

Outline Description of Courses in Greek and Latin Language

The following three paragraphs describe the structure of language study in Greek and Latin (elementary to advanced levels) at Columbia:

Elementary and Intermediate. 1101-2: Introductory language course in TWO semesters. This is the normal course taken by those beginning a language not previously studied; it covers all the basic grammar and gives some practice reading easy texts. **1121:** This one-semester course is the equivalent of both 1101 and 1102; it covers all the basic grammar in one semester and enables the participants to take courses at the 2100 level the following semester. This option is very effective for those who are highly committed to Classics and want to begin reading literature as soon as possible; it is also time-saving for those who begin languages late in their college careers, and in Greek it is a good option for those with some prior background but not enough to take courses at the 2100 level. The designation “intensive” is significant, however: you should be prepared to make a substantial time commitment if you take one of these courses. **2101-2:** This sequence provides intermediate language training in both prose and poetry. The completion of 2102 satisfies the language requirement.

Advanced courses: 3012 (Latin only): This is the fifth-semester Latin course and the beginning of the Latin literature sequence. It is highly recommended for incoming first year students who have had enough Latin to place out of 2101-2 or for those who have completed the intermediate sequence here. **3013** (Latin only): This course is designed as a sequel or alternative to 3012 and aims to sharpen translation skills by concentrating on classical Latin prose. **3309, 3310, 4009, 4010:** These advanced literature courses are offered annually with changes in subject matter, so that students will have a



chance to read as many representative authors as possible. Courses at the 4000 level are not necessarily more difficult than those at the 3000 level when taken by undergraduates; the significance of the designation is that graduate students as well as undergraduates may take 4000 level courses, but in many cases undergraduates and graduates will not be given the same workload in these courses. Students who are in doubt about the level of a specific class should consult the instructor. **3033, 4152** (Latin only): These courses constitute the sequence in medieval Latin; in most years both will be offered.

Special Major Requirements. 3996: The major seminar is intended for senior majors in Classics, Classical Studies, and Ancient Studies but is also open to juniors. The course considers a different topic each year, analysing it across time periods, genres, and both languages. It focuses on honing

skills that are useful for working on the senior thesis, such as how to frame a discussion topic, how to analyze a text philologically and thematically, and how to develop a bibliography. The course also provides upper-level students in Classics, Classical Studies, and Ancient Studies with an opportunity to get to know each other in a congenial and interactive environment. **4105-6:** The literature surveys are designed to give advanced Classics undergraduates and entering graduate students a grasp of the broader picture of Greek or Latin literature, as opposed to the more focused topics offered in other advanced courses. These classes stress that works of Classical literature were composed not in a vacuum but in a literary and cultural context; only by understanding Classical literature as a whole can one really comprehend the role of any one work within that framework **5139:** This course focuses on enabling students to write, as well as read, Greek and Latin. It consists largely of an intensive review of grammar and syntax at an advanced level, with the translation of sentences or short paragraphs into the ancient languages. We are fortunate to have faculty members with expertise in Greek and Latin prose composition, a discipline not available at many institutions, and all students with the appropriate background (at least 4 terms of Latin/Greek) are urged to take advantage of this opportunity.