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B.A. in Classical Languages

www.sbu.edu/classics • Dr. Jeffrey White, Chair • jwhite@sbu.edu • (716) 375-2235

Major Information

The goal of the Classical Languages department is to transmit comprehensive first-hand knowledge of the Greek and Roman civilizations through ancient literature.

In this body of writings, a student will discover the seminal concepts upon which the intellectual history of Western civilization has been established:

- principles of philosophical inquiry and a rational understanding of natural phenomena;
- political theory and the origins of democracy; and
- codification of law and the wisdom of jurisprudence.

General courses in the classics offer a broad background for both major and non-major students.

The more advanced and specialized courses in the ancient languages emphasize the contributions made by outstanding thinkers of Greek and Roman times. The student who chooses to major in classics should, at the completion of all courses, possess an apprentice-level mastery of classical mythology, history, literature and art, in addition to his or her general liberal arts education. Advanced classics courses are also available as electives to students concentrating in other areas, and are intended to enrich and balance their world view.

Classics as a Foundation

Recent graduates have continued their study of the classics at, e.g., Princeton, Columbia, UNC/Chapel Hill, SUNY/Buffalo, Ohio State and other leading institutions. Career opportunities for classics majors are numerous and varied. Among the most attractive have been:

- teaching;
- government service;
- industry;
- law (classics is an excellent & very respected pre-law major concentration);
- investments counseling;
- sports and entertainment management;
- communications; and
- library science.

Our majors have had distinguished careers in education as teachers & administrators at the university & secondary levels, government service (including the FBI), and educational and other counseling.

Our Faculty

Classics faculty have diverse educational backgrounds and scholarly interests. They are energetic in their support of professional organizations, national and regional. Our professors are experienced master teachers and they enjoy bestowing on students the individual particularized attention that has been traditionally so much a part of classics instruction at St. Bonaventure and nationally.