

Department Assessment Plan

DEPARTMENT: Classics

Departmental Mission Statement: Acknowledging the privileged role in the created world which language and culture play in achieving God’s purposes, and recognizing the central position of the Greek and Latin languages and cultures in the historical development of the Christian faith, the Classics Department commits itself to teaching the languages, literatures, history and cultures of the Greco-Roman world; to providing appropriate service related to such teaching; and to engaging in scholarly exploration of Greco-Roman literatures, history and cultures.

Departmental Assessment Coordinator: Mark Williams

ASSESSMENT PLAN:

Objectives (identify type)	Method of Assessment (include timing)	Criterion
<p>1. Linguistic Proficiency (skill): Students majoring in the Classical Languages will develop proficiency in the syntax and grammar of the Greek and/or Latin languages enabling them to read longer prose and poetic passages, understanding the main focus of the passage and the cultural context in and for which the passage was written (e.g., a philosophical school, the tragic stage, a lyric for a symposium). Texts will include philosophical, historical, poetic and religious literature (including the New Testament).</p>	<p>a. Classical language graduates who enroll in graduate programs will be surveyed to assess the quality of language learning at the undergraduate level.</p> <p>b. Seminarians will be surveyed to assess the quality of Greek language learning.</p> <p>(In addition, throughout the program, students will be regularly evaluated in a variety of formal and informal ways.)</p>	<p>a. All respondents will agree that their language learning was appropriate for their subsequent learning.</p> <p>b. All respondents will agree that their language learning was appropriate for their subsequent learning</p>
<p>2. Written Proficiency (skill): Students majoring in the Classical Languages will develop proficiency in the several kinds of writing that characterize scholarly writing in the humanities (i.e., the formal critical essay, less formal writing like journaling, the brief essay required for in-class tests, the formal translation from an ancient to a modern language) and will develop the sensitivity to determine which forms of writing are appropriate for which occasions.</p>	<p>Students will be evaluated in first-year language courses, in language classes at the early and beyond intermediate level, and in the <i>classics-in-translation</i> courses. (Note: a student cannot fail a writing assignment and still pass a course)</p>	<p>Students will successfully complete these courses.</p>
<p>3. Literatures and cultures of the ancient world (knowledge):</p>	<p>Students will be evaluated in relevant courses and evidence of the assessment will be found in the course grade.</p>	<p>For each of the major areas, students will successfully complete the courses so identified.</p>

<p>a. Classical Language majors will be broadly familiar with developments in both Greek and Roman literature and culture in the original Greek and Latin, from Homer to Augustine.</p> <p>b. Greek majors will be familiar with the literary and cultural development of the eastern Mediterranean world, via literature in the original Greek, including the New Testament.</p> <p>c. Latin majors will be familiar with the literary and cultural development of the Latin-speaking western half of the Mediterranean world via literature in the original Latin, beginning with the literature of the later Roman republic and continuing through the fall of the western empire in the fifth century AD to the early middle ages.</p> <p>d. Classical Civilization majors will be familiar with the literary and artistic development of the ancient and early medieval worlds ordinarily via study of literature in one of the target languages (Latin or Greek) and of the major artistic and architectural remains of the ancient world.</p>		
<p>4. Engagement with the ancient cultures (value): Students majoring in one of the programs in classics will develop an advanced, maturing attitude toward and knowledge of the ancient world and significance for his or her own.</p>	<p>Students will be surveyed (at an interval to be determined) to assess attainment of this value.</p>	<p>Students will demonstrate, by means of the surveying that their knowledge goes beyond both uncritical acceptance of antiquity's legacy and over-hasty condemnation of the pagan past (reactions which are often found among our less mature students, who sometimes think that these attitudes constitute informed Christian reactions to pre-Christian ancient cultures). Rather, students will demonstrate that they can discern in antiquity both the manifestations of God's continuing goodness and the signs of humanity's fall.</p>

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