



Classical Civilisation as a New Minor Subject

Details for the Academic Year 2026/27

Why take this New Minor Subject?

You will take Classical Civilisation as New Minor Subject if you are interested in the literature, thought and culture of Ancient Greece and Rome. You will enjoy this subject if you are passionate about literature; if you want to acquire an understanding of the past and its influence; if you would like to engage with the mythology, poetic imagination, depth of thought and historical value of two civilisations that shaped the western world.

What will I learn?

On this pathway, you will take 60 ECTS in Classical Civilisation across Years 2 to 4. Students lay firm foundations in Year 2 when they first join Classical Civilisation as a Minor pathway. You are introduced to the subject with four 5-ECTS modules that provide an overview of the subject and related methodologies (ancient history, literature, and mythology). In each of the Sophister years you will take two 10-ECTS thematic modules that explore how the Greeks and Romans saw themselves and other cultures; how they tried to make sense of the world around them through philosophy and religion; how they thought about politics and ideology, ethnicity and identity, life and death. You will develop a thorough knowledge of the classical world and learn how to approach critically Greek and Roman literatures in their historical and cultural contexts. You will learn how to analyse ancient texts both as literature and as gateways into culture and thought, to discuss key themes of relevance to both the ancient and modern world, and to refine your analysis of texts through more specialised skills and methodologies. All texts are studied in translation and no knowledge of Greek or Latin is required.

What will I do?

After a solid introduction to the Greek and Roman worlds and to the skills and approaches required to acquire a comprehensive and interdisciplinary perspective on classical culture, you will have an opportunity to focus on specific themes and literary genres. All modules are research-led and taught through a mixture of lectures, practical classes, and small-group seminars, which encourage lively discussion and the development of independent thinking.

Senior Fresh:

You will choose two 5-ECTS modules in each semester:

CLU11101 Introduction to Greek History (5 ECTS, Semester 1)

CLU11201 Greek and Roman Mythology (5 ECTS, Semester 1)

CLU11203 Reading Ancient Literature (5 ECTS, Semester 1)

CLU11102 Introduction to Roman History (5 ECTS, Semester 2)

CLU11202 Greek and Roman Religion (5 ECTS, Semester 2)

CLU11204 Writing about Ancient Literature (5 ECTS, Semester 2)

Further NMS JS and SS 10 ECTS and 5 ECTS module options to be confirmed but indicative content can be found in the SF (=NMS JS) and JS (=NMS SS) year content displayed here:

<https://www.tcd.ie/classics/undergraduate/tsm/civilisation-tep.php>

How will this be assessed?

A combination of end-of-semester examination and continuous assessment, e.g. essays, seminar presentations, team projects, textual commentaries, and comparative/reception studies.

Contact Hours and Indicative Workload

CLU11101 Introduction to Greek History (5 ECTS, Semester 1): 2 hrs lectures pw

CLU11201 Greek and Roman Mythology (5 ECTS, Semester 1): 1 hr lecture pw + 1 hr seminar in alternate weeks

CLU11203 Reading Ancient Literature (5 ECTS, Semester 1): 2 hrs lectures pw

CLU11102 Introduction to Roman History (5 ECTS, Semester 2): 2 hrs lectures pw

CLU11202 Greek and Roman Religion (5 ECTS, Semester 2): 1 hr lecture pw + 1 hr seminar in alternative weeks

CLU11204 Writing about Ancient Literature (5 ECTS, Semester 2): 2 hrs lectures pw

Thereafter, contact hours will vary depending upon which module combinations students elect to take.

Contacts

Professor Ashley Clements (Head of Department) clementa@tcd.ie