

# Fall 2023: Course Offerings in Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations (AMC)

*For more information on the AMC major or courses that fulfill its requirements, please contact Prof. Sophie Crawford-Brown (sc125@rice.edu)*

## Archaeology

### **Introduction to Archaeology**

**Prof. Jeffrey Fleisher**

ANTH 205 Tuesday / Thursday 9:25 am – 10:40 am

This course provides an overview of the methods and theories of, and debates within, archaeology today. This class is largely about archaeological methods, including how archaeologists collect and organize data, and how they recognize and interpret patterning in those data. In general, the course will use case studies from a variety of times and places to discuss the way archaeologists work from material objects to archaeological interpretations.

### **Introduction to Archaeological Science**

**Prof. Mary Prendergast**

ANTH 303 Tuesday / Thursday 10:50 am – 12:05 pm

This course focuses on scientific methods that are applied to the archaeological record in order to understand past human lives. Methods include geoarchaeology, taphonomy, radiometric dating, elemental and isotopic analysis, ancient proteins and DNA. Case studies cover applications of scientific methods to ancient materials including ceramics, metals, skeletal remains, and botanical remains. Labs offer hands-on experience and discussion of case studies. Note: Required prerequisite ANTH 205.

### **Zooarchaeology**

**Prof. Mary Prendergast**

ANTH 315 Tuesday 2:30 – 5:00 pm, Friday 12:00 pm – 12:50 pm

This course introduces students to the study of ancient animal remains. Through laboratory exercises, students learn to identify bones and teeth of diverse animals and to distinguish natural and anthropogenic processes affecting fossil and archaeological bones. Key topics in human-animal relations are addressed, including paleoecology, the food quest, animal domestication, and the roles of animals in ancient culinary, ritual, and other social settings; as well as covering relevance of the past to present-day issues such as conservation biology. Cross-list: ANTH 515. Recommended Prerequisite(s): ANTH 205

**Queer Archaeology****Prof. Molly Morgan**

ANTH 346 Wednesday 4:00 – 6:30 pm

Through this seminar, students learn about queer theory and its role in constructing a queer and feminist archaeology in the past, present, and future. They practice questioning and deconstructing social norms in archaeological research and scholarship ("queering" archaeology). Primary readings include recent critical approaches to material culture. Toward the end of the term, students link archaeological research and scholarship to contemporary issues faced by minority communities (LGBTQ+, etc.) and situate queer archaeological scholarship within contemporary activism/impact.

**Kings, Queens, and Commoners: The Archaeology of Ancient Mesoamerica****Prof. Molly Morgan**

ANTH 392 Wednesday / Friday 2:00 – 3:15 pm

With an approach in archaeological methods and theories, Ancient Mesoamerica investigates the lives of ancient kings, queens, and commoners of pre-Columbian Central America. The course includes an overview of the culture history of indigenous cultures in this study area, with emphasis on topics of social archaeology that hold relevance to today's world.

## Classical Studies

**Greek Civilization and its Legacy****Prof. Harvey Yunis**

CLAS 107 Tuesday / Thursday 1:00 – 2:15 pm

An examination of the literary, artistic, and intellectual achievements of classical Greek civilization from Homer through the golden age of classical Athens to the spread of Greek culture in the Hellenistic world. The influence of ancient Greece on Western culture will be a focus. Case studies in the later reception of classical Greek literature (e.g., tragedy), philosophy (e.g., Socrates), history (e.g., democracy), and art (e.g., The Parthenon) will be examined. Cross-list: HUMA 107.

**Intro to Indo-European****Prof. Ted Somerville**

CLAS 336 Tuesday / Thursday 9:25 – 10:40 am

This course will begin with a brief survey of the Indo-European languages, followed by a detailed reconstruction of Proto-Indo-European phonology, morphology, and syntax. The second half of the course will deal with Indo-European culture, laws, society and poetics, together with a consideration of advanced topics in the individual branches. Cross-list: LING 336.

**Conversations with Socrates****Prof. Hilary Mackie**

FWIS 122 Tuesday/Thursday 1:00 – 2:15 pm

We will read four Platonic dialogues about the last days of Socrates. We will explore the human concerns that Socrates and his friends discuss, and analyze their arguments. We will also consider literary features, and how the dialogues can inform our understanding of reading, writing, and speaking and their value. Assignments include journaling, freewriting, essays, and one oral presentation. If you have any questions about this course, please contact the instructor: Hilary Mackie, Associate Professor of Classical Studies, [mackie@rice.edu](mailto:mackie@rice.edu).

**Elementary Greek I****Prof. Hilary Mackie**

GREE 101 Monday/Wednesday/Friday 2:00 – 2:50 pm

GREE 101 is the first course in a three-semester sequence that introduces students to the fundamentals of the Greek language, including accurate morphology, syntax, and pronunciation. On completing all three courses, you will be fully equipped to read any classical or early Christian texts you choose.

One cannot understand a language in isolation from the grammar of the culture that spoke it. So this course, like the other two in the sequence, introduces you to ancient Greek culture as a whole. The material you study in this course will also extend and deepen your understanding of English grammar and vocabulary.

There are no prerequisites for this course. If you have any questions, please contact the instructor, Hilary Mackie, Associate Professor of Classical Studies, at [mackie@rice.edu](mailto:mackie@rice.edu).

**Advanced Greek Language and Literature****Prof. Harvey Yunis**

GREE 310 Tuesday / Thursday 2:30 – 3:45 pm

This course is open to all students of ancient Greek who have completed GREE 102 or higher. Its focus is translation, grammatical analysis, and literary criticism of ancient Greek texts (prose and/or poetry). Because the assigned Greek texts vary from semester to semester, the course may be repeated for credit. Cross-list: GREE 510. Recommended Prerequisite(s): GREE 102 or equivalent.

**Elementary Latin 1****Prof. Hilary Mackie**

LATI 101 Monday / Wednesday / Friday 1:00 – 1:50 pm

LATI 101/MDEM is the first part of a two-semester sequence that introduces students to the fundamentals of the Latin language, including accurate morphology, syntax, and pronunciation.

On completing both courses, you will be well equipped to begin reading the classical and/or medieval Latin texts of your choice.

In addition to reading and translating Latin and analyzing grammar and vocabulary, we will spend class time discussing ancient Roman culture and the history, context, and reception of Latin literature. The material you study in this course will also extend and deepen your understanding of English grammar and vocabulary.

There are no prerequisites for this course. If you have any questions, please contact the instructor, Hilary Mackie, Associate Professor of Classical Studies, at [mackie@rice.edu](mailto:mackie@rice.edu).

### **Intermediate Latin I: Prose**

**Prof. Ted Somerville**

LATI 201 Monday / Wednesday / Friday 2:00 – 2:50 pm

Review of grammar and readings in Latin prose. Cross-list: MDEM 211.

### **Advanced Latin Language and Literature**

**Prof. Ted Somerville**

LATI 310 Monday / Wednesday / Friday 1:00 – 1:50 pm

This course is open to all students who have completed LATI 102 or higher. Its focus is on the translation, grammatical analysis, and literary criticism of classical Latin texts (prose and/or poetry). Because the assigned Latin texts vary from semester to semester, the course may be repeated for credit. Cross-list: LATI 510. Recommended Prerequisite(s): LATI 102 or equivalent.

## History

### **Medieval Civilizations**

**Prof. Maya Soifer Irish**

HIST 120 Monday / Wednesday / Friday 11:00 – 11:50 am

Focusing on the period between 300-1500 CE, the course will survey political institutions, society, and culture in medieval European, Byzantine, and Islamic civilizations. Topics include Christianization of Europe, the rise of Islam, the Crusades, scholastic theology, persecution of heretics, bubonic plague, and the rise of centralized monarchies. Cross-list: MDEM 120.

### **The Medieval City, 300-1500**

**Prof. Maya Soifer Irish**

HIST 438 Friday 1:00 – 3:30 pm

In the Middle Ages, cities were seats of political power, and centers of commercial exchange and cultural innovation. This seminar will examine the history of Christian- and Muslim-ruled cities

in medieval Europe and the Mediterranean. Topics include daily life and social networks, urban planning, responses to natural disasters, religious and intellectual life, crime and punishment, art and architecture, religious and ethnic minorities, and women's role in the urban economy.

## Religion

### **Biblical Ethics**

**Prof. Matthias Henze**

RELI 120 Tuesday / Thursday 9:25 – 10:40 am

This course examines what the Bible has to say about some of the major issues of our time. Topics to be discussed include creation/the environment and creation care, gender, homosexuality, abortion, religious tolerance, capital punishment, social justice, refugees, and forced migration.

### **Introduction to Biblical Hebrew I**

**Prof. Matthias Henze**

RELI 125 Tuesday / Thursday 10:50 am – 12:05 pm

An introduction to Biblical Hebrew with emphasis on grammar and vocabulary. Cross-list: HEBR 125.

### **Life of the Prophet Muhammad**

**Prof. David Cook**

RELI 221 Monday / Wednesday / Friday 11:00 – 11:50 am

This course will examine the life of the Prophet Muhammad, focusing on its significance for Muslims and for non-Muslims. Readings in The Qur'an, Ibn Hisham, and Haykal. Cross-list: ASIA 221.

### **Arabic Texts**

**Dr. David Cook**

RELI 442 TBA

Study and read classical Arabic texts with the goal of learning the material as well as the syntax and grammar of Arabic.

**Medieval Popular Christianity****Prof. Arina Zaytseva**

RELI 271 Tuesday / Thursday 9:25 – 10:40 am

For much of the Middle Ages, literacy was a luxury that ordinary people could not afford. How could peasants participate in Christian traditions? Course surveys devotional practices engaged by the laity, including penance, pilgrimage, plays, charms and spells, as well as traditions of lay interaction with dead saints and ghosts. Cross-list: MDEM 271.

**Basic Coptic 1****Prof. April DeConick**

RELI 307 Monday / Wednesday 8:00 – 9:15 am

A first semester introduction to Coptic grammar and vocabulary.