

Classics Programme

University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban

Ground Floor Memorial Tower Building G014



Course Handbook

POSTGRADUATE STUDY IN CLASSICS

HONOURS

Classics offers an Honours Programme in Classical Civilisations or Latin or Classical Greek. Applicants are required to have completed a 3rd year major in Classics in the sub-discipline they wish to pursue.

The structure of the degree is as follows:

<u>HONOURS DEGREE</u> (128 credits in total)	
CORE MODULE Research Methodology (32 credits)	
CORE MODULE Research Project (32 credits)	
CORE MODULE Ancient Language (16 credits)	CORE MODULE Ancient Language (16 credits)
HONOURS ELECTIVE (16 credits)	HONOURS ELECTIVE (16 credits)

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

TWO of the following Honours electives may be offered each year, according to student interest and staff availability.

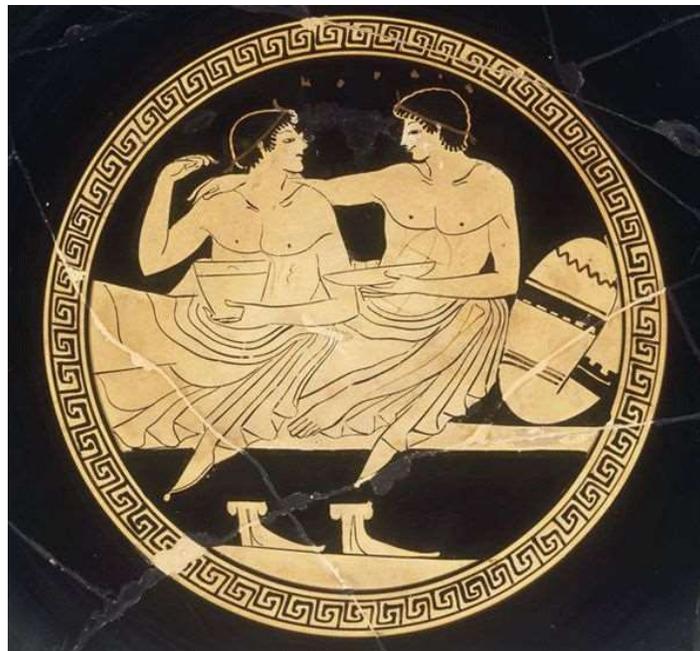
Initials following the module name indicate the lecturer involved.

CLASSICAL SEXUALITY (HL)

This module explores a wide variety of ancient texts and art, primarily from Classical Greece and Rome, in order to analyze the ways in which Classical societies thought about sex, sexual orientation, gender and power. Primary sources that will be studied are relevant extracts from the works of Greek authors including Homer, Sappho, Plato, Herodotus, Aristophanes and Theocritus, and Roman authors including Catullus, Propertius, Tibullus, Ovid and Apuleius. Vase painting, sculpture and inscriptions will also be examined.

LATIN LOVE POETRY (HL)

This module examines a selection of the works by the Roman poets Catullus, Propertius, Tibullus, Sulpicia and Ovid, with a particular focus on those poems interested in love, lovers and sexual intimacy. These will be studied in English translation and / or in the original Latin, depending upon the language proficiency of the students. The form, imagery, influence, social and historical contexts of the poetry will all be major areas of study.



ALEXANDER AND THE RISE OF THE HELLENISTIC WORLD (HL)

This module examines the life of Alexander the Great and how his conquests initiated lasting changes in the ancient world, from the decline of Classical Greece to the founding of Alexandria and the formation of the Ptolemaic Empire. The primary texts used are Plutarch's *Life of Alexander* and Arrian's *Anabasis of Alexander*. These will be studied in English translation and / or in the original Greek, depending upon the language proficiency of the students.



WOMEN IN GREEK TRAGEDY (ES)

This module will study the representation in Greek Tragedy of female figures such as Medea, Phaidra, Electra, Hekabe, Iphigeneia and Antigone or others. The relevant tragedies will be read in English translation. The module will also familiarize students with the current scholarship about the interpretation of female characters in tragedy.



FROM CLASSICAL TRADITION TO RECEPTION STUDIES (ES)

It is the aim of this module to introduce students to this sub-discipline in the field of Classical Philology, "probably the fastest growing area in the field of classical studies" (Susanna Braund). After a theoretical overview of "the state of the art", various techniques and methods will be explored, using various examples from antiquity and modern times. The main focus will be on literary adaptations; however music and visual arts might be included as well. Students will gain first-hand experience in researching the primary sources of a given topic and will look at selected adaptations from modern times. Since this is an extremely vast field, there is no standard repertoire for this module. The actual selection of topics will be finalised in discussion with the participating students and lecturer in order to suit individual interests.

LITERARY MYTH (SB)

In most cases, civilizations and communities rather than individuals, generate myths. However, certain authors have utilized myth and its' cultural relevance and appeal to further a variety of literary objectives. This elective looks at the ways in which many ancient authors have changed, subverted, and even invented myths, as well as the inspirations for their actions. The lesson explores Plato, the Greek tragedians', and the Augustan poets' creations. A seminar on Tolkien's mythopoeisis will also be held.



DREAMS AND MYTH (SB)

Greek myths have been influential in the development of modern dream theory, particularly theories that sprung from Freud's psychoanalysis. The 20th century has seen a significant effect of these theories on humanities research. Greek myth is examined in this Dreams and Myth course from the perspective of dream theory on the one hand, and current dream theory in the context of Greek myths forming impact on dream theory on the other. The link between Plato and Freud, dreams in Hellenistic philosophy, and dreams in Homer and Vergil are just a few of the topics that will be covered.



MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.)

Classics offers a Masters by Research only (192 credits) under the supervision of one of the permanent staff members. The pre-requisites are an Honours Degree in Classics and at least one complete year in either Latin or Classical Greek. In addition, before the degree can be awarded, the student must have completed at least one additional year of either Latin or Classical Greek. Further language requirements remain at the discretion of the supervisor.

Some topics of recently completed M.A. dissertations include, among others:

- Haggard, Great Zimbabwe and the Classics: Constructing lost cities in *King Solomon's Mines*, *She* and *Elissa*
- The Spartans and the amaZulu: a comparison of their military and social systems
- Scholarship and Multiculturalism in Ptolemaic Egypt
- The parent-child relationship and the Homeric Hero in the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*
- Girl Guides: Towards a model of female guides in ancient epic.



DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

Classics offers a PhD programme (384 credits) by thesis only under the supervision of one of the permanent staff members. The pre-requisite is a Masters' Degree in Classics and at least two completed years in either Latin or Classical Greek. PhD students must have completed at least one additional year of either Latin or Classical Greek as the minimum language requirement before the degree can be awarded. Additional language requirements remain at the discretion of the supervisor.

Some topics of recently completed PhD theses include, among others:

- Computer aided techniques for the attribution of Attic Black-Figure Vase-Paintings using the Princeton Painter as a model
- Plaintive Nightingale or Strident Swan? – The reception of the Electra myth from 1960-2005
- The Judgement of an Ass: Constructions of female sexuality in Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*

POST-DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP

Classics offers a full Post-Doctoral Programme within the framework of the College of Humanities under the supervision of one of the permanent staff members and invites applications from interested qualified candidates. All inquiries and applications should be addressed to the Head of Department.

Former Post-Doctoral students include, among others:

- Dr Segun Ige (now: University of Cape Town)
- Dr Mairéad McAuley (now: University College London, UK)
- Dr Francesco Lupi (now: University of Verona, Italy)
- Dr Alan Ross (now: University of Southampton, UK)

STAFF RESEARCH INTERESTS AND SUPERVISION SPECIALTIES

Dr Elke Steinmeyer

- Reception studies
- Greek tragedy
- Links between Latin (and Classical Greek) and isiZulu grammar and literature

Ms Siobhan Banwari

- Comparative studies, applying modern concepts to ancient texts
- Comparative mythology
- Reception studies

Ms Helen Lenahan

- Greek language and literature, with a particular interest in Hellenistic authors and the poetry of Theocritus.
- Translation and translation theory
- Classical sexuality and gender identity

