

Guidelines / Timeline for Graduation with Distinction in Classical Studies

The key component to Graduation with Distinction in Classical Studies is a year-long research project culminating in a Senior Thesis (ST). Writing a thesis in Classics is a good way (1) to develop a deep intellectual relationship with a faculty mentor, (2) to engage with the wonderfully alien world of Greek and Roman antiquity in greater depth and breadth than you might have done in a traditional class, (3) to learn firsthand the methods of humanistic and scientific enquiry that propel the field, and (4) to challenge yourself to think and write about an aspect of antiquity so as to advance an idea that you can claim as your own!

Students who have written senior theses in Classical Studies have gone on to careers in diplomacy, finance, law, medicine, secondary teaching, as well as graduate programs in archaeology, classical studies, history, or medieval Latin. You do not need to be headed to grad school to write a thesis. Recent topics have included credit crises in ancient Rome, Greek and Roman religious tolerance, rhetorical strategies in the Greek medical author Soranus, Roman military training, tourism in the Roman Empire, vengeance in the Athenian legal system, Vergilian allusion in the fourth-century Christian poet Juvencus, and a wide range of other topics.

What to Do and When?

Junior Year: Planning Ahead

- Early February: identify a willing Senior-Thesis Advisor and, in consultation, decide on a rough area of inquiry (e.g. Roman military, Athenian topography).
- By first day of Registration (for following Fall) you should have chosen a general topic, and submitted a one-page proposal/application to your ST Advisor (with a copy of your academic record, showing GPA). The proposal should demonstrate basic understanding of the subject's importance and expand on your particular interest in it (this first foray does not bind you to any particular path). If the Advisor approves, then enroll, with approval of DUS, in CLST (or Lat/Grk) 491 Independent Study (see application form under "Special courses, other activities required, comments" on the CLST website GwD page, or contact the CLST office for a copy)
- At time of application you must have a 3.5 departmental GPA, and 3.3 overall.

Jr-Sr Summer: Get Started

- During the summer between junior and senior years, you will begin reading on the topic. It is therefore important for you to work with your ST Advisor in the Spring of your Junior year to compile an initial reading list.

Senior Year: Dive In

- Fall semester: Read (to hone your topic and thought)
 - Meet regularly with your ST Advisor, via CLST 491 Independent Study or (in extraordinary circumstances) informally. A letter grade will be assigned as with any ordinary independent study.

- By end of fall semester, you will submit an outline of the thesis and, if required by your advisor, other supporting materials, such as an annotated bibliography, chapter summaries, and/or a rough draft of one chapter.
- You are not locked into the process; you may withdraw from GwD candidacy without penalty simply by electing not to write a thesis in the Spring (simply do not enroll in CLST 493).
- Spring semester: Write
 - Continue to meet regularly with your ST Advisor via Research Independent Study CLST 493. A letter grade will be assigned as with any ordinary independent study.
 - **By Monday of the antepenultimate week of classes** you will deliver, in a format stipulated by your Advisor (digital or print), a completed final version of the thesis to your Advisor. You will also email a digital copy to the DUS.
 - Typically, the finished thesis will consist of three to five chapters or sections, plus bibliography. Length is to be about 40-50 pages. The thesis is to be written in a generally accepted format agreed upon by the Advisor. An abstract of ca. 400-600 words will accompany the thesis.
 - There may be an opportunity toward the end of the semester for the candidates to offer a brief (15-minute) presentation of their research to members of the Classical Studies community (fellow majors, graduate students, faculty) and invited guests. **This is not required.** Candidates who wish to present should consult the DUS for scheduling availability.

Faculty Recommendation

- All theses will be read by the ST Advisor, the DUS of Classical Studies, and a third faculty member to be determined by the DUS. When a thesis is directed by the DUS, the DUS will appoint two other readers.
- As soon as possible after the submission deadline, on the basis of the collective judgment of the readers the DUS shall award Distinction, High Distinction, Highest Distinction, or none. Ultimate responsibility for the award rests with the DUS, who will communicate the evaluation to the student over email and will copy the ST Advisor.