



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

Coláiste na nDán, na nEolaíochtaí
Sóisialta & an Léinn Cheiltigh
College of Arts, Social Sciences
& Celtic Studies

Ancient Classics



University
of Galway.ie

Subject Overview

Ancient Classics (or Classics) is the study of the origins of Europe, and in particular its roots in Greek and Roman culture.

As a discipline, Ancient Classics is distinctive in three ways:

1) The long perspective

Ancient Classics follows the development of human culture and creativity over millennia, not just centuries. Our interests range from the Minoan people of Bronze Age Crete (c. 3500 to 1100 BC) to the end of the western Roman Empire (5th cent. AD), and well beyond. Ancient Classics is not only about the ancient world. It also explores how ancient culture either survived or inspired revivals during the Middle Ages, the Renaissance (one of several 'rebirths' of Classical culture), right down to modern times.

2) Geographical breadth

Greek and Roman culture extended far beyond the confines of Greece and Rome. In the fourth century BC the empire of Alexander the Great brought Greek culture to a vast geographical area ranging from Greece to India. A large part of this was later subsumed into the Roman Empire, which extended a hybrid Graeco-Roman culture into western Europe and as far north as Hadrian's Wall.

3) Multi-disciplinary approaches

Ancient Classics involves learning to see the world through many different perspectives. We study **literature** (from its beginnings in Homer) and **mythology; theatre; art and archaeology**; political, social and cultural **history**; and **languages and linguistics**.

NEW: Study Abroad (Erasmus)

Classics students may have the opportunity to study abroad as part of the Erasmus programme at the University of Malta. Places are subject to availability and awarded on a competitive basis.

Subject Name: Ancient Classics

CAO Code: GY101

CAO Entry Points 2025: 350

Duration: 3 years / 4 Years BA (International)

Entry Requirements: Minimum Grade H5 in two subjects and passes in four other subjects at O6/H7 level in the Leaving Certificate, including Irish, English, another language, and three other subjects recognised for entry purposes.

Modules in First Arts— Foundations in Classics

CC1101 Mythology and the City in Ancient Greece (semester 1)

This module focuses on the mythological discourses of the ancient Near East and Greece, and on the rise of the European city-state. We explore the concept of the pantheon of gods and the hero as a figure poised between men and gods. We also cover the rise (and fall) of Greek democracy, art and architecture in fifth-century BC Athens, gender and sexuality, and the relationship between Greeks and barbarians. Right: Atlas and Prometheus (Greek vase, c. 550 BC)



CC1102 Empire and Literature in Ancient Rome (semester 2)

This module provides an introduction to Ancient Roman culture. We examine the rise of Rome from a small city-state to a global power, concentrating especially on the political changes that took place under Julius Caesar and then Augustus, and the later Christianisation of the Empire. It also provides an introduction to Latin literature, focusing on Virgil's celebrated historical epic, the Aeneid, and its broader significance for Latin literature, mythology, and historical imagination.

CC114 Written Words and Spoken Languages in the Ancient World (both semesters)

In the first semester we explore the way in which languages change over time. Starting from modern English, we will go back in time, searching for the prehistoric ancestor of Greek, Latin, Celtic, Germanic, and Sanskrit (the sacred language of India). In the second semester we study the origins and development of writing and reading, and how the texts of antiquity were transmitted to our day. Right: Pot fragment used for voting (Athens, 5th cent. BC)



CC1100 Classics in 20 Objects (both semesters)

This module introduces first year students to a range of practical methodologies for study and research in Ancient Classics through a series of case studies on individual objects. Lectures will be given by the entire Classics lecturing staff, focusing on their own research specialisms.

Find Out More

See our web pages for more information about Ancient Classics at University of Galway, including second and final-year BA and postgraduate options: www.universityofgalway.ie/classics

Feel free to email us with any queries: classics@universityofgalway.ie

For latest news and updates follow Tweets from @GalwayClassics