

Classical Studies in Greece (Classics 251)
January 4-30, 2027 – SYLLABUS

This course introduces students to the history and art of ancient Greece. It covers more than 2000 years of Greek civilization, from the Bronze Age through the archaic, classical, and Hellenistic periods. The itinerary takes students all over Greece, with extended stays in Athens and Attica, Crete, the Peloponnese, and Thessaloniki. When not visiting museums and archaeological sites, students have the opportunity to experience modern Greek culture as well.

After completing the course, students should be familiar with the important people, places, and events of each major period of ancient Greek history, as well as the evolution of ancient Greek art and architecture. They should have a clear picture of the interplay between Mediterranean geography and the history of Greece and should be acquainted with the methods used by archaeologists and historians to study the Greek past. Finally, they should be able to assess critically the ancient Greek beliefs and traditions that continue to be influential today.

Accessibility and Accommodations: This is a fast-paced, high-activity program that includes several hours of walking each day, both inside museums and outdoors in cities, towns, and archaeological sites. Trails on hills may be stony, steep, and narrow; paths may be dusty or muddy. Weather can range from sunny and warm to rainy, snowy, and cold. The group travels long distances by motor coach and stays in ten hotels (double rooms). All breakfasts and most of the dinners are provided at the hotels; dinners in Athens and all lunches are self-directed with meal stipends given to the students. We strive to accommodate all participants' individual needs. Letting us know sooner helps us to better assess potential accommodations. Talk to [Disability and Access \(DAC\)](#) or to Xai Her (her20@stolaf.edu) in IOS for planning purposes.

GE Credit: Global Histories and Societies (GHS) & Creativity (CRE)
Historical Studies in Western Culture (HWC) & Artistic Studies (ALS-A)

Major Credit: Ancient Studies, Classics, Greek, Latin

Open to: Sophomores, juniors, seniors

Maximum: 30

Instructor: Professor Anne H. Groton, Department of Classics

Prerequisite: None, but courses in the language, literature, history, and culture of ancient Greece are strongly recommended; a student who has taken at least one such course receives priority. Selection is based on a statement of interest, scholastic standing, and an interview.

Cost (subject to change): \$6,200 (includes all transportation, hotels, entrance fees, three meals per day); not included are the costs of the required textbook (c. \$60) and a passport. Students who apply for Classics 251 may simultaneously apply for a Groomis Scholarship, which can be combined with Smith Center funds to cover the full program fee, excluding flights, passport, and textbook costs; winners are selected on the basis of merit and high financial need.

Academic Requirements:

1. Each student is required to attend all of the planned events, including lectures and visits to sites and museums, and to participate in all of the group discussions.
2. Each student is required to buy the printed textbook and course packet, bring them to Greece, and read them according to the schedule set out in the syllabus.
3. Each student is required to take the three written exams that will be given during the month, covering the lectures and assigned readings and the visits to sites and museums.

- Each student is expected to take notes, either on paper or electronically, during class meetings and at the sites and museums visited each day; taking notes on the assigned readings is also highly recommended. Many students enjoy keeping a journal of some sort or writing a blog in which they reflect on their personal experiences.

Grading: 3 exams = 90%; class participation, enthusiasm, and responsible behavior = 10%

Required Textbooks:

Pomeroy, Sarah B. et al., *A Brief History of Ancient Greece: Politics, Society, and Culture* (Oxford University Press, 5th edition, 2025, ISBN 978-0197783481).

Classics 251 course packet (provided by the Classics Department): contains maps, reference pages, selected passages from ancient literature, and other material useful for the course.

Typical Daily Schedule: Departure from the hotel by 9:00 a.m. to visit archaeological sites and museums, reached either by walking or by riding in the group's motor coach; often the visits are finished by mid-afternoon, allowing time for rest, study, or exploring. The class usually meets before dinner to discuss the day's visits and the assigned readings; evenings are free after dinner.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

(always subject to last-minute changes!)

- Mon., Jan. 4: Fly to Greece
- Tu., Jan. 5: Arrive in Athens; walking tour of Plaka, Arch of Hadrian; welcome dinner
- Wed., Jan. 6: Athens: Theater of Dionysos, Acropolis Archaeological Site and Museum
- Th., Jan. 7: Athens: Kerameikos, Agora, Hadrian's Library, Aristotle's Lyceum
- Fri., Jan. 8: Athens: National Archaeological Museum; ancient mask workshop
- Sat., Jan. 9: Athens: drive to Marathon, Brauron; afternoon flight to Heraklion (Crete)
- Sun., Jan. 10: Heraklion: Heraklion Archaeological Museum, Knossos, Mallia
- Mon., Jan. 11: Heraklion: Gortys, Phaistos, Agia Triada Archaeological Sites; Matala
- Tu., Jan. 12: Heraklion: Exam #1 in the morning; drive to Chania; visit Rethymnon on the way; overnight ferry to Piraeus
- Wed., Jan. 13: Piraeus to Nauplion; visit Eleusis, Corinth, Nemea Sites on the way
- Th., Jan. 14: Nauplion: Nauplion Archaeological Museum, Tiryns, Mycenae Site and Museum
- Fri., Jan. 15: Nauplion: Palamidi Fortress, Argos and Epidauros Archaeological Sites
- Sat., Jan. 16: Nauplion to Sparta; visit Mystras on the way; Sparta Site and Museum
- Sun., Jan. 17: Sparta to Pylos; visit Messene Archaeological Site on the way
- Mon., Jan. 18: Pylos to Olympia; visit Nestor's Palace on the way
- Tu., Jan. 19: Olympia: Olympic Games Museum, Olympia Site and Museum
- Wed., Jan. 20: Olympia: Exam #2 in the morning; Olympia to Delphi; visit Patras Museum, Rion-Antirion Bridge on the way
- Th., Jan. 21: Delphi: Delphi Archaeological Site and Museum
- Fri., Jan. 22: Delphi to Kalambaka; visit monasteries at Meteora on the way
- Sat., Jan. 23: Kalambaka to Thessaloniki; visit Aigai (Vergina) Site and Museum on the way
- Sun., Jan. 24: Thessaloniki: Pella Site and Museum, Thessaloniki Archaeological Museum
- Mon., Jan. 25: Thessaloniki: city tour (or Amphipolis and Philippi Sites if weather permits)
- Tu., Jan. 26: Thessaloniki to Volos; pass by Dion Archaeological Site on the way
- Wed., Jan. 27: Volos to Athens; visit Thermopylae, Thebes Archaeological Museum on the way
- Th., Jan. 28: Athens: drive to Cape Sounion; visit Piraeus Archaeological Museum on the way
- Fri., Jan. 29: Athens: Exam #3 in the morning; farewell dinner
- Sat., Jan. 30: Fly to USA