

Some of Our Fall 2025 Course Offerings

CLAS 203 – Greek Literature in Translation – MWF 9:30-10:20am – Matt Schueller
Reading and discussion of major works of classical Greek literature. Literary themes and techniques are considered, as well as the influence of Greek writings on later literature. No knowledge of Greek is required.

CLAS 285.01 – The World of Alexander the Great – MWF 1:30-2:20pm – Paul Hay
A study of the major political, military, and cultural events and personages of the classical world from 359-301 BCE, primarily the career of Alexander the Great. Attention will also be paid to the influence of Philip II on the Greek world before Alexander's rise and to the legacy of the Hellenistic kingdoms after Alexander's death. We will also reflect on the ways that Alexander has been remembered and depicted in the medieval world (such as in the Alexander Romance) and in modern Anglophone media. No background in ancient history or culture is required.

CLAS 285.02 – Mythic Elements in TV and Film – TR 10:00-11:20am – Janice Siegel
This course teaches students to identify and explore the kinds of mythic tropes that allow the boundaries of human existence to be transcended, thereby illuminating what it means to be human. Students will first read English translations of some texts from the classical mythological tradition by authors such as Homer, Apollonius, Virgil, and Ovid to see under what circumstances and with what consequences humans can overstep their bounds. We will then turn our attention to selected television shows and films from the genres of horror, science fiction, and fantasy that capture this same mythic essence in unique, profound, and sustained ways, even though these screened texts feature neither characters nor settings from classical mythology.

LATN 101 – Elementary Latin I – MWF 10:30-11:20am – Janice Siegel
Students will learn the forms of all Latin nouns, adjectives, pronouns, adverbs, and most verb forms (except subjunctive). Also covered are basic usages and constructions including prepositional phrases and relative clauses. Students will build a good foundation in Latin vocabulary of about 450 words. From the beginning of the semester, students will be translating Latin sentences and stories. Prerequisite: none.

HONS 261 – Evil Roman Emperors – W 2:30-3:20pm – Paul Hay
The histories of ancient Rome are full of colorful villains who spent some (occasionally brief!) time sitting on the imperial throne. What do these figures all have in common, and what can we learn from them about Roman attitudes toward tyranny and governance? We will be introduced to a veritable rogues' gallery of Roman autocrats whose paranoia, cruelty, and incompetence were preserved (or exaggerated?) in these infamous literary extracts. Discussions of our readings will contend with ideas about leadership, civic duty, and the responsibilities of historians.

HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS 2025 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Welcome to New Visiting Assistant Professor Matthew Schueller



The Department of Classics is pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. Matthew Schueller for our three-year Visiting Assistant Professor position! Dr. Schueller currently teaches at William & Mary, and he received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill as a specialist in ancient archaeology. We are delighted to welcome him to Hampden-Sydney to add his skills to our department.

Dr. Schueller's primary research interests are in the archaeology and architecture of urban landscapes in the Roman Empire's Balkan provinces between the 2nd century BCE and 4th century CE, with a focus on the regions of Macedonia and Thrace. His current research investigates how Roman public entertainment venues helped to shape the ideas, spaces, and artifacts of urban life in these regions by promoting multivalent interactions among spectators and performers. Themes in his research include cross-cultural interaction, effects of imperialism on community-building, and reusing old monuments in response to socio-economic change. Dr. Schueller has been a supervisor and instructor at several excavations coordinated by the Balkan Heritage Foundation in Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Bulgaria. He has also participated at a couple of excavations in Israel. He currently digs in partnership with Balkan Heritage and the National Institute Stobi at the Roman city of Stobi in North Macedonia. We look forward to seeing the fun and exciting courses, events, and opportunities that Dr. Schueller will be bringing to the college for the next three years!

Dr. Hay Interviewed on Canadian Radio



Dr. Hay was recently interviewed for a radio program hosted by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Radio One for a one-hour episode about the modern relevance of Vergil's epic poem the *Aeneid*. The IDEAS podcast program, produced and hosted by Tom Jokinen, assembled a panel of guest contributors (including classics scholars, translators, and opera specialists) to discuss the *Aeneid*'s composition history, its later reception by well-known historical figures, and its possible parallels to the current geopolitical moment. Dr. Hay was consulted in particular regarding the 1872 translation of the *Aeneid* by American Transcendentalist writer Christopher Pearse Cranch, about which Dr. Hay had co-written a book chapter for a 2021 volume titled *The Aeneid and the Modern World*.

An article about the episode, with the full audio embedded, can be accessed by scanning the QR code below with your electronic device!



Field Reports from Our Spring Semester Classes

CLAS 185: The Fall of the Roman Republic: Dr. Hay's Roman history students marched from 133 BCE in the streets of Rome to 31 BCE on the waters of Actium to discover how norm violations and private armies led to the dissolution of a republic and the rise of an imperial superpower.

CLAS 201: English Etymology: Dr. Siegel's students explored how easy it is to decipher so many English words by looking at their Latin and Greek roots and learned about how culture affects language.

CLAS 204: Roman Literature in Translation: Dr. Siegel's class read through a smorgasbord of poetry and prose with historical and mythological content, culminating with Virgil's fabulous *Aeneid*, the national epic of Rome!

GREK 101: Elementary Greek I: Dr. Hay's rookie Hellenists tackled the basics of ancient Greek grammar and vocabulary while also mastering the swirls and loops of a completely new alphabet.

α	β	γ	δ	ε	ζ	η	θ	ι	κ
λ	μ	ν	ξ	ο	π	ρ	σ	τ	υ
φ	χ	ψ	ω	Α	Β	Γ	Δ	Ε	Ζ
Η	Θ	Ι	Κ	Λ	Μ	Ν	Ξ	Ο	Π
Ρ	Σ	Τ	Υ	Φ	Χ	Ψ	Ω		

GREK 201: Intermediate Greek I: Dr. Hay's third-semester Greek readers took on Plato's *Apology* and picked up on all the nuances in the original Greek that are usually lost in English translations.

GREK 385: Ancient Literature Textbook Creation: Dr. Hay's experimental EL-ON course not only read a satire of Imperial Rome by the Syrian writer Lucian, but also prepared its Greek text for an intermediate level student textbook, complete with notes, appendices, and a critical introduction.

LATN 102: Elementary Latin II: Dr. Siegel's second-semester Latin students finished their introduction to Latin grammar and tried their hand at translating some stories about Hercules written in Latin. They look forward to following Caesar's exploits in Gaul next semester!

LATN 304: Cicero: Dr. Siegel's advanced Latin course focused on reading Cicero's speeches in Latin, including his *Pro Archia*, which boasts the most eloquent and beautiful defense of the liberal arts, and his philosophical works about the intellectual qualities that make men and the arts they practice great.

Keep an eye on the Classics Department bulletin board in Morton for announcements, posters, and a rotating spread of “Classics in the News” articles!



Eta Sigma Phi Chapter Inducts Six New Members

On April 25, six new members were inducted into our chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the national honors society for the study of classics. The initiation ceremony was followed by a honorary banquet for our new members and our four chapter officers, as well as a post-meal lecture from Dr. Carrie Cifers, of HSC’s Department of Religion, on the classical writer Flavius Josephus.

Above: Dash Kent, *Grammateus* Matt Miscikowski, Jonathan Person, Lawson Good, Jake Allen, Dr. Hay in the mirror, *Chrysophylax* George Jackson, Jacob Garner, *Prytanis* Graeme Ebert, Marc Moroz, and *Hyparchos* Ansen Lackner.
Below: Dr. Cifers delivers a fascinating lecture to the banqueters.



END-OF-YEAR AWARDS FOR CLASSICS STUDENTS



Ansen Lackner

The Classics Department is pleased to announce the winners of this year's prizes for our top Latin and Greek students, which were awarded at the college's Final Convocation ceremony on April 24. Each student won a generous cash prize as well as a book specially chosen for their personal interests and experiences in the department.

Ansen Lackner was the winner of the 2025 Leila B. Thompson Eta Sigma Phi Prize in Latin. The Leila B. Thompson Latin Prize was established in 1991 by Hampden-Sydney's Beta Theta chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the national Classics Honor Society, to honor Leila B. Thompson for her work to advance the study of the classics and especially the work of Eta Sigma Phi, of which she was an honorary member.

Marc Moroz was the winner of the 2025 David C. Wilson Greek Prize. The Greek Prize is named for David Cooper Wilson, who pursued a distinguished career at Hampden-Sydney College as Professor of Greek from 1923 to 1957 and Dean of the College from 1939 to 1954.

In addition to the Latin prize, Ansen also won the English department's Shelley A. Marshall Short Story Award as well as the Selden-Franke Award for Math. And in addition to the Greek prize, Marc also won the Anderson Prize for Excellence in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The success of both these students just goes to show how a solid foundation in classics can helpfully complement one's training in the sciences and other fields!



Marc Moroz



George Jackson

The Classics Department would also like to extend its congratulations to George Jackson, a classics major and Latin minor, who is graduating this spring and heading to the University of South Carolina Law School. We know his knowledge of Latin and the ancient world will serve him well!

And we would like to wish congratulations to all our graduating students—best of luck in your future endeavors, and do stay in touch!



Above: graduating seniors march to Johns Auditorium for Final Convocation.