Minor in Classical Civilization

Program Mission Statement

The Classical Civilization minor is an interdisciplinary minor that applies the methodological approaches of history, philosophy, literature and language, and art history to the study of the ancient Mediterranean world. The civilizations of the Near East, Greece and Rome are the foundations on which the cultural traditions of the West are established. Students in the minor will become familiar with the written, artistic and archaeological remains of these cultures, and will understand how study of this material allows us to analyze and interpret the histories and cultures of these regions. Students will also gain an appreciation of how the accomplishments of these ancient societies in such areas as philosophy, political thought, the arts and religion continue to shape the cultures and societies of Europe, America and the world.

Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

Content/Discipline-Specific Knowledge/Skills

• use their knowledge of the histories, cultures, and interactions of the lands and peoples of the ancient Mediterranean region, from the Bronze Age to Late Antiquity, in order to critically investigate whether and in what ways they represent a continuous cultural tradition.

Communication Skills

• communicate effectively and accurately in writing, in discipline-appropriate formats, their understanding of key elements of the history and culture of the societies of the ancient Mediterranean.

Critical Thinking Skills

• demonstrate the ability to interpret the written, artistic and material evidence from the societies of the ancient Mediterranean world, within the historical and cultural context of those societies.

Assessment Approaches

Student learning is assessed in the following ways. In key courses, students are assessed by means of written examinations, oral presentations, and source analysis papers, all of which are rated using agreed upon rubrics.