

ANCIENT STUDIES PROGRAM

St. Olaf College



Mysteries at Eleusis
(Classical Studies in Greece, 2025)

ANCIENT STUDIES PROGRAM 2026-2027

Founded in 1971, Ancient Studies is one of the oldest interdisciplinary programs at St. Olaf College. Most courses focus on ancient Greece, Rome, and the Near East, a few on ancient China or Japan. Students are encouraged to examine the ancient world from a variety of perspectives, including comparative and cross-cultural ones.

It is common for students to combine an Ancient Studies major with another major such as philosophy, religion, history, art history, or political science. Even students majoring in math, natural science, or fine arts may opt to use Ancient Studies as half of a double major.

Every Ancient Studies major must complete the 4th semester of Latin or Greek (or any Latin or Greek course numbered above 231). Students who fulfill this requirement with Latin may use one Greek course (111 or above) as an elective; those who fulfill it with Greek may use one Latin course (111 or above) as an elective.

Also required are a Classics course, an ancient history course (for which a Classics course with GHS may be substituted), four electives selected from Art History, Asian Studies, Classics, Enduring Questions, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Religion, and Theater, and either Classics 370 or an Independent Research on a topic of the student's choice (e.g., the chronology of Jericho, Egyptian pyramid design, midwifery in antiquity, Old Nubian, Plato's political philosophy, ancient fly-fishing). A paper written for a Level III course may replace the IR. Study abroad and courses at Carleton College extend the range of possibilities.

If you are interested in an Ancient Studies major, please contact the program director, Prof. Anne Groton, Dept. of Classics (Tomson Hall 367, groton@stolaf.edu), for more information.

Italicized courses are offered in 2026-2027.

REQUIRED COURSES

1 Latin or Greek course above 231

*Latin 252, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375,
377 or Greek 253, 275, 370, 372, 373, 374*

1 Classics course

***1 ancient history (or Classics GHS) course
4 electives; Classics 370 or an IR***

ELECTIVE COURSES

Art History

*161 (History of World Architecture—
if student focuses on ancient art)*
275 (Topics in Art Hist.—if ancient)
*282 (Topics in Museum Studies—if
student focuses on ancient art)*
*350 (Methods of Art History—if student
focuses on ancient art)*

Asian Studies

*333 (What is a Hero?—if student
focuses on the ancient hero)*

Classics

120 (Greek & Roman Myth)
124 (The Many Faces of Homer)
126 (Ancient Comedy)
239 (Classics & Race)
240 (Gender/Sexuality in Anc. World)
243 (The World of the Ancient Greeks)
244 (The World of the Ancient Romans)
251 (Class. Stud. in Greece) [abroad]
253 (Class. Stud. in Italy) [abroad]
260 (Sports & Recreation Anc. World)
370 (Topics in Classical Studies)

Enduring Questions

113 (Heroes, Gods, and Monsters)
115 (Emperors, Orators, Disciples)

History

101 (Ancient Warfare)
190 (Mid. East & Europe to 1500)
201 (Methods Sem.: Ancient Magic)
203 (Ancient History: Greece)

204 (Ancient History: Rome)
205 (Ancient History: Near East)
302 (Research Sem: Greek Civ.)
303 (Research Sem: Roman History)
*396 (Archaeol. Research—if student
focuses on ancient archaeology)*

Philosophy

117 (Confucius, Buddha, and Socrates)
*118 (Knowledge, Reality, & the Self—if
student focuses on antiquity)*
140 (Myth, Reason, Death of the Gods)
235 (Ancient Greek Philosophy)
374 (Sem.: Hist. of Phil.—if ancient)

Political Science

*113 (Intro. to Pol. Theory—if student
focuses on ancient political theory)*
299 (Top. Pol. Sci.—if focus is ancient)
*384 (Sem. Pol. Theory—if student
focuses on ancient political theory)*

Religion

122 (The Hebrew Bible)
125 (Engaging the Bible Today)
127 (The Bible & Ecological Desire)
*212 (Chr. Theol in Hist. Context—if
student focuses on antiquity)*
220 (Genesis, God, Human Nature)
221 (Jesus in Scripture & Tradition)
222 (The Biblical God)
223 (Paul: His Letters, His Gospel)
227 (Moses & Jesus)
*255 (Beauty, Arts, & Relig.—if student
focuses on antiquity)*
271 (Bible in Context) [abroad]
272 (Sacred Places [abroad])
273 (Hebrew Prophets)
276 (Jesus & the Moral Life)
302 (History of Christian Thought I)
320 (Interpreting Sacred Texts)

Theater

*180 (Text & Performance—if student
focuses on ancient theater)*
270 (History of Theater)