

Classics and Religious Studies

Interim Chair

Paul C. Dilley

Undergraduate majors: ancient civilization (BA); religious studies (BA)

Undergraduate minors: ancient civilization; classical languages; Greek; health and the human condition; Latin; religious studies

Undergraduate certificates: Jewish studies; museum studies

Postbaccalaureate certificate: classics

Graduate degrees: MA in classics; MA in Greek; MA in Latin; MA in religious studies; PhD in classics; PhD in religious studies

Faculty: <https://classics.uiowa.edu/people>

Website: <https://classics.uiowa.edu/>

The mission of the Department of Classics and Religious Studies (CARS) is to conduct original research and educate Iowa students methodically and holistically about ancient and classical civilizations and the world's lived religions today.

CARS is the hub of interdisciplinary inquiry about ancient languages, literature, history, religion, philosophy, and the study of lived religious traditions at the University of Iowa, serving the State of Iowa by providing interdisciplinary research, a broad and global educational experience, and practical job training to Iowa students.

Classics is the study of classical languages and literatures, biblical studies, history, religion, philosophy, art, and archaeology of the Mediterranean basin and Mesopotamia from the Bronze Age to late antiquity, or approximately 2000 B.C.E. to 800 C.E. It embraces multiple civilizations, including the Minoan-Mycenaean, Greek, Roman, Egyptian, and Persian; many languages, including Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac, and Coptic; and a geographical area including Europe, the Mediterranean basin, North Africa, Egypt, the Levant, and Mesopotamia.

Religious Studies helps students develop a critical understanding of the important role of religious diversity and change in the world we inhabit. Students learn to analyze religion's profound influences on people and societies around the world. The broad geographical range of religious studies courses enables students to better understand global events, as they unlock religious wisdom and understanding of the past and present from the United States, Asia, Europe, and Africa. The faculty encourages a multidisciplinary inquiry into religious ideas, experiences, philosophies, cultural expressions, and social movements.

CARS provides a basis for understanding and interpreting the contribution of the ancient world to life in the present and the future. In addition to preparation for graduate study and seminary, students with degrees and certificates offered by CARS frequently go on to teaching careers in elementary and secondary education, museum management and curation, publishing and editing, not-for-profit organizational leadership, dispute resolution, and the chaplaincy.

The department offers a substantial selection of courses taught in English at the undergraduate and graduate levels; several are approved for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. Undergraduates in all majors may satisfy the World Languages requirement of the GE CLAS Core with courses in Greek, Latin, or Biblical Hebrew; see "Language for GE CLAS Core." The department's First-Year Seminar introduces entering undergraduates to classics.

CARS also administers the interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in health and the human condition.

Language for GE CLAS Core

The Department of Classics and Religious Studies offers course sequences in Greek, Latin, and Biblical Hebrew that students in all majors may use to fulfill the World Languages requirement of the GE CLAS Core. For more information regarding pathways to fulfill the World Language GE CLAS Core requirement, including options to take four levels of the same language, two levels each of two different languages, or three levels of a language plus a World Language and Cultural Exploration course, see GE CLAS Core in the catalog.

Students who have had previous coursework or other experience with Greek, Latin, or Biblical Hebrew should take the appropriate language placement test, which helps determine the level at which a student should begin Greek or Latin language study at the University of Iowa.