Some of Our Spring 2026 Course Offerings

CLAS 210: THE HEIGHT OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE
A study of the major political, military, and cultural events and personages of the Roman Empire from the end of the Julio-Claudian dynasty under Nero to the peak of the Antonine dynasty under Marcus Aurelius (roughly 54-180 CE); we will examine and learn to evaluate literary, epigraphic, archaeological, and material evidence.

CLAS 211: GREEK & ROMAN EPIC LITERATURE IN ENGLISH
A cross-cultural study of Greek and Roman epic poems presented in their political, cultural, and historical contexts: war epics, adventure/quest epics, didactic poems, epyllia, and mock epics.

CLAS 285: GREEK & ROMAN SPORT AND THEATER
This course explores public contests and performances (athletics, chariot racing, dramatic performances, gladiatorial games, and animal hunts) that took place across the ancient Mediterranean between the second millennium BC and 6th century AD.

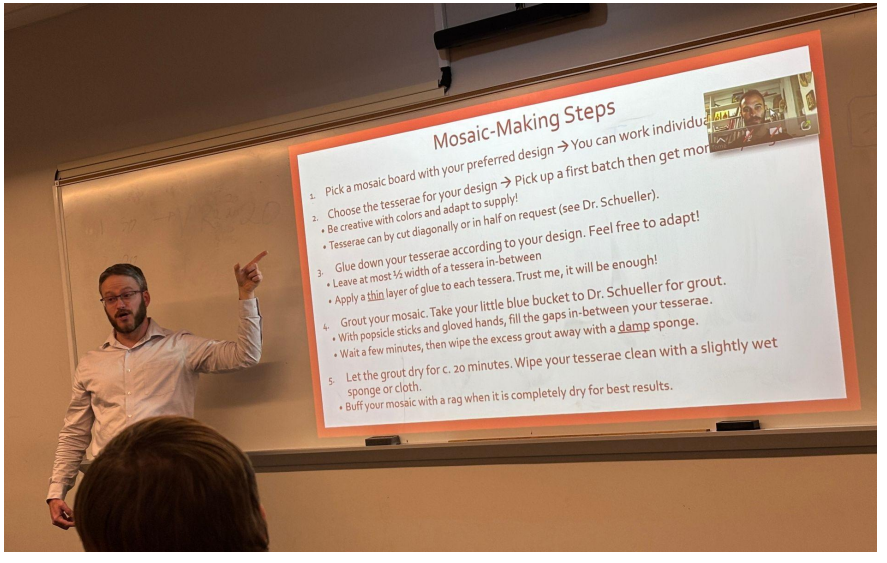
GREK 101: ELEMENTARY GREEK (PART I)
Students will learn the forms of most Greek nouns, adjectives, pronouns, and verb forms. Also covered are basic usages and constructions including prepositional phrases and relative clauses. Students will build a good foundation in Greek vocabulary of ~ 250 words. From the beginning of the semester, students will be translating Greek sentences and stories.

GREK 201/303: THE GREEK BIBLE
Close study of passages from the Septuagint, Synoptic Gospels, Acts, and perhaps others. Due attention is given to peculiarities of Koine Greek and to textual problems, especially those with theological implications.

LATN 102: ELEMENTARY LATIN (PART II)
Students continue their Latin study with the introduction of more complicated grammar, including participle formation and usage, advanced verb constructions, specialized usage of noun cases, and especially, the formation and usage of the subjunctive mood of verbs.

LATN 202/305: LATIN POETRY
Readings in Latin poetry excluding the epic of Vergil and Ovid. Selections from the poetry of Catullus, Propertius, Tibullus, and Horace will be read, along with critical analysis of their art and Greek models. The intention of this course is to discover to students the rich variety in Latin poetry.

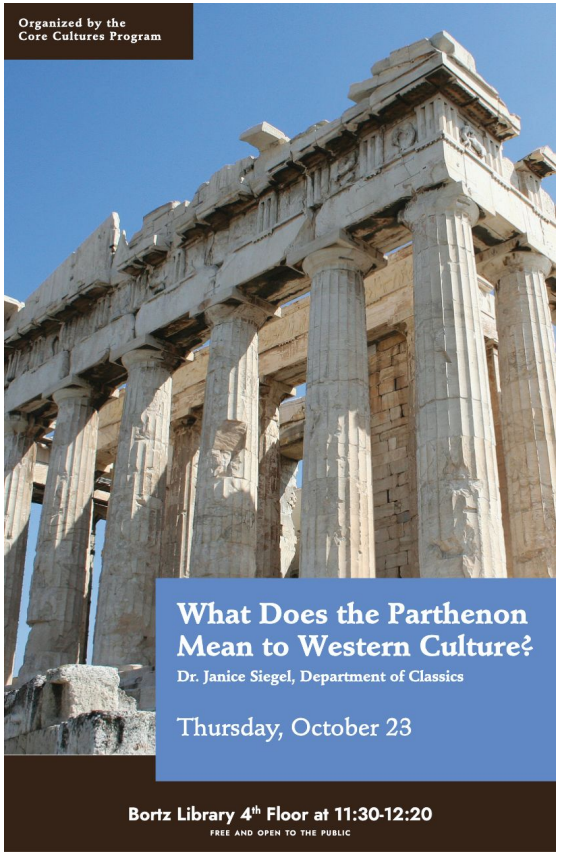
HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER



In this issue...



Dr. Siegel Delivers Core Cultures Lecture on the Parthenon to Campus-Wide Audience



A standing-room-only crowd in the fourth floor lecture area of Bortz was on hand for "What Does the Parthenon Mean to Western Culture?" a public lecture delivered by Dr. Siegel on October 23 on behalf of the Core Cultures Program. Dr. Siegel described the Parthenon's importance as a religious site in ancient Athens and described its various architectural features (its metopes, its pediments, its friezes, etc.) while situating the building on the Acropolis at Athens alongside many other important Athenian landmarks. She mused about how the Parthenon is the quintessential expression of all the wondrous achievements of the Golden Age of Athens. The remainder of the talk focused on how this iconic building and all it stands for became the model for several equally iconic modern cultural landmarks, such as Germany's Brandenburg Gate and Walhalla, and the Second National Bank of the United States and the Nashville Parthenon. The presentation featured a slideshow of images that included photographs taken by Dr. Siegel during her visits to the Parthenon. Some of these photographs showed the damage that the Parthenon has suffered throughout history (such as from the ammunition of seventeenth-century Venetians fighting Turks on the Acropolis). This lecture also served as an opportunity to advertise the **H-SC IN Greece 2026** three-week summer program that Dr. Siegel will co-lead in May and June.

H-SC Students and Faculty Attend Annual Ancient Greek Play at Randolph College



Above: H-SC is well-represented with a busload of attendees.

On Sunday, October 5, a group of thirty-five Hampden-Sydney College students, guests, and faculty members ventured out to see this year's Greek play (Sophocles' *Antigone*) performed by students at Randolph College in Lynchburg and directed by Prof. Amy Cohen. The Randolph College Greek Play is performed in English translation in accordance with ancient theatrical practices, using the same three actors for all the main roles, specially made theatrical masks (constructed with a 3D printer), ancient costumes and set design, and a singing and dancing chorus with live musical accompaniment. Everything about this year's production was terrific and the play inspired a spirited discussion as we picnicked in the outdoor theater after the show. We remain grateful to have this unique classics opportunity right in our own backyard. In a longstanding tradition of attendance at this event, H-SC's classics department has not missed a show in at least 20 years! Congratulations to Randolph!

Field Reports From All Our Classrooms During the Fall Semester

CLAS 203: Greek Literature in Translation: Dr. Schueller's class explored the ancient Greek world through literary works of various genres from Homer to the Library of Alexandria.

CLAS 208: The World of Alexander the Great: Dr. Hay's students have been examining literary and archaeological evidence to learn and debate what motivated Alexander (seen below) and his global conquest.

CLAS 215: Mythic Elements in TV and Film: Dr. Siegel's students explored mythic tropes that allow the boundaries of human existence to be transcended, in films such as *What Dreams May Come* and *Serenity*.

GREK 102: Introductory Greek II: Dr. Hay's rookie Hellenists have mastered the basics of grammar and read some of Xenophon's *Apology*.

GREK 202/302: Intermediate Greek: Dr. Schueller's group has tangled at Troy with dactylic hexameter while reading Homer's *Iliad*.

HONS 261: Evil Roman Emperors: Ancient writings about the alleged atrocities committed by Caligula, Nero, and others have terrified (and drawn bemused skepticism from) Dr. Hay's honors students.

LATN 101: Introductory Latin I: Dr. Siegel's novice Latinists have deftly handed new vocabulary, grammar, and syntax. Optime!

LATN 201: Intermediate Latin I: Caesar may have marched all over Gaul, but he met his match against Dr. Hay's third-semester Latinists.



WCUL 101: Beginning to 1500: Dr. Schueller's exploration of 'Western Culture' took students through nearly 3,500 years of literature from across the Mediterranean, from *Gilgamesh* to *The Canterbury Tales*, while Dr. Siegel's class learned how epic literature (*Iliad*, *Aeneid*, *Inferno*), drama (*Oedipus*), oratory (*Pericles' Funeral Oration*), sacred texts (*Genesis*, *Gospel of Matthew*) and more illuminate the history of cultures and societies in our past.

Eta Sigma Phi Chapter Lunches and Learns at Fall Semester Welcome-Back Party

The Beta Theta chapter of Eta Sigma Phi (the national honor society for classics students) hosted "An Unforgettable Luncheon," this year's welcome-back pizza party for all active members of Eta Sigma Phi, on Tuesday September 9. In addition to pizza, drinks, and socializing with fellow students and faculty, the event included a guest Zoom lecture by Dr. Nathaniel Katz of the University of Arizona, who spoke about his current research on the assassinations of Caligula and his family. The event concluded with the annual election of officers for the chapter: *Prytanis* Marc Moroz, *Hyparchos* Matthew Miscikowski, and *Grammateus* Tim O'Connell. Congratulations to all our new officers! We look forward to seeing our Eta Sigma Phi members again this spring at the initiation ceremony and annual banquet.

Below: Dr. Siegel, Tim O'Connell, Dr. Schueller, and Marc Moroz listen closely to Dr. Katz's talk while enjoying lunch.



“Careers in Conservation” Events Draw Crowds For Food, Fun, Job Information



Above: Tim O’Connell arranges tiles for an elaborate mosaic design.

On November 6, the Department of Classics hosted around 25 students and other members of the College community in the Pauley Science Center for a “Careers in Conservation” event. While enjoying a catered dinner from the Fishin’ Pig, attendees heard experts from the Balkan Heritage Field School speak live from the Balkans about their work conserving Roman mosaics, frescoes, pottery, glass, and antique books. Guided by Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics Dr. Matthew Schueller, who digs with Balkan Heritage at the Roman city of Stobi in North Macedonia, attendees afterward made their own mosaics to go, based on ancient Roman designs. This November 6 event was the first of a two-day program that the Department of Classics co-sponsored with Hollins University’s Eleanor D. Wilson Museum and its classics, history, and art history departments.



Left: Steven Goudes-Shaw works on his mosaic with a plate of Fishin’ Pig food at hand.

Below: Expert conservators lecture on how to enter their field.

On November 8, Dr. Schueller took students to Hollins to hear presentations by expert conservators based at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Jamestown Rediscovery, and the University of Delaware. Students were able to network with these scholars, Hollins faculty, and other students over a reception and lunch.

