

Classical Archaeology

The Department of Classics offers both the MA and PhD in Classical Archaeology (the archaeology of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds). All students apply to the PhD program. Those with the BA as their highest degree are admitted to the MA program, while in some instances those who hold an MA in classical archaeology or a related field are admitted directly to the PhD program. Students admitted to the MA program receive the MA upon completion of the MA requirements and then apply for advancement to the PhD program.

The Program in Classical Archaeology accepts a broad definition of the field, recognizing its grounding in both the humanities and the social sciences. It accordingly provides a rigorous general preparation in the archaeology of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds while allowing students to develop one or more specializations in a variety of specific areas. Students are required to participate in archaeological fieldwork in the Mediterranean (in many cases, participating in projects directed by UC Berkeley faculty) and are also encouraged to work with the unusually rich array of artifactual, epigraphical, and papyrological materials housed on the UC Berkeley campus. At the PhD level students opt to focus on either Greek archaeology or Roman archaeology, with their specific fieldwork, course, and ancient and modern language requirements determined by this choice.

Students who complete the PhD program should be well-qualified candidates for college and university-level teaching positions in classical archaeology and — depending upon their specific course of study — curatorial appointments in ancient art.

Admission to the University

Applying for Graduate Admission

Thank you for considering UC Berkeley for graduate study! UC Berkeley offers more than 120 graduate programs representing the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary scholarship. The Graduate Division hosts a complete list (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/choosing-your-program/list/>) of graduate academic programs, departments, degrees offered, and application deadlines can be found on the Graduate Division website.

Prospective students must submit an online application to be considered for admission, in addition to any supplemental materials specific to the program for which they are applying. The online application and steps to take to apply can be found on the Graduate Division website (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/>).

Admission Requirements

The minimum graduate admission requirements are:

1. A bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A satisfactory scholastic average, usually a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale; and
3. Enough undergraduate training to do graduate work in your chosen field.

For a list of requirements to complete your graduate application, please see the Graduate Division's Admissions Requirements page (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/requirements/>).

It is also important to check with the program or department of interest, as they may have additional requirements specific to their program of study and degree. Department contact information can be found here (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/graduate/degree-programs/>).

Where to apply?

Visit the Berkeley Graduate Division application page (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/>).

Admission to the Program

Competition for admission to graduate study at Berkeley is extremely keen. In recent years there have been from 60-80 applicants per year, and the department's admission quota has been around 12 to 16 admits, with the expectation that 5 to 7 new students will enroll each fall. While some applicants are denied admission for lack of adequate preparation or for undistinguished academic records, a substantial number each year who are judged capable of doing good graduate work at Berkeley are denied admission through a process of competitive ranking. The department's policy is to try to limit enrollment to the number of students who can be fully supported through a normal graduate career.

Applicants are judged by an admissions committee of five to seven faculty members, including the graduate adviser. The committee represents a variety of specialties and interests, and different members assign somewhat different weights to the various criteria for admission, which include the following:

1. **Preparation:** In Greek and Latin. Whether the applicant has a major in Greek or Latin or Classical Languages or some other subject, the committee is looking for, as a minimum, language preparation more or less equivalent to what is received in the undergraduate major at Berkeley itself. This includes a full year of introductory language study, three additional semesters in central authors or texts of each language (e.g., Homer [3-4 books], Plato [a short dialogue], Greek drama [1 complete play], Vergil [3-4 books], Republican prose [40-50 pages], Horace [30 poems]) plus two additional semesters of more advanced reading in either Greek or Latin. In practice, a student with two years of study in the weaker language is usually considered marginally prepared.

An applicant with an MA is expected to offer substantially stronger preparation in at least one of the two languages, since the committee will be judging such an applicant against a real or notional pool of other MA students and not against students with only a BA. Elements of additional preparation which reflect favorably on an applicant include: courses in Greek or Latin composition; especially extensive reading in one or both languages; reading knowledge of modern languages (particularly German and/or French or Italian); courses in ancient history, classical civilization, ancient and world literature in translation, philosophy, art history, archaeology, anthropology, and other disciplines that are helpful to the broad range of classical studies.

2. **Academic Distinction:** The committee considers overall GPA, GPA in junior and senior years, and GPA in classics courses, with emphasis on the last two and especially on the last. Successful applicants in recent years have usually offered a junior/senior GPA in the range of 3.6 to 4.0, with many above 3.8. A student who has floundered in other fields earlier in his or her undergraduate education and then performed well upon discovering classics is not necessarily at a disadvantage because of the earlier record, although

the committee is duly impressed by candidates who have been able to achieve excellence in many disciplines.

The department has had many students from overseas and in evaluating academic distinction makes every effort to make appropriate allowances for the differences in grading and examination systems. Successful applicants from Great Britain usually have a first class or a high second class degree.

3. **Letters of Recommendation:** A minimum of three letters of recommendation is required. The committee values letters that are frank and specific as to the applicant's achievement and promise. If possible, recommenders should make comparisons with other students they know have applied to or enrolled at Berkeley. The contacts for letters of recommendation will be entered by you during the online application process. Recommenders will be contacted via email to submit their recommendation online.
4. **GRE Scores:** The program no longer requires GRE scores for applications to the program.
5. **Statement of Purpose:** The committee appreciates clearly-written and cogent statements of purpose explaining why applicants are interested in graduate work in classics, what they hope to accomplish, and where their eventual specialization may lie. The statement of purpose is also the appropriate place for the applicant to address and explain any particular weaknesses in the dossier.
6. **Writing Sample:** The committee finds it helpful for candidates to submit a sample of scholarly writing, such as a paper written for a course or a portion of a senior honors thesis. (A candidate who wishes to submit an entire honors thesis should submit a summary with the application and indicate its most representative sections.) Writing samples are submitted as part of the online application. Members of committees differ in their treatment of writing samples. Some refer to them only if they judge the previous five criteria insufficiently indicative.

Curriculum

CLASSIC C204	Proseminar in Classical Archaeology and Ancient Art	2,4
CLASSIC 375	Teaching of Classics: Methods and Problems	3
Elective Courses:		12
12 units in Classical Archaeology, Art History, or Classics, courses numbered above 204		
Elective Seminar in Ancient History, unless exam is taken in this field		
Two Electives in Greek History, unless exam is taken in this field		
Two Roman History Electives, unless exam is taken in this field		

Classical Archaeology

CLASSIC 200 Proseminar 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2021

An introduction to the general literature of classical philology, to methods of research, and to textual criticism.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

CLASSIC 201A Survey of Greek Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2021

A sequence of readings and lectures on Greek literature.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

CLASSIC 201B Survey of Greek Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Spring 2020

A sequence of readings and lectures on Greek literature.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

CLASSIC 202A Survey of Latin Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2020

A sequence of readings and lectures on Latin literature.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

CLASSIC 202B Survey of Latin Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Spring 2021

A sequence of readings and lectures on Latin literature.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

CLASSIC 203 Approaches to Classical Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Fall 2019

Introduction to basic methods of literary analysis and interpretation, and study of particular critical approaches of significance for the understanding of Classical literature. Close reading of selected passages of Greek and Latin will be emphasized. The critical approaches that are to be studied may vary from year to year. The course will be team taught.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 200 or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

CLASSIC C204 Proseminar in Classical Archaeology and Ancient Art 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2019, Fall 2015, Spring 2012

This seminar is intended to introduce graduate students--both archaeologists and non-archaeologists--to the discipline of classical archaeology, history, and evolution, and its research tools and bibliography. Since it is both impossible and undesirable to attempt to cover the entire discipline in one semester, after two introductory lectures on the history of the field, we will address a selection of topics that seems representative of its concerns.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Working knowledge of Latin, Greek, and German or French or Italian

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Hallett, Stewart

Also listed as: HISTART C204

CLASSIC 211 Archaic Greek Poetry 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2017, Fall 2016

. Topics in iambic, elegiac, and lyric poets from Archilochus to Pindar.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 200

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

CLASSIC 213 Hellenistic Poetry 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2011, Fall 2004, Fall 1999

. Study of Callimachus, Theocritus, Apollonius, or other topics in Hellenistic poetry and poetics.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 200

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

CLASSIC 214 Greek Drama 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2017, Fall 2015

. Study of Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes, Menander, or other topics in Greek drama and dramatic theory.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 200

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

CLASSIC 218 Greek Philosophers 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2019, Spring 2019
Study of PreSocratics, Plato, Aristotle, Hellenistic Philosophy, or other topics in ancient Greek philosophy through Plotinus.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 200

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

CLASSIC 219 Ancient Novel 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2010, Fall 2005
Study of Greek novelists, Petronius, Apuleius, or other topics in Greco-Roman romance or novel.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 200

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

CLASSIC 220A Greek and Latin Epigraphy 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Fall 2016, Fall 2011
Greek epigraphy

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 200

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

Instructor: 200A-200B.

CLASSIC 220B Greek and Latin Epigraphy 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2004, Spring 2000
Latin epigraphy

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 200

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

CLASSIC 224 Classical Poetics and Rhetoric 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2011, Fall 1996
Ancient views of literature; theories and practice of criticism, scholarship, and education, from Homer to Byzantium.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

CLASSIC 225 Papyrology 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2020, Fall 2018
The course introduces students to Greek papyrology. Its principal aim is to develop the skills necessary to edit and interpret papyrological texts. Sessions are devoted to learning the techniques of papyrology and to investigating historical issues to which the papyrological corpus has much to contribute (the ancient economy, gender in antiquity, education, etc.). Extensive use will be made of Berkeley's outstanding collection of papyri from Tebtunis.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

CLASSIC 226 Myth and Literature 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2009, Spring 2003

A study of the interplay of mythical thinking and formal literary expression in texts of all kinds in the Greco-Roman world.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 200

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

CLASSIC 228 Ancient Society and Law 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2011, Fall 2009, Fall 2008

. Study of social, legal, or administrative structures of the Greek or Roman world.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 200

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

CLASSIC 230 Latin Poetry of the Republic and Early Empire 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2022, Spring 2019

. Study of Lucretius, Vergil, Horace, Ovid, or other topics in Latin poetry from Ennius to Juvenal.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 200

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

CLASSIC 239 Topics in Greek or Roman Literature, History, and Culture 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2023

Select issues in ancient Greek and/or Roman literature or history or culture.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 200

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

CLASSIC 250 Advanced Greek Composition 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2018, Fall 2016

Advanced instruction in the writing of Greek prose.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Greek 40 or equivalent

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

CLASSIC 260 Advanced Latin Composition 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Fall 2018, Spring 2017

Advanced instruction in the writing of Latin prose.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Latin 40 or equivalent

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

CLASSIC 270 Seminar in Classical Archaeology 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Advanced study of ancient Greek art objects and sites.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

CLASSIC 298 Special Study 2 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2019

Normally reserved for students writing the doctoral dissertation.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Completion of qualifying examination for the Ph.D. degree

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

CLASSIC 299 Special Study 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 8 Week Session, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Special individual study for qualified graduate students.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

CLASSIC 302 Teaching Practicum 3 - 6 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Supervised teaching of lower division Greek, Latin, or Classics or of discussion sections in Classics. Two semesters normally required for Ph.D. candidates.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-6 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

CLASSIC 375 Teaching of Classics: Methods and Problems 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Seminar in problems of teaching. Required for all new graduate student instructors.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing or GSI status

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Formerly known as: Classics 300

CLASSIC 601 Individual Study for Master's Candidates 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2022, Spring 2020

Individual study for the comprehensive or language requirements in consultation with the graduate adviser or personal adviser. Units may not be used to meet either unit or residence requirements for a master's degree.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

CLASSIC 602 Individual Study for Doctoral Candidates 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

Individual study in consultation with the graduate adviser or personal adviser, intended to provide an opportunity for qualified students to prepare themselves for the various examinations required of candidates for the Ph.D. May not be used for unit or residence requirements for the doctoral degree.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Classics/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.