Classics

**INTRODUCTION TO GREEK & ROMAN CULTURE**
CLS 1500-A01  Aaron Wolpert  9:50-11:30  Monday-Thursday  
CLS 1500-B01  Bruce Laforse  9:50-11:30  Monday-Thursday  
This course is an introductory survey of ancient Greece and Rome. We will focus primarily on political, social and military history but we will not ignore art, architecture and literature. By the end of the term you should have a good sense of how Greek and Roman political ideas and institutions developed and operated, the kinds of social problems each era and culture faced, as well as an understanding of broader cultural trends and ideas which originated in antiquity and are still with us today. The core values of these two cultures, along with their achievements and failings, have been and remain deeply influential on our own world. This course fulfills the Area 3: History requirement that all CoLA majors must fulfill.

**INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**
CLS 1600-A01  Aaron Wolpert  11:40-1:20  Monday-Thursday  
CLS 1600-B01  Rebecca Edwards  1:30-3:10  Monday-Thursday  
The stories that explain the world for a given society reveal far more than its members imagine; this is why we study myth. Much more than idle speculation on meteorological phenomena and the predilections of the gods, myth limns the boundaries of the socially possible, and therefore the scaffolding of culture itself. When the Greeks reveled in the inexorable tragedy of Oedipus, for example, they weren’t attempting to deal with a literal social problem. Incest as a theoretical possibility, rather, opened up space for a discussion of fate and will and self-knowledge, ever-unresolved tensions. In this course we’ll read the mythology of the ancient Mediterranean -- from Sumer to Rome -- as a fantasy index to real-world sociopolitical quandaries. We’ll encounter Sumerians puzzling through the origins of kingship, Egyptians pondering the eternity of the Nile, Greeks coming to grips with the cultural kaleidoscope of the Mediterranean, and Romans justifying imperial violence. In each case we’ll survey literature, visual expression, and religious practice for the on-the-ground experience of myth...never looking for some absolute original tale but chasing and appreciating the constant revision and reworking of stories that told communities who they were. This course fulfills the Area 4: Arts & Humanities requirement in the WSU Core Curriculum.