ancient Egypt, particularly in Popular Culture.

Assessment: Class Mark (50%); Examination (50%)

CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

LATIN

Latin became the world's first 'global language' under the ancient Roman Empire, and continued to be the language of science, philosophy, religion and scholarship for many centuries. Even a little knowledge of Latin gives a unique insight into the roots of the western cultural tradition.

No previous knowledge of Latin is required for the introductory level (CCLT101). The essential grammatical structures and vocabulary are introduced in the context of reading passages, together with background material on the society and culture of the Romans. The textbook is the *Oxford Latin Course*, which sets its narrative in the final years of the Roman Republic.

In order to major in Latin, students need to take ALL of the following six modules: Latin 1A, Latin 1B, Latin 2A, Latin 2B, Latin 3A, and Latin 3B. Each course is the pre-requisite for the next one. After three semesters of textbook and grammar, students should be able to begin to read selections from Latin authors, beginning with the love poetry of Catullus and going on to the forensic rhetoric of Cicero, Vergil's epic *Aeneid*, the lyric and satiric poetry of Horace and other authors.

Assessment: Class Mark (50%); Examination (50%)



Vergil: Vergilius Romanus fol. 3v, 5th. cent. CE

*et iam summa procul uillarum culmina fumant
maioresque cadunt altis de montibus umbrae.*

Look over there—smoke rises already from the rooftops
And longer fall the shadows cast by the mountain heights.

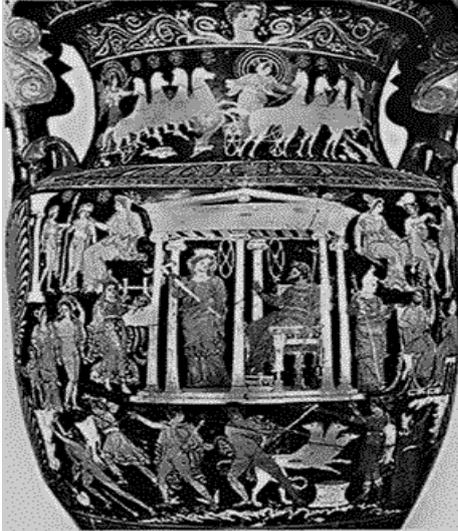
Vergil *Eclogue* 1.82-83 tr. C. Day Lewis

Career Relevance of Latin

Students with a love of languages will find the study of Latin especially rewarding, as it affords ready access to the structure and vocabulary of languages such as French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and English. It is relevant to philosophy, ancient and mediaeval history, linguistics and law, and is credited with developing precise expression and logical and analytical skills. For intending teachers, Latin is taught in some schools in South Africa and in many schools in Britain and the US.

Law students will find the study of Latin particularly useful as Latin is frequently used in legal texts.

CLASSICAL GREEK



The Classics Programme, Durban, offers a major in Classical Greek. The introductory course, Greek 1A (CCGK101), starts from the very beginning with the Greek alphabet. The textbook used is M. Balme and G. Lawall, *Athenaze: An Introduction to Ancient Greek. Book 1*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995. This modern textbook provides many interesting reading passages accompanied by exercises that provide practice in understanding and writing Greek. Each chapter explains the cultural background of the language. In order to major in Classical Greek, students need to take ALL of the following six modules: Greek 1A, Greek 1B, Greek 2A, Greek 2B, Greek 3A, and Greek 3B. Each course is the pre-requisite for the next one. After three semesters of textbook and grammar, students should be able to begin to read Greek and to study authors such as Homer, Plato, Herodotus, Longus and more.

Assessment: Class Mark (50%); Examination (50%)

A short extract from Homer's *Iliad* is given below. This passage describes the division of the world into sky, sea and underworld, controlled by Zeus, Poseidon and Hades. The above vase illustration depicts Persephone and Pluto in the underworld.

Since we are three brothers born by Rheia to Kronos,
 Zeus, and I, and the third is Hades, lord of the dead men.
 All was divided among us three ways, each given his domain.
 I when the lots were shaken drew the grey sea to live in
 forever; Hades drew the lot of the mists and darkness,
 and Zeus was allotted the wide sky, in the cloud and bright air.

Homer *Iliad* 15.187-192 tr. R. Lattimore (1951).

Career Relevance of Greek

The study of Classical Greek provides an excellent foundation for the study of languages, particularly English. Much of the vocabulary of academic English derives from ancient Greek and study of the language will give students an excellent understanding of traditional grammatical concepts. New Testament Greek will be useful for students intending to enter the ministry of the Christian church. Currently, New Testament or Hellenistic Greek is offered by the Theology Programme on Pietermaritzburg campus only.

Further information about the Classics Programme at UKZN is available on our website:

<http://srpc.ukzn.ac.za/Homepage.aspx>

<https://www.facebook.com/ClassicsUKZN/?fref=ts>