CLASSICS TOPICS COURSES
(from Fall 1998 to present)

CLS 305 Topic: Gods and Heroes: The Ancient Greek Bronze Age. Examines the Ancient Greek Bronze Age through representations in literary texts (Homer, Iliad, and Odyssey) and archaeological evidence from ancient cities in Greece, Crete, and Asia Minor (Troy).

CLS 305 Topic: Magic, Medicine, and Science in the Greek and Roman World. Examines the origins of science and medicine in the Greek and Roman world, and the relationship of early scientific thought to myth, magic, and superstition. Readings are drawn from ancient magical and mythological texts, the Hippocratic corpus and other medical texts, and the scientific views of the philosophers such as Pythagoras, Plato, Aristotle, and Lucretius.

CLS 305A Topic: Greek and Roman Medicine. A study of the origins of western medicine in the Greek and Roman world. We shall examine how the Greeks and Romans attempted to answer the following questions: What does it mean to be healthy or sick? Are diseases caused by gods/spirits or natural processes? What should one do to cultivate a healthy body? In addition we shall ask, What did Greek and Roman physicians do and how effective were they in treating medical problems and performing surgical operations? What did the various schools of medicine believe and why did they dominate the western medical tradition for so long? Our readings are drawn from ancient magical and religious texts, the Hippocratic corpus, and selections from Galen and other medical theorists and philosophers.

CLS 305B Special Studies: Archaeology of the Ancient City. Today, the majority of the world's population lives in urban communities. A few thousand years ago, humans were moving from place to place in search of steady food supplies. Traces the story of this incredible development from the origins of agriculture and the first cities in Mesopotamia through the complex Early Christian communities of the 4th century AD. Explores the development of urban spaces and the key role that sanctuaries (the abodes of the divine) played in these ancient cultures. Engages students in interpreting both the primary evidence of the cities themselves and the texts that their inhabitants authored, as well as modern cutting edge theories on the development of ancient urbanism.

CLS 305C Topic: Archaeology of Food and Dining. The social contexts of food and dining pervade modern society. Business deals and marriage proposals occur over dinners and often with elaborate services of wine. Behaviors are dictated by the settings in which we eat. A family barbecue demands a different set of manners than a dinner at a five-star restaurant. Just as in the modern world, food and dining create a common thread of social rituals, such as elite dinner parties and funeral banquets that allow us to understand the societies of Greece and Rome. Course focuses on recovering these behaviors and rituals through the use of textual and archaeological evidence. Fulfills an elective requirement for the Art History major/minor and Archaeology minor.

CLP 305E/PHI 314P **Topic: Socrates and Sophistry.** A study of the life and philosophy of Socrates in fifth-century Athens during the war with Sparta. The course examines the different perceptions of Socrates held by his contemporaries (Aristophanes, Xenophon, and Plato). Focusing on Plato’s middle dialogues, we shall contrast Socrates’ use of dialectic and irony with rhetorical and eristic practices of the Sophists such as Gorgias, Protagoras, and Hippias. *Fulfills an elective requirement for either Philosophy or Classical Studies majors/minors.*