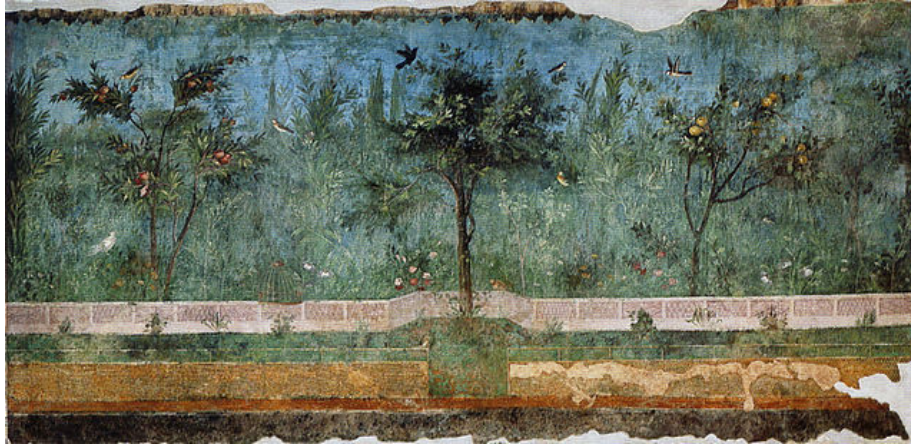


# The Boston University Department of CLASSICAL STUDIES

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## Spring 2021 Newsletter



Frescoes from the Villa of Livia, second half of the 1st century BC  
Rome, Museo Nazionale Romano di Palazzo Massimo from [milestonerome.com](http://milestonerome.com)

## Black Classicism – Moving Forward

“Black Classicism - Moving Forward” is a new lecture series co-sponsored by the Department of Classical Studies and the CAS Core Curriculum, with the goal of engaging and critiquing the ancient world from a distinctly Black perspective. Presenters include:

**Prof. Margaret Malamud**  
**10.19.20**

New Mexico State University  
“‘Her brown hands bore me  
alabaster smooth’: Sculpting  
Cleopatra in Stone and Word”

**Prof. Emily Greenwood**  
**10.26.20**

Yale University  
“Black Classical Philology: Writing  
back to a deadly metaphor in  
Aristotle’s *Politics*”

**Asst. Prof. Nicole Spigner**  
**04.06.21**

Northwestern University  
“Niobe Repeating: Black New  
Women’s Literature and  
Ovidian Transformation”

**GIVING DAY**  
**#PROUDTOBU**  
**APRIL 7, 2021**

Click on the Giving Day logo to visit our Giving Page.

This year, the Department of Classical Studies hopes that **Giving Day, Wednesday, April 7, 2021**, will be an opportunity for our community to come together after a turbulent time apart. More than ever, we feel the need for, and the strength of, our community. From growing our curriculum and supporting student research, to sponsoring events and nurturing student life, all of you allow us to thrive. Follow along throughout the day at [bu.edu/classics](http://bu.edu/classics) and on our social media as we highlight the exciting work that your support makes possible.

On Giving Day, your support has an even greater impact. When you give, no matter the amount, your gift counts towards the Department’s participation rate, making us competitive for bonus funds. For the past two Giving Days, the Department of Classical Studies has achieved the 3rd greatest number of individual participants among College of Arts & Sciences divisions, awarding us substantial bonus funds.

**Our goal for Giving Day 2021 is to reach 150 donors.**

You all make us **#ProudtoBU**, and we are grateful. Thank you!

# A Letter from the Chair

March 19, 2021

Dear Students, Alumni, and Friends,

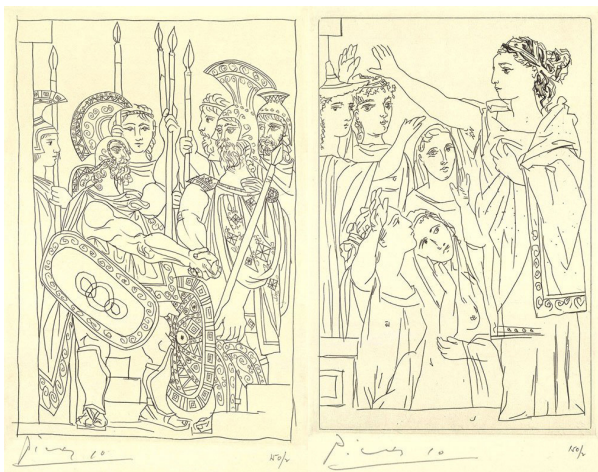
As I write this letter we are emerging into a new spring. There are signs of reunion and recovery all around us, light out of darkness, yet the challenges of a long winter are still with us as a nation, a university, and a department: a pandemic, an economic shortfall, the sting of systemic racism, and a climate in crisis. In addition, the desire for us as a department is to overcome the sense of remoteness in remote learning and to build a sense of community, always a hallmark in Classical Studies at BU. Looking back over this past semester, and the shut down starting last March, I stand in awe at the efforts of our faculty and students to find new ways to teach and excel. This gives me confidence in a bright future.

First, we need to say goodbye to Professor Henderson, the Aurelio Professor of Greek, as he is about to hang up his spurs after 40 years of teaching. Having served variously as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Chair of the department since joining BU in 1990, he has always been a sought-after teacher. I'm happy to say that he will stay on as friend and advisor. Even as we will sorely miss him, as we miss the recently retired Professor Johnson, we as a department strive to grow, reach new audiences, and look at the classical past in new lights. This past summer with the Core Curriculum, we developed a new lecture

series, called Black Classicism – Moving Forward, and in the same vein we have developed new courses: CL237: Race and Ethnicity in Ancient Greece and Rome, taught this Spring by our beloved Visiting Lecturer Brandon Jones, and AA200/CL200: African American Literature and the Classical Tradition, to be taught next Fall by Professors Uden and Čulík-Baird. Among its rich readings, this course will include the inspirational essay, "[An Apology for the Higher Education of the Negro](#)," written by BU's John Wesley Edward Bowen, the first person of Afro-American descent born a slave to earn a PhD in the United States. This semester, we also welcome back Sophie Klein, on loan from the Core, who is teaching her ever-popular Roman Comedy course and directing an ancient comedy, always a fun-filled, raucous affair in our department.

As we face the future, we are excited by the challenges of our future hires to build on our strengths and to lead us in new directions. This coming September, we anticipate with excitement the prospect of returning to in-person teaching and of leading Classical Studies to a further shore where hope and history may rhyme.

Warmly,  
Stephen Scully



Illustrations by Pablo Picasso  
Commissioned by George Macey, 1934

## Myth & Religion Lectures

**Assoc. Prof. Simone Beta**

**02.22.21**

Università di Siena

"Lysistrata's voices: ten ways to translate an Aristophanic comedy"

**Prof. Matthew Christ**

**03.15.21**

Indiana University

Discussion on Ch. 6 of the *Anabasis*

*Sponsored by the Boston University Center for the Humanities.*



# Spring 2021 Events

## Graduate Conference

Saturday, April 10, 2021

The 13th Annual Boston University Graduate Conference in Classical Studies will focus on "A Traveller in an Antique Land: Travel and Traveling in the Ancient World." Professor William E. Mierse (University of Vermont) and Professor Gregory Nagy (Harvard University) are the keynote speakers. Current doctoral students James Aglio, Griffin Budde, and Philip Levine are our organizers. Registration is now live. Please join us!

Visit [bu.edu/classics/events](https://bu.edu/classics/events).

*Sponsored by the Boston University Center for the Humanities.*



*Odysseus and his crew escape the cyclops*  
Arnold Böcklin, 1896

## The Boston Area Roman Studies Conference

Friday, April 23, 2021

The 26th Annual Boston Area Roman Studies Conference, "Systems of Knowledge in Republican Rome," will take place virtually on April 23rd, 2021. Speakers include Diana Spencer (University of Birmingham), Hannah Čulík-Baird (Boston University), and Katharina Volk (Columbia University). Registration is now live. Please join us! Visit [bu.edu/classics/rsc](https://bu.edu/classics/rsc).

*Sponsored by the Boston University Center for the Humanities.*



*Modern Rome*  
Giovanni Paolo Panini, 1757

## Res Difficiles

Friday, March 20, 2021

On March 20th, 2021, Hannah Čulík-Baird (Boston University) and Joseph Romero (University of Mary Washington) held the second annual Res Difficiles conference, where panelists and participants gathered to discuss problems that face researchers and teachers of the ancient Mediterranean at all levels. In this conference series, we discuss "difficult subjects" - res difficiles - of several kinds, relating both to the challenges inherent to the subject matter of ancient texts and to the inequities of contemporary education and society more broadly. A fully online conference hosted over Zoom, this year we welcomed over 300 registrants. This year's keynote speaker was Professor Patrice

Rankine (Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Richmond): "Power/Memory: Reception, Classicism, and Some Considerations on the Current State of Play." Video recordings of the conference are now available to view on the conference website - [resdifficiles.com](https://resdifficiles.com) - and on our [YouTube playlist](#).

# Community

## New Courses

### CL237 RACE AND ETHNICITY IN ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME

Dr. Brandon Jones, Visiting Lecturer

CL237 dives headfirst into the ongoing conversation around race in the ancient world. Students explore the transformations of racial identities over time, as well as the influence of classical ideas on modern cultures, particularly in the United States. Prof. Jones designed the course in response to student feedback requesting course offerings that directly address racism.

*"Classical Studies has a place in the history of uses and abuses of racialization and it is important that we offer classes that approach the ancient world and its legacy even when the picture—ancient and modern—is not pretty."*  
—Dr. Brandon Jones

### CL313 THE ODYSSEY AND ULYSSES

Dr. Stephanie Nelson, Associate Professor

CL313 examines James Joyce's *Ulysses* with particular attention to his use of the *Odyssey*. Students explore the relation of oral and book cultures and other works referenced by Joyce, including the *Aeneid*, *Divine Comedy* and *Hamlet*.

### CG101 MODERN GREEK LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND LITERATURE

Ms. Kelly Polychroniou, Sr. Lecturer

CG101 fully immerses students in the vibrant culture of Greece. Students explore the transformation of Greece from antiquity to the modern day, and are encouraged to experience Greek culture in Boston.

## Society of Classical Studies

The following affiliates of the Department of Classical Studies presented at the 2021 Annual Meeting of The Society of Classical Studies, held virtually January 5-10, 2021.

**Evan Armacost** (The Fessenden School, BU BA/MA '18)  
"The Politics of Colchian Space and Movement in *Argonautica* 4"

**Asst. Prof. Emily Austin** (Univ. of Chicago, BU PhD '16)  
"The Kleos of Solitude in Sophocles' *Philoctetes*"

**Asst. Prof. Hannah Čulík-Baird** (Boston University)  
"Digital Teaching and COVID-19"

**Alicia Matz** (Current BU Doctoral Student)  
"More than Brains in Jars: A Graduate Perspective on the Future of Classics Graduate Studies"

"Re-presenting Woman: Pandora in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*"

**Assoc. Prof. James Uden** (Boston University)  
"Drugs, Immunity, and Body Politics in the Age of Nero"

## New Writing Tutors

We are excited to announce a new classics-specific writing tutoring program, developed in partnership with the CAS Writing Program. Two majors in the Department, Hallie Baggaley '22 (Latin) and Kaly Glavas '23 (Classical Civilization, Philosophy), assist students enrolled in classics courses at every stage of the writing process.



Hallie Baggaley



Kaly Glavas

## Publications

### Emily Austin, BU PhD '16

University of Chicago  
Asst. Professor  
*Grief and the Hero:  
the Futility of Longing  
in the Iliad*  
Univ. of Michigan Press

### Dustin Dixon, BU PhD '15

Grinnell College  
Asst. Professor  
*Performing Gods in Classical  
Antiquity and the Age of  
Shakespeare*  
Bloomsbury  
Forthcoming May 2021

### Sophie Klein, BU PhD '13

Boston University  
Lecturer  
*Plautus: Menaechmi*  
Bloomsbury  
Forthcoming April 2022

### James Uden

Boston University  
Assoc. Professor  
*Spectres of Antiquity:  
Classical Literature  
and the Gothic, 1740-1830*  
Oxford Univ. Press