

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

St. Olaf College



Plautus' *Vidularia*
(Latin Play on tour, 2026)

CLASSICS PROGRAM St. Olaf College

The St. Olaf College Department of Classics offers a full range of courses in the languages, literature, and culture of ancient Greece and Rome, with majors in (ancient) Greek, Latin, Classics, Ancient Studies, and Medieval Studies. Classics students often add a second major in math, science, English, art, music, history, philosophy, or religion.

Students take Greek and Latin for a variety of reasons: some to satisfy St. Olaf's WLC (World Languages and Cultures) requirement by completion of Greek 231 or Latin 231, some to improve their verbal and analytical skills, some to prepare for careers in education, medicine, religion, law, or museum studies, some to learn how to read influential texts in the original Greek or Latin, some just for the joy and the intellectual challenge of it.

The Greek taught at St. Olaf is ancient Greek, which differs from modern Greek in pronunciation as well as grammar and syntax. Students who plan to attend seminary or study theology are encouraged to take ancient Greek for at least four semesters.

Greek 111 and Latin 111 are introductory courses, assuming no knowledge of the language. If students have studied Greek or Latin before, they should take the online placement survey to find out whether they are ready for the intermediate level.

Study abroad opportunities include two January-term courses, Classical Studies in Greece alternating with Classical Studies in Italy. Applicants may apply for a Groomis Scholarship in Classics, which helps to cover the program fee for either course.

St. Olaf has had an active chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the Classics honor society, since 1971 and has hosted the national convention four times. Every couple of years, students perform an ancient musical comedy in Latin or Greek, going on tour to nearby schools and colleges. Other activities include a weekly Classics Conversation Table, the annual James M. May Lecture in Classics, Latin/Greek translation contests, kickball, caroling, marathon readings, Olympic Games, films, and a Bacchanalia.

CLASSICS FACULTY 2026-2027

Anne Groton (1981-)
*Professor of Classics; Dept. Chair; Director,
Ancient Studies & Medieval Studies Programs*
A.B., Wellesley College
M.A., Ph.D., University of Michigan

Kyle Helms (2018-)
Associate Professor of Classics
B.A., University of Florida
M.A., University of Iowa
M.A., Ph.D., University of Cincinnati

Frances Merrill (2026-)
Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics
B.A., M.A., University of Vermont
M.Phil., Ph.D., New York University

Peter Moench (2024-)
Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics
B.A., St. Olaf College
M.F.A., University of Washington
M.A., Ph.D., University of Virginia

Kathryn Steed (2019-)
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Classics
B.A., Kalamazoo College
Ph.D., University of Michigan

REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJORS

Greek: 7 Greek courses (only 6 if begun at 231 level or higher); Classics 370; 1 Greek history course or 1 Classics GHS course.

Latin: 7 Latin courses (only 6 if begun at the 231 level or higher); Classics 370; 1 Roman history course or 1 Classics GHS course.

Classics: 6 courses in Greek or Latin (only 5 if begun at the 231 level or higher); 3 courses in the other language; Classics 370; 1 ancient history course (or 1 Classics GHS course).

Ancient Studies: Greek 253 (or any higher Greek course) or Latin 235 (or any higher Latin course); 1 Classics course, 1 ancient history course (or 1 Classics GHS course);

4 electives; Classics 370 or 1 IR (or a 300-level course requiring a research paper).

Medieval Studies: Latin 235 (or any higher Latin course); 1 medieval literature course; 1 medieval history course; 4 electives; 1 IR (or a 300-level course requiring a research paper).

COURSES (If a title is italicized, the course is offered in 2026-2027. St. Olaf students can also register for Classics courses at Carleton College.)

<i>Greek 111/112</i>	<i>Beginning Greek</i>
<i>Greek 231</i>	<i>Intermediate Greek</i>
<i>Greek 253</i>	<i>New Testament Greek > Biblical Greek with new course number</i>
Greek 275	Homer and Greek Epic
<i>Greek 370</i>	<i>Topics in Greek Literature</i>
Greek 372	Greek Philosophers
Greek 373	Greek Historians
Greek 374	Greek Drama
<i>Latin 111/112</i>	<i>Beginning Latin</i>
<i>Latin 231</i>	<i>Intermediate Latin</i>
Latin 235	Medieval Latin
<i>Latin 252</i>	<i>Vergil and Latin Epic</i>
<i>Latin 370</i>	<i>Topics in Latin Literature</i>
<i>Latin 371</i>	<i>Latin Lyric Poetry</i>
Latin 372	Latin Historians
Latin 373	Lucretius and Latin Poetry
Latin 374	Cicero and Latin Prose
Latin 375	Latin Drama
Latin 377	Latin Satire

Classics 239	Classics and Race
Classics 240	Gender/Sexuality in Anc. World
Classics 243	The World of the Ancient Greeks
<i>Classics 244</i>	<i>The World of the Ancient Romans</i>
<i>Classics 260</i>	<i>Sports/Recreation in Anc. World</i>
<i>Classics 370</i>	<i>Topics in Classical Studies</i>

January-Term Courses

<i>Classics 120</i>	<i>Greek and Roman Myth</i>
<i>Classics 124</i>	<i>The Many Faces of Homer</i>
Classics 125	Dawn of Democracy
Classics 126	Ancient Comedy
<i>Classics 251</i>	<i>Classical Studies in Greece</i>
Classics 253	Classical Studies in Italy