

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS
McMASTER UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE HANDBOOK
2022-2023



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From the Graduate Chair

On behalf of the Department of Classics at McMaster University, I am pleased to welcome prospective, incoming, and returning graduate students. The Graduate Handbook outlines practices and procedures in the department and I hope that it will be useful to you to learn about the programs and to succeed as a student.

The Department of Classics is one of the oldest in Canada and one of only a handful to offer both an M.A. and a Ph.D. We are proud to offer programs of study that include literature, history, and archaeology. We prioritize the creation of well-rounded graduate students whose knowledge of classical civilization grows in tandem with their abilities in research, critical thinking, writing, and oral presentation. Our students enjoy opportunities to gain hands-on experience at archaeological excavations and to pursue research projects in the Mediterranean.

McMaster graduates hold or have held tenured or tenure-track positions at Acadia, Brock, Calgary, Concordia, Laurentian, McMaster, and Trent in Canada, and abroad at Leeds (UK), Penn State (US), and Auckland (New Zealand). Recent graduates of our MA have entered graduate programs at Canadian universities (e.g., Toronto, UBC), as well as at many US institutions (e.g., Stanford, Duke, Michigan, UNC Chapel Hill, Minnesota, Cincinnati, Emory, Princeton) and at universities in the United Kingdom (Oxford, Cambridge).

Sincerely,

Spencer Pope

ENROLMENT AND START DATES

Deadline dates for grad programs	Fall term	Winter term	Summer term
	September to December 2022 Sept to Oct (1HF) Nov to Dec (2HF)	January to April 2023 Jan to Feb (1HF) March to April (2HF)	May to August 2023 May to June (1HF) July to August (2HF)
On-time registration	July 5 to August 2	November 24 to December 8	March 31 to April 14
Class start dates*	Classes begin on or after September 1. Check with program for details.	Classes begin on or after January 3. Check with program for details.	Class start dates vary. Check with program for details.
Late registration (fees apply)	August 3 to September 7	December 9 to January 3	April 15 to April 29
Clearing Conditions of Admission: Deadline to provide required documents for the Fall term	December 1	April 1	August 1

* The precise start dates of courses are determined by programs. Please contact your program for details. Graduate Studies maintains the 13-week graduate instruction period; if a course does not fall into the traditional instruction period, however, the program will inform students of important dates and deadlines in the course syllabus. There is no official fall break or reading week for graduate students (except for MBA). Students should check with their program and their course instructors as to whether classes will be held during these times. Please see sections [1.3 \(Responsibilities of Graduate Students to the university\)](#) and [2.5.6 \(Vacations\)](#) of the Graduate Calendar for more information.

Accommodation for religious, Indigenous and spiritual observances

The university welcomes and includes students, staff, and faculty from a wide range of cultural, traditional, and spiritual beliefs. As per the [Policy on Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances](#), the university will arrange reasonable accommodation of the needs of students who observe religious holy days other than those already accommodated by ordinary scheduling and statutory holidays.

TUITION AND FEES DEADLINE

Payment deadlines

Terms	Tuition / Fees deadline
Fall (September to December)	September 25
Winter (January to April)	January 25
Spring (May to August)	May 25

Interest

Interest is charged at a monthly rate of 1.2% (compounded to 14.4% annually) on any unpaid balance due, on the second-to-last business day of each month, beginning September and ongoing until paid in full. Subject to change.

ADDING / DROPPING COURSES

Final dates to add courses	Fall term (2022)	Winter term (2023)	Summer term
Multi-term courses	September 23		
Single-term or 1HF courses	September 23	January 20	May 13
2HF courses	October 21	February 24	June 24

Final dates to drop courses	Fall term (2022)	Winter term (2023)	Summer term
Multi-term courses	February 24	July 28	
Single-term courses	November 11	March 17	July 15
1HF courses	October 8	February 10	June 10
2HF courses	December 10	April 6	August 5

THESIS

Fall 2022

Spring 2023

Fall 2023

Final date to initiate PhD Thesis Defence in Mosaic *

Faculty of Health Sciences

June 24

January 20

June 23

All all other Faculties

June 24

February 1

June 23

Final date to submit Master's thesis to departments (prior to Defence)

August 5

March 3

August 4

Final date to file theses with Graduate Studies and complete degree requirements

Faculty of Health Sciences

September 27

March 31

September 26

All all other Faculties

September 27

April 28

September 26

* **Blackout periods apply.** Standard PhD defences cannot be scheduled during the following blackout periods:

- December 14 to January 8 (inclusive)
- August 16 to 20 (Inclusive)

Important Dates 2022/2023

On-Time Registration on Mosaic	July 5 to August 2
Chair & Graduate Advisor Meeting with graduate students	September 6
Fall 2022 Semester Begins	September 6
Modern Language Comprehension Exams	September 23
SSHRC PhD application deadline	October 3
Midterm Recess	October 10 to October 16
SSHRC CGS-M (M.A.) application deadline	December 1
Final Examinations	December 9 to December 22
Winter 2023 Semester Begins	January 9
Midterm Recess	February 20 to February 26
Final Examinations	April 14 to April 29

Program Information

The Department of Classics offers one M.A. program and one Ph.D. program. The M.A. in Classics is for those who wish to specialize in the general areas of Philology, History, and Classical Art and Archaeology. Students have the option of upgrading their archaeological or philological expertise by taking extra undergraduate courses. The Ph.D. program requires a sound knowledge of Latin and Greek, and all doctoral students are required to take courses in Greek and Latin and to complete comprehensive exams in both languages, as well as in other subject areas.

In addition to the application required by the School of Graduate Studies, applicants are asked to send a writing sample of 5-10 pages along with their application (please do not send these as attachments).

Each applicant will automatically be considered for financial support from McMaster, including TAs. All applicants, however, are urged to apply on their own for both an OGS (Ontario Graduate Scholarship) and for funding from SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada). OGS awards can be held only at Ontario universities, but out-of-province students are eligible and should apply. SSHRC awards can be held across the country. Note that the application deadlines for both are considerably earlier than the deadline for admission to most graduate programs; please read the scholarship websites carefully and be sure to apply in time.

M.A. Degree in Classics

The Department of Classics offers M.A. programs with a concentration in Philology, History, or Art and Archaeology. Candidates must comply with the general regulations of the School of Graduate Studies and the specific regulations listed below.

M.A. Program Description

The objective of the program is to provide students with a deeper knowledge of Greek and Roman civilisation than they have obtained in their undergraduate degrees, to improve their ability in Greek and Latin as well as in the major modern languages of classical scholarship, and to develop their skills in research, critical thinking, and written expression. This training furnishes students with valuable skills that can be applied to employment in contexts beyond the university, such as museum work, and beyond Classics, such as law, librarianship, teaching at the secondary level, and the business world. This objective is achieved through course work, major research papers, and a thesis (2-year degree) or project (1-year degree), teaching and research assistantships, and excavation and museum fieldwork for archaeologists and others.

Admission Requirements for the M.A. program

Applicants for the M.A. Program in Classics may be admitted as Regular Students if they are graduates with at least B+ standing of any Honours program taken at McMaster or other university, which includes:

1. At least 12 units of either Ancient Greek or Latin and at least 6 units of the other language with an average of at least B in each language.
2. At least 36 additional units of Classical Civilization, Greek, Latin, Ancient History, or other courses approved by the Department of Classics, at least 12 of these units to be in upper-level courses.

Graduates without sufficient specialization may be admitted with the requirement that they complete extra prerequisite courses with a grade of at least B+.

Candidates will not be allowed to take a graduate course in a language or area in which the Department feels they do not have sufficient background.

Applicants may opt to be considered for the dual M.A. Degree stream with the University of Rome "La Sapienza" as part of their application to the Department of Classics at McMaster University. Applicants must be accepted by both universities for admission to the dual M.A. stream.

Program Requirements:

With the approval of the Department of Classics, candidates may take the degree either with or without thesis. A grade of at least B- is required in all courses.

Requirements for the M.A. degree with thesis are:

1. Ten half courses (one-term courses) offered by the Department, of which no more than four may be at the undergraduate level, and of which at least four, two in each year, must be graduate or undergraduate Latin or Greek (permission of the Graduate Advisor is required to take a course at undergraduate level). Students must pass at least one language class at the graduate level in each ancient language. Six courses are completed in the first year of study and four additional courses are taken in year two. Courses will be selected in consultation with the Graduate Advisor. A grade of at least B- is required in all courses. Upon entry into the program all students will take diagnostic exams in Ancient Greek and Latin to determine appropriate language level placement.
2. A comprehension test in French or German or Italian; exemption from this test may be granted to candidates who have completed an equivalent test at this or other universities.
3. A satisfactory thesis of approximately 80 pages on an approved topic.
4. An oral examination to defend the thesis.

NB: It is the policy of McMaster University that all research theses must be submitted to the Research Plagiarism Checking Software (Ouriginal) before being submitted to the examining committee.

Requirements of the M.A. degree without thesis are:

1. Six half courses offered by the Department, of which no more than two may be at the undergraduate level, and of which at least two must be graduate or undergraduate Latin or Greek (permission of the Graduate Adviser is required to take a course at undergraduate level). Courses will be selected in consultation with the graduate advisor. Students entering with less than 24 units of Greek and Latin may require two years to complete the degree and so should anticipate taking the degree with thesis. Upon entry into the program all students will take diagnostic exams in Ancient Greek and Latin to determine appropriate language level placement.
2. A project consisting of a major research paper to be written during the summer, under the supervision of a faculty member;
3. comprehension test in French or German or Italian; exemption from this test may be granted to candidates who have completed an equivalent test at this or other universities.

Requirements of the dual degree M.A. degree with the University of Rome, “La Sapienza”:

1. Twelve half courses (one-term courses) offered by the Department, of which no more than four may be at the undergraduate level. Students must pass at least one language class at the graduate level in each ancient language. Six courses are completed in the first year of study and four additional courses are taken in year two. Students may take one course in the spring following each academic year. Courses will be selected in consultation with the Graduate Advisor. A grade of at least B- is required in all courses. Upon entry into the program all students will take diagnostic exams in Ancient Greek and Latin to determine appropriate language level placement.
2. A comprehension test in French or German or Italian; exemption from this test may be granted to candidates who have completed an equivalent test at this or other universities.
3. A satisfactory thesis of approximately 80 pages on an approved topic. Students will have two supervisors, one from each institution.
4. An oral examination to defend the thesis.

M.A. Supervisory Committees

Students entering the program are instructed to think about possible thesis topics and to approach appropriate faculty members to discuss ideas in September of term 1. Once an appropriate topic is decided upon, assignments of supervisors and students are made with agreement on both sides, usually arranged with the aid of the graduate advisor. The student and supervisor then decide on two appropriate committee members among the faculty; the student is responsible for asking those two faculty members to serve on the committee.

Department approval must be obtained for faculty outside of the Department of Classics. A committee meeting is held before the proposal is submitted for circulation to the whole department to establish a time-table for completion. The two secondary committee members may be consulted throughout the writing of the thesis and may read drafts.

M.A. thesis (or project)

Our M.A. is designed to be a two-year program, culminating in a written thesis with an oral examination by the members of the supervisory committee. On occasion, due to exceptional circumstances, a student may request to complete a one-year M.A. instead, culminating in a written project. The aim of both thesis and project is to address a specific issue or set of issues, a corpus of material, or set of problems and, through research and critical inquiry, produce a thoughtful piece of scholarship. The major difference is one of scale. A thesis is approximately 80-100 pages while a project is 50-60 pages. A thesis involves a proposal of 5-6 pages with bibliography, and, in the course of production, a series of chapter drafts. A project is less ambitious, and involves consultation and discussion with a supervisor, but no drafts; a single, final text is submitted to the department, with a transcript notation of 'pass' or 'fail'.

Summary: Timetable for the M.A. program

Year 1: September-April

- modern language exam in Term 1;
- 6 courses (3 courses per term), 2 of which must be Greek and Latin (undergraduate or graduate, depending on student's level of preparation);
- students sometimes do extra modern language study, usually in German.

Year 1: summer

- students complete a project OR do reading and research which leads to a thesis proposal by the end of June;
- archaeology students sometimes participate in excavations in Europe (e.g., the agora in Athens); take short study trips to specific museums or sites related to their thesis; or do summer programs in specialized subjects (e.g., numismatics, epigraphy). These efforts are usually funded in part by the E.T. Salmon fund in Roman Studies, the Edith Wightman travel scholarship, or the Raynsford-Eatock Travel Bursary in Greek studies;
- some students take extra language courses in another modern language.

Year 2: September-April

- 4 courses (2 courses per term), 2 of which must be Greek and Latin;
- Research and writing of Master's thesis

Year 2: summer

- thesis submitted and defended by the end of summer.
- in unusual cases students finish their thesis by term 5, and graduate at spring convocation. The great majority of students, however, require the full second year to finish their thesis.

Ph.D. in Classics

Candidates for the Ph.D. degree in the program offered by the Department of Classics must comply with the general regulations of the School of Graduate Studies and the specific regulations listed below.

Admission to the Program:

Applicants for the Ph.D. Program in Classics may be admitted if they are graduates with either a grade of at least A- in at least two half courses or distinction in an approved thesis of an M.A. Program in Classics or Classical Studies (with sufficient Greek and Latin), taken at this University or of equivalent programs taken at other universities. Graduates of other programs may be admitted in exceptional cases. Applicants without sufficient preparation may be admitted with the requirement that they complete extra prerequisite courses.

Dual Ph.D. Degree stream with University of Rome, La Sapienza

Students enrolled in the Dual Degree stream will spend time at both McMaster and La Sapienza. Ph.D. coursework and qualifying exams are completed at McMaster and are recognized at La Sapienza. Students should expect to spend at least two years in Rome. Students will have two co-supervisors, one from each institution. Upon successful completion, students will receive the Ph.D. degree from both universities.

Admission Requirements for the Dual Ph.D. Degree stream:

Applicants may opt to be considered for the Dual Ph.D. Degree stream as part of their application to the Department of Classics at McMaster University. Applicants for the Ph.D. Program in Classics may be admitted if they are graduates with either a grade of at least A- in at least two half courses and distinction in an approved thesis (or project) of an M.A. program in Classics or Classical Studies (with sufficient Greek and Latin), taken at this university or equivalent programs taken at other universities. Graduates of other programs may be admitted in exceptional cases.

Ph.D. Program

The objective of the program is to prepare candidates for an academic career. Graduates are expected to have acquired:

- i. the autonomy, critical acumen, and familiarity with the conventions of the discipline necessary for conducting scholarly research suitable for publication;
- ii. the ability to teach a range of subjects in Classical civilization, including both Greek and Latin. Students must acquire a reading knowledge of two modern languages (generally German, French, or Italian) by the end of their first year, and are encouraged to learn additional languages as their individual research demands.

Program Requirements

A grade of at least B- is required in all courses and Special Area examinations.

1. Six appropriate graduate level half courses, 2 of which must be Classics 701 and Classics 702. These are the minimum requirements; students may be requested by their supervisor to take additional courses.
2. Four comprehensive examinations, each one three hours in duration. All comprehensive exams must be completed by December of year 2.
 - i. one in Greek;
 - ii. one in Latin;
 - iii. one area comprehensive examination that provides breadth, allowing some focus on the thesis but also including coverage of less closely related material;
 - iv. one area comprehensive examination in the subject area of the student's thesis that will also result in a thesis proposal;

Archaeology students will write the following four examinations:

- i. one in the ancient language that is appropriate to their location of study;
 - ii. one in archaeological methodology or on an appropriate topic as designed by the supervisory committee;
 - iii. one area comprehensive examination that provides breadth, allowing some focus on the thesis but also including coverage of less closely related material;
 - iv. one area comprehensive in the subject area of the student's thesis that will also result in a thesis proposal.
3. A language examination to demonstrate reading knowledge of two of the following languages: German, French, Italian; exemption from these tests may be granted to candidates who have completed equivalent tests at other universities. They will be set as described under the M.A. requirements.
4. A thesis proposal approved by the Department following an oral defense.
5. Any other requirement established by the Department on admission.
6. A satisfactory thesis on an approved topic.
7. An oral examination to defend the thesis.

Supervisory Committees

All incoming Ph.D. students will be assigned a supervisor upon admission, and no student shall be admitted without a specific supervisor. New Ph.D. students will meet with their supervisor immediately upon arrival on campus and begin discussion of the thesis topic, composition of thesis committee, and topics of comprehensive exams, including contents of Greek and Latin reading lists (see below). All thesis committees will be set by the end of Sept. of year 1 of program (i.e., within one month of arrival on campus). Department approval must be obtained for faculty outside of the Department of Classics. When necessary, committee members external to McMaster may be invited to join a committee, and must be given permission to do so by the Dean of Graduate Studies. The student and supervisory committee decide upon the appropriate special subject areas for the comprehensive examinations, and establish a timetable for the completion of all comprehensive exams. Progress reports are made at committee meetings which are held and formally reported twice a year (April and November). Additional meetings may be called by the supervisor or student as necessary.

Comprehensive Examinations

Students must write two examinations in two special subjects related to their areas of specialization, one in a subject that provides breadth, allowing some focus on the thesis but also including coverage of less closely related material, and one in the subject area of the student's thesis that also produces a thesis proposal.

Archaeology students must write three examinations in subjects related to their areas of specialization, one in archaeological methodology (or another approved topic), one subject that provides breadth, one in the subject area of the student's thesis that also produces a thesis proposal.

The subject matter is discussed and agreed upon by the supervisory committee and the student, and a reading lists for all are drawn up. The exams are three hours in length and are to be completed 18 months after the student enters the program. An oral exam might be required if performance on the written exam is inferior, in order to allow the student another opportunity to answer the questions. A minimum grade of B- must be obtained in order to pass. A "Pass with distinction" is awarded when the student achieves a grade of A or A+.

For the Greek and Latin exams

The aim of the Comprehensive Reading Lists and Exams is to ensure that each student has reached an established level of familiarity with Greek and Latin texts. In September, new incoming Ph.D. students will enroll in Classics 701 and Classics 702. These courses are designed to guide students through approximately 50% of the material of each Reading List. The classes will not meet as regularly scheduled classes; instead, students will be provided with a schedule of readings and tests for the semester (approximately one every 4 weeks) and will read independently while preparing for each test. The instructor will be available

for consultation as needed. When a student passes a test (scoring at least a B-), that particular portion of the Reading List will be considered mastered and the material will not re-appear on the student's Comprehensive Exam. Should a student not pass a test, they will have the opportunity to revisit that material on the Comprehensive Exam. All material not covered in the course of each semester, as well as any material from any test a student did not pass, will be the students' responsibility to prepare for the Comprehensive Exam. Students may bring a dictionary and grammar book into the language exams. For each language comprehensive the student will choose 3 passages (out of 5) of 20-30 lines in length for translation; in addition, there will be 1 'sight unseen' passage taken from an author on the core list. All 4 passages shall be equal in value. The Comprehensive Exams will be set by the instructor of Classics 701 and Classics 702, and there will be an appropriate second reader for each exam.

Archaeology students must enroll in both of these courses and sit the regular term tests in both courses, but will only be examined on the complete list, as well as any material not passed during the in-term tests, in the language that is appropriate to their location of study.

Ph.D. thesis proposal and thesis

By April of year 1, student and supervisor should be prepared to present to the rest of the thesis committee for discussion and approval:

- i. the proposed thesis topic, with 2-3 page summary and initial bibliography;
- ii. the topics and bibliographies for the two area comprehensive exams;
- iii. reading lists for the Greek and Latin language exams;
- iv. a timetable for completion of all comprehensives, which must be completed by December of that calendar year.

By February of year 2, the student must submit to the department a formal thesis proposal of 15-20 pages of text (including chapter outlines), with additional bibliography. The proposal must be defended orally before the supervisory committee immediately following its submission. The proposal must outline the issues or body of material to be addressed and the primary methodologies that the student intends to adopt. The proposal is not meant to present conclusions; rather, it should demonstrate a sufficient familiarity with the subject matter and its scholarly bibliography to instil confidence that the student is ready to pursue further investigation equipped with clear goals and intentions. The oral defence of the proposal should demonstrate substantial knowledge of the subject and its related issues, some discussion of anticipated problems and potential solutions, and an ability to think and speak about the topic thoughtfully and spontaneously. A completed thesis must constitute original research and make a contribution to learning in the chosen field.

NB: It is the policy of McMaster University that all research theses must be submitted to the Research Plagiarism Checking Software (Ouriginal) before being submitted to the examining committee or an external examiner.

While this is an ideal timetable, many students take an extra year to complete the thesis, especially if they have had to do substantial fieldwork or have studied at a foreign school (e.g., the American School of Classical Studies in Athens). Generally, the significant advantages in experience, professional connections, and intellectual understanding that come with such experience are considered worth the extra time taken for completion and make the student more competitive on the job market. We strongly encourage all our students to find ways to study abroad and give them as much financial support as possible using the E.T. Salmon fund in Roman Studies, the Edith Wightman travel fellowship, and the Raynsford-Eatock Travel Bursary in Greek Studies.

Graduate Funding

Graduate funding from the university through the Department is available to full-time students on a competitive basis. Scholarships are given for the first two years of the M.A. program and the first four years of the Ph.D. program. The “Plan for Graduate Education at McMaster” sets a minimum guaranteed funding for doctoral students, the current value is \$17,500/year for four years. This amount is made up of a university scholarship awarded by the Department (usually valued between \$4000 and \$9500) and a Teaching Assistantship (valued at 11,956.70 for 2022/23). All eligible Ph.D. candidates are required to apply for OGS and SSHRC awards (valued between \$15,000 and \$35,000). SSHRC and OGS applications are submitted through the Department of Classics in late October.

Outstanding students are eligible for additional university scholarships such as the Harry Lyman Hooker Senior Scholarship. The department is responsible for nominating candidates for such awards. As funding for the M.A. given for the first two years and funding for the Ph.D. is given for the first four years, students taking additional time to complete their degrees are encouraged to seek external funding. In recent years, students have applied to the American School of Classical Studies in Athens and the Canadian Institute in Greece.

Grants for Travel and Research

Travel and fieldwork are often important components of a graduate degree in Classics. The Department encourages students to pursue appropriate opportunities related to their research interests. Students may apply to the E.T. Salmon fund in Roman Studies, the Edith Wightman Travel Fellowship and the Raynsford-Eatock Travel Bursary in Greek Studies to support research in the field or on-site. Students should let the advisors know of their intent to apply by the start of term 2 of the appropriate academic year.

Graduate Activities

Attendance in class and seminars is mandatory and is taken seriously. Students are expected to make efforts to contact instructors in the case of illness or emergency.

Departmental Speakers' Series

The Department strives to promote the exchange of ideas and to create an environment of intellectual curiosity. The Department regularly schedules talks by invited speakers, most events occur on Thursday afternoons at 4:30 pm. Attendance at departmental talks is mandatory and should be considered part of professional training. Graduate students should generally leave Thursday afternoons open in their schedules.

Proseminars

The department offers proseminars throughout the academic year. Most are scheduled for Thursday afternoons at 4:30 pm. The proseminars are generally led by departmental faculty and cover both academic areas and professionalization. Attendance at the proseminars is mandatory.

The Department frequently holds additional events including invited speakers and conferences, some of which fall on Saturdays. Graduate students are expected to make efforts to attend these sponsored events.

Graduate Student Milestones

Matriculation in the graduate program includes numerous milestones intended to ensure academic excellence and a timely completion of a thesis or dissertation. For most students, successful completion of the degree includes the milestones listed on the charts below. However, individual supervisors and committees may require variations from the dates listed.

M.A. Without Thesis

Initial Meeting with Graduate Advisor	September, academic year 1
Modern language comprehension exam	September/October, academic year 1
Selection of supervisor for major research paper	January, academic year 1
Completion of major research paper	Summer, academic year 1

MA With Thesis

Initial Meeting with Graduate Advisor	September, academic year 1
Selection of thesis supervisor and formation of thesis supervisory committee (two faculty members in addition to the supervisor)	Late September, academic year 1
Modern language comprehension exam	September/October, academic year 1
Submission of SSHRC CGS-M application	December, academic year 1
Thesis supervisory committee meeting	April, academic year 1
Submission of thesis proposal	June, academic year 1
Completion of draft of first thesis chapter	August, academic year 1
Thesis supervisory committee meeting	Fall, academic year 2
Completion of draft of second thesis chapter	December, academic year 2
Completion of draft of third thesis chapter	April, academic year 2
Thesis supervisory committee meeting	April, academic year 2
Submission of thesis to supervisory committee	August, academic year 2
Thesis defence and submission of thesis to SGS	August/September, academic year 2

Ph.D.

Initial Meeting with Graduate Advisor	September, academic year 1
First modern language comprehension exam	September/October, academic year 1
Submission of SSHRC Ph.D. application	October, academic year 1
Selection of thesis supervisor	September, academic year 1
Formation of thesis topic and thesis supervisory committee (two faculty members in addition to supervisor)	Spring, academic year 1
Second modern language comprehension exam	Spring, academic year 1
Formation of Greek and Latin Reading lists for comprehensive exams (in consultation with supervisor, committee, and exam reader)	April, academic year 1
Formation of topics for area exams	April, academic year 1
Thesis supervisory committee meeting	April, academic year 1
First comprehensive language exam	Late June, academic year 1
Second comprehensive language exam	Late August, academic year 1
First area exam	October, academic year 2
Second area exam	January, academic year 2
Submission of thesis proposal	February, academic year 2

Courses

Please note: not all courses are offered in any one year

Language Preparation

CLASSICS 701 / Greek Reading List

CLASSICS 702 / Latin Reading List

Literature

CLASSICS 721 / Greek Epic Poetry

CLASSICS 722 / Greek Tragedy

CLASSICS 723 / Greek Comedy

CLASSICS 724 / Hellenistic Poetry

CLASSICS 728 / Greek Historical Writers

CLASSICS 732 / Reading in a Selected Greek Author

CLASSICS 733 / Greek Lyric Poetry

CLASSICS 747 / Topics in Classical Literature

CLASSICS 751 / Roman Satire

CLASSICS 752 / Latin Drama

CLASSICS 754 / Latin Epic Poetry

CLASSICS 756 / Cicero

CLASSICS 757 / Roman Historical Writers

CLASSICS 761 / Latin Love Elegy and Lyric Poetry

CLASSICS 763 / Reading in a Selected Latin Author

Art and Archaeology

CLASSICS 725 / Topics in the Art and Archaeology of Antiquity

CLASSICS 735 / Topics in Greek Art and Archaeology

CLASSICS 736 / Topography of Athens

CLASSICS 738 / Greek Colonization

CLASSICS 753 / The City of Rome

CLASSICS 765 / Ancient Numismatics

CLASSICS 767 / Roman Campania

CLASSICS 770 / Topics in Roman Art and Archaeology

CLASSICS 771 / Augustus and Rome

CLASSICS 780 / Independent Study in Classical Archaeology

Ancient History

CLASSICS 714 / Origins of the Polis

CLASSICS 715 / Speech, Performance, and Power in the Athenian Democracy

CLASSICS 716 / Gender, Sexuality, and the Politics of Desire in Archaic and Classical Greece

CLASSICS 734 / Latin Epigraphy

CLASSICS 739 / Topics in Late Roman Republican and Early Imperial History

CLASSICS 742 / Tacitus and Tiberius

CLASSICS 743 / Roman Slavery

CLASSICS 744 / Death and Commemoration in the Roman World

CLASSICS 758 / Sallust, Cicero, and Catiline

CLASSICS 759 / Ancient Historiography

CLASSICS 764 / Topics in Greek History

CLASSICS 766 / Studies in the Social and Cultural Life of Antiquity

CLASSICS 773 / Archaeological Field Practicum

Contact Us

Department of Classics

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday

8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. (noon) and 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Department email: classics@mcmaster.ca

Chair

Martin Beckmann | beckmam@mcmaster.ca

Undergraduate Advisor

Claude Eilers | eilersc@mcmaster.ca

Graduate Advisor

Spencer Pope | spope@mcmaster.ca