

Classical Culture I

Code: 100015
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Humanities	OB	2

Contact

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

This course has no prerequisites.

Objectives and Contextualisation

At the end of the course the student should be able to:

- Interpret the classical culture.
- Apply the historical, institutional, cultural and literary knowledge of the Graeco-Roman civilisation to the analysis of texts.
- Analyse the process of textual transmission and the formation of the Romance languages.
- Comment passages of the main genres of classical literature, and explain their main features.
- Identify the presence of the classical tradition in European culture.

Competences

- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Identifying the historical processes of contemporary culture.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analysing the recycling of classical motifs in new contexts.
2. Applying the historical, institutional, cultural and literary knowledge to the commentary of texts.
3. Assessing the reception in the West of the thought and history of the classical world.
4. Communicating in a properly, organised, and suitable manner in an oral conversation or presentation.
5. Criticising the film adaptations of the classical mythological legends.

6. Enumerating concepts of classic culture that have survived to the present society.
7. Identifying the Greco-Roman sources that have inspired artists and literary people through history.
8. Identifying the results of the projection of the classical world to the Western culture on various levels and in several eras and territories.
9. Interpreting the material and cultural context of transmission of ancient texts.
10. Relating the contemporary myths with the classical antiquity.
11. Summarising characteristics of a written text according to its communicative purposes.

Content

PART ONE

UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION.

1.1. Geography and chronology.

1.2. What are the classics? What is tradition?

1.3. What are the classics whose transmission we are going to study?

· REQUIRED READING: Italo Calvino (2009), *Por qué leer a los clásicos*, Madrid: Siruela (selection).

UNIT 2: BOOKS, EDITORIAL MARKET AND LIBRARIES IN ANTIQUITY.

2.1. Writing materials and systems in Antiquity.

2.2. The book in Greece and Rome.

2.3. Circulation of the book in Antiquity.

2.4. Archives and libraries.

· REQUIRED READING: Irene Vallejo (2019), *El infinito en un junco*. Madrid: Ciruela (selection).

UNIT 3: THE TRANSMISSION OF CLASSICAL CULTURE FROM THE MIDDLE AGES UNTIL MODERN EDITIONS.

3.1. The process of transmission of texts: where, how and why.

3.2. Medieval monasteries.

3.3. Carolingian Renaissance.

3.4. Humanism.

3.6. The development of the printing press.

PART TWO

Historical Figures of Classical Antiquity and Their Reception

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
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Type: Directed

Analysis and debate of readings and films	6	0.24	2, 5, 4, 9, 11
Lectures	30	1.2	1, 5, 6, 8, 7, 9, 10, 3
Type: Supervised			
Group work and oral presentation	31.5	1.26	2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 3
Type: Autonomous			
Compulsory readings	25	1	2, 9, 3
Study and personal work	35	1.4	2, 6, 7, 9, 10
Supplementary readings	11	0.44	2, 9, 3
Watching of movies	4	0.16	5, 3

This is an on-site course. Students are expected to work throughout its duration. Attendance to the lectures will allow the students to properly contextualise the course readings. Although there will be no attendance monitoring, attending to the lectures is key to successfully complete this subject.

Students must carry out a course work on some aspect of the subject's program, in group, that is demonstrative of the contents taught and studied. This work will be defended orally.

Please refrain from checking your mobile phone during the class.

This subject allows the use of AI technologies exclusively for support tasks such as bibliographic searches, text correction or translations. The student must clearly (i) identify which parts have been generated using AI technology; (ii) specify the tools used; and (iii) include a critical reflection on how these have influenced the process and final outcome of the activity. Lack of transparency regarding the use of AI in the assessed activity will be considered academic dishonesty; the corresponding grade may be lowered, or the work may even be awarded a zero. In cases of greater infringement, more serious action may be taken.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Oral presentation in group on a subject determined by the professor	20%	4.5	0.18	4, 7, 9, 10
Written test consisting of short answer and essay questions	40%	1.5	0.06	1, 2, 6, 8, 7, 9, 10, 11, 3
Written test consisting of short answer and essay questions	40%	1.5	0.06	1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 7, 9, 10, 11, 3

CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT

On carrying out each evaluation activity, lecturers will inform students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.

Weight of assessable activities:

40%: Written test consisting of short answer and essay questions (UNITS 1, 2 & 3). Week 8.

40%: Written test consisting of short answer and essay questions (UNITS 4 & 5). Week 16.

20%: Oral presentation in group on a subject determined by the professor. Weeks 14 & 15.

SINGLE ASSESSMENT.

Single assessment will consist of two activities:

75%: Written test consisting of short answer and essay questions (UNITS 1, 2, 3 & 5). Week 16.

25%: Oral presentation in group on a subject determined by the professor.

IMPORTANT REMARKS

- Taking part in any assessable activity precludes the possibility of being classified as "not assessable".
- An average can only be calculated if the overall grade of the tests is equal to or higher than 3.5.
- In the re-evaluation process, students may retake ONE of the two written tests, but they cannot retake both.
- Untaken tests (due to medical emergencies justifiable with a doctor's note) will be taken during the re-evaluation period.
- In special circumstances, the possibility of improving the final mark during the re-evaluation process may be considered. It will be necessary to talk previously with the professor, since the re-evaluation tests are intended for students who need to retake one of the assessable activities (for a maximum weight of 40%).
- Recovery of the single assessment: the model of the recovery exam will have the same format as the previous examination with two theoretical tests and one practice.

PLAGIARISME

- In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

VIRTUAL OR HYBRID TEACHING

- In the event that tests or exams cannot be taken onsite, they will be adapted to an online format made available through the UAB's virtual tools (original weighting will be maintained). Homework, activities and class participation will be carried out through forums, wikis and/or discussion on Teams, etc. Lecturers will ensure that students are able to access these virtual tools, or will offer them feasible alternatives.

Bibliography

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

AGHION, Irène *et al.* (1997). *Guía iconográfica de los héroes y dioses de la antigüedad*, Madrid: Alianza.

BEARD, Mary (2013). *La herencia viva de los clásicos*, Barcelona: Crítica.

BEARD, Mary (2016). *SPQR: Una historia de la Antigua Roma*, Barcelona: Crítica.

CALVINO, Italo (2016), *Per què llegir els clàssics*, Barcelona: Edicions 62.

CANCIK, Hubert et al. (2002-2016). *Brill's New Pauly: Encyclopaedia of the Ancient World*, Leiden: Brill. [with specific volumes for Classical tradition. Online access through UAB's catalog].

GRAFTON, Anthony et al. (2010), *The Classical Tradition*, Cambridge/London: Belknap.

GRIMAL, Pierre (2008). *Diccionari de mitologia grega i romana*, Barcelona: Edicions de 1984.

JENKINS, Richard (ed.) (1995). *El legado de Roma. Una nueva valoración*, Barcelona: Crítica.

JENKINS, Richard (2015). *Un paseo por la literatura de Grecia y Roma*, Barcelona: Crítica.

JERPHAGNON, Lucien (2007). *Historia de la Roma antigua*, Barcelona: Edhasa. Ensayo histórico.

JONES, Peter (2013). *Veni, vidi, vici. Hechos, personajes y curiosidades de la antigua Roma*, Barcelona: Crítica.

LANE FOX, Robin (2007). *El mundo clásico. La epopeya de Grecia y Roma*, Barcelona: Crítica.

ORDINE, Nuccio (2017). *Clàssics per a la vida*, Barcelona: Quaderns Crema.

RUZÉ, Françoise - AMOURETTI, Marie-Claire (2000). *El mundo griego antiguo: de los palacios cretenses a la conquista romana*, Madrid: Akal.

UNITS 2& 3: BOOKS IN ANTIQUITY. THE TRANSMISSION OF CLASSICAL CULTURE

REYNOLDS, Leighton D. - WILSON, Nigel G. (2014⁴). *Scribes and Scholars. A Guide to the Transmission of Greek and Latin Literature*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

VALLEJO, Irene (2019). *El infinito en un junco*, Madrid: Ciruela.

SECOND PART

CARTLEDGE, Paul (2009). *Alejandro Magno. La búsqueda de un pasado desconocido*, Crítica/Ariel 2009.

LANE FOX, Robin (2007). *Alejandro Magno. Conquistador del mundo* (Maite Solana, trad.). Barcelona: El Acantilado.

ROMM, James (2011). *Ghost on the Throne. The Death of Alexander the Great and the Bloody Fight for his Empire*, Vintage Books, Nova York.

FAST, Howard (2003) [1951¹]. *Espartaco*, Barcelona: Edhasa.

HOPKINS, Keith & BEARD, Mary (2005). *The Colosseum*, London: Profile books.

JOSHIEL, Sandra R. (2010). *Slavery in the Roman World*, New York: Cambridge University Press.

STRAUSS, Barry (2009). *The Spartacus War*, London: Phoenix.

WEB RESOURCES

<http://www.xtec.cat/~sgiralt/>

<http://www.culturaclasica.com>

Software

None.

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed