

Classical Studies Newsletter

Fall 2025



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Letter From the Chair

Dear Friends of Classics,

In this year of radical university downsizing, our department continues to be bursting with vitality and good spirits. As in years past, our amazing faculty fill to overflow our civilization, history, and literature courses and do stellar jobs in the Core Curriculum, with Stephen Esposito serving as Coordinator of the first-semester Humanities CC101 and Zsuzsa Varhelyi as NEH Distinguished Teaching Professor; our Undergraduate Classics Association, led by Henry Chuang, fills the Lindsay/Arrowsmith Library every Thursday afternoon with a full house of lively and fun-loving Classics enthusiasts.

The faculty have books in the works and Arion, with Herb Golder as Editor and Brandon Jones as Managing Editor, continues to set the highwater mark for humanistic essays on the Classics. As our graduate students have been doing for years, they impressed the Classics profession at our annual national meetings by the number and quality of papers they present. Every year, our students top the list of graduate-student speakers. Two of the graduate students, Hannah Kloster and Damon Hatheway, hold highly prestigious year-long fellowships at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. And congratulations to Griffin Budde for finishing a great dissertation on Homer.

Our lecture series, New Approaches to Classics, run by our new Aurelio Professor, Steven Smith, and our Black Classicism, Moving Forward lecture series, run by Rebecca Moorman, are always exciting and great draws, as is our Roman Studies Conference, last year led by Rebecca and this year by Steven, and our annual Graduate Student Conference, this year titled "Cupido Regnandi: Lust for Power in the Ancient Mediterranean World" (certainly a timely subject), organized by Eleonora Grotteria, Lauren Hatcher, Matheus Ely Pessoa, and Xander Tyska.

In these trying times, I couldn't be prouder of our department for its spirit, energy, and accomplishments. Also, in closing, I want to thank you all for your generous support in giving to the department.

Best wishes to you all,

Stephen Scully
Professor and Chair
Department of Classical Studies





Faculty Updates

Professor Steven Smith

I had a wonderful first semester at BU teaching an undergraduate course on ancient sexuality and a graduate seminar on the Greek Anthology, which included an introduction to middle Byzantine palaeography. It has been exciting to participate in the life of the department and to spend time with new colleagues. At the end of September, I also traveled to the Ghent University where I delivered a paper at the conference “Romancing Rhetoric: Imperial Fiction and Late Antique Rhetorical Theories and Practices.”

Professor Brandon Jones

This fall, I finished up a review discussion on several Cassius Dio volumes for *Histos*—where I am especially honored to have joined Alexander Christensen in the table of contents—and was happy to see the long-delayed publication of a chapter on the prosopography of Greek intellectuals in the Brill Companion to Roman Prosopography. As usual, I enjoyed working with Professor Golder on the latest issue of *Arion*, a nicely balanced fall issue featuring William Blake Richmond's painting of Aphrodite and Anchises on the cover. You can subscribe at www.bu.edu/arion/subscribe. I look forward to teaching a seminar on Tacitus' monographs and giving a talk at the Boston Area Roman Studies Conference in the spring.

Professor Zsuzsanna Varhelyi

I have continued in my role as NEH Distinguished Professor in CAS, which has allowed me to teach some core classes in addition to *Good Life*: very exciting! Professionally, Prof. Uden and I have been preparing our volume on ancient insecurity for publication with Oxford University Press. And personally, I have been traveling a bit more to Brooklyn, NY, lately, where my daughter is now spending her first post-college years. I find myself developing a lot more sympathy towards all of you just on the other side of college life!

Faculty Updates

Professor Laurie Hutcheson

It's been a busy semester of teaching! I had twenty beginning Greek students (a high water mark)! At the other end of the language sequence, I taught Greek Prose Composition to our graduate students. I also taught a class on the Iliad and translation, ranging from John Dryden to Emily Wilson, and from Christopher Logue's War Music to my students' own creative projects. Meanwhile, our spoken Latin and Greek groups have continued to meet regularly.



This fall I got a chance to share some of my teaching practices. I traveled to Silver Spring, MD, and New Orleans to present workshops about using images while teaching Greek and Latin literature.

I'm looking forward to a little time off with family over the break and also some more expansive time for writing in January and next semester.

Professor Stephanie Nelson

Professor Nelson writes that she was delighted to (finally!) get back to first semester Core, CC 101 last semester, and also to (again, finally!) get a chance to reprise her Odyssey and Joyce's Ulysses class, that Prof. Scully insisted on naming ReJoyce. For the coming semester she is looking forward to building off the Core trip to the MFA by teaching a class with Becky Martin from Art History on "Pots and Plays: Greek Drama in Text and Art" where we'll both read Greek plays and spend a lot of time at the MFA looking at vases based on them. And a continuing creeping obsession with Ovid's Metamorphoses continues (probably because I'm now in Pat Johnson's old office) that I will get to indulge in CL 212, fourth semester Latin. All in all, 2026 is looking like it will be a lot of fun, at least as far as classes are concerned.



Faculty Updates

Professor Leah Kronenberg

I have enjoyed working with our Classical Studies majors and minors in my first year as Director of Undergraduate Studies. This semester, I took part in a committee to redesign our majors and minors to bring more consistency to our requirements and hopefully make it easier for students to explore our varied offerings. I also had a great time teaching Golden Age of Latin Literature (a BU HUB course) and a multi-level Catullus course (including high school, college, MA, PhD, and Evergreen students!) which, thanks to the collaborative and friendly spirit of the students enrolled in it, was a real model of how such a mixed-level course can work well. Finally, I continued to work on some articles and book chapters on Marcus Argentarius, Catullus, and the Appendix Vergiliana.

Professor Rebecca Moorman

Rebecca Moorman taught two new classes this Fall, one for undergraduates on Race & Ethnicity in the Ancient World and another for graduate students on Critical Theory and Latin Literature. This Spring, she will begin a full year of research leave, which she plans to spend revising her book, *The Allure of Disgust in Ancient Rome: Knowledge, Poetics, and the Senses*, and finishing up a few article projects.

Professor Loren Samons

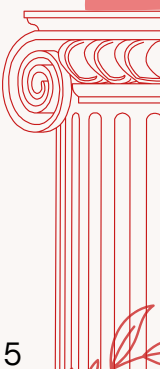
Professor Samons taught Greek history and Greek civilization in the fall, setting a personal record by confusing over 150 students of Greek culture in a single semester by continually referring to the works spawned by the Trojan War cycle as “the franchise.” Asked why he insists on this terminology, Samons responded that “Everything after the Iliad is pretty much all fan fiction, you know? Especially Virgil. But at least he respected the material, unlike Disney or whoever owns Star Wars now” As to his own work, Samons hopes to finish his current book project this summer—the title is “Sparta and Athens—A Love Story.” Seriously. That is the title. No, he really says so. In other news, Samons denied that he acted as historical advisor for Christopher Nolan’s new *Odyssey* film. “I had nothing to do with that trash. I deny that completely. They put Mycenaean warriors in some kind of Batman helmet! Talk about betraying the franchise. Thank heavens Homer didn’t live to see this. Actually, he probably didn’t live at all. But still. Anyway, that movie looks like the biggest disappointment since the finale of “Stranger Things.” I mean, a slingshot against a Mindflyer?”

Graduate Student Stories

Hannah Kloster & Damon Hatheway

In September, we moved to Greece to study as Regular Members at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. The fall term consisted primarily of four 10-14 day trips during which we visited the major archaeological sites and museums from Crete to Samothrace and almost everywhere in between. We have been recording our experiences as we go on our blog (link below). While we spent most of the fall preparing the site reports that we presented to our colleagues on each trip, we still managed to find just enough time to put together a (prize-winning!) Halloween costume for the annual American School Halloween party. We added an archaeological twist to the “Pirates & Princesses” theme—can you identify who we are?

The Blog! <https://medium.com/athenshd>





Fall 2025 Lectures

This Fall we had a wonderful line up of lecturers visit the department.

New Approaches to Classics Series



PROF. MELISSA MUELLER
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Democracy and the Earth in Aeschylus' *Suppliants*



PROF. JARED HUDSON
Brandeis University
Pomponius Mela on The Periphery: Latin Geography and the Roman Empire



PROF. OLAOLUWATONI ALIMI
Princeton University
Augustine's Varieties of Natural Slavery

Learn more at <https://www.bu.edu/classics/news-events/new-approaches/>

Black Classicism Lecture



Photo courtesy of the Kennedy Center

Greek Tragedy in Yorubaland: A Conversation with Femi Osofisan

Femi Osofisan
*Distinguished Professor of Theatre Arts,
Kwara State University, Nigeria*

***Black Classicism Moving Forward:
Black Classicisms in and out of Africa***



Learn more at <https://www.bu.edu/classics/news-events/black-classicism-lectures/>

Fall 2025 Lectures



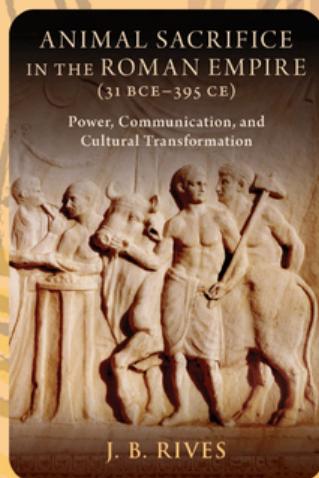
Boston University Arts & Sciences:
Classical Studies

Animal Sacrifice as Normative Cult Practice in the Roman Empire

In this talk I explore animal sacrifice as a normative practice that helped bind together the peoples of the Roman empire. Long central to both Greek and Roman tradition, it was an important element in the Graeco-Roman culture that defined the norms of civilization. When new peoples were brought under Roman hegemony, their elites could employ local sacrificial traditions as a tool to negotiate a place for themselves within the empire-wide structures of social power.



Professor James B. Rives
Kenan Eminent Professor of Classics
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



**Monday,
November 24th
6:00 PM
CAS 313**



Fall 2025 Conferences

This Fall we had the pleasure of hosting the 11th Biennial MGSA Pedagogy Workshop.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY THE 11TH BIENNIAL MGSA PEDAGOGY WORKSHOP

THE FUTURE OF GREEK LANGUAGE & CULTURE

NEW CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25th, 2025 • 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
CCD, ROOM 1750 • 665 COMMONWEALTH AVE.

Panel Session 1
“New Approaches to Improving Student Learning”

Panel Session 2
“Rising Pedagogies & Methodologies for Language Instruction”

Panel Session 3
“The Place of Cultural Studies, Literature & History in Curriculum”

Panel Session 4
“Teaching Inside & Outside the Classroom, LLM & Asynchronous Learning”

Keynote Panel
“Translating Modern Greek Literature and Thought: The Use of AI Technology & the Future of Language”

Prof. Vilemini Sosoni (Ionian University)
Prof. George Mikros (Hamad Bin Khalifa University)
Prof. Vassilis Manousakis (University of Patras)
Prof. Kelly Polychroniou (Boston University)

Seating is limited. Please RSVP by Oct. 17th



RSVP HERE



Hosted by the Boston University Department of Classical Studies
Modern Greek Program.



Fall 2025 Events

GOREFEST 2025



Fall Events

Class Performances: Ancient Greek & Latin Skits

At the end of each semester, we hold performances where our undergraduates perform skits in Latin and Ancient Greek. Here are the highlights of this Fall!

Fall 2025 Performance



Publications



**Issue 33.2 Fall 2025 of *Arion*
is now available!**