

UKZN Classics Honours Programme

Howard College Campus



Classics offers an Honours Programme in Classical Civilisations or Latin or Classical Greek. The pre-requisite is a completed 3rd year major in Classics in the respective sub-discipline. The structure of the Classics Honours degree is as follows:

HONOURS DEGREE (Total 128 credits)	
CORE MODULE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY (32 credits)	
CORE MODULE: RESEARCH PROJECT (32 credits)	
CORE MODULE: LANGUAGE (16 credits)	CORE MODULE: LANGUAGE (16 credits)
HONOURS ELECTIVE (16 credits)	HONOURS ELECTIVE (16 credits)

Two of the following Honours electives may be offered each year in consultation with staff and students:

AUGUSTAN ROME (Dr Sharland)

Augustan Rome is a course of seminars that examines Roman culture at the time of the first Roman emperor, Augustus (63 BC to 14 AD). During this period the Roman political system was being violently transformed from a Republic to an Empire, although superficially much remained unchanged. This transformation produced an extraordinary growth in the literature (including the work of Virgil, Horace, Ovid, Livy). The art and architecture of this city has strongly influenced later cultures, including our own.

ROMAN SATIRE (Dr Sharland)

Latin verse satire was one of the few genres that the Romans considered entirely their own, according to Quintilian (10.1.93), since there was no Greek genre that corresponded to it exactly. In what was really a medley of genres, the verse satirists Lucilius, Horace, Persius and Juvenal all derided the vices of Roman society, placing (sometimes rather exaggerated) emphasis on common human failings and societal problems such as greed, dissatisfaction, adultery, debauchery, fraud, inheritance-hunting, murder, and many more. This module examines the bounds of Roman satire as a genre, the common themes, moralising tendencies and stylistic trends of the Roman verse satirists, and also explores the possible relation of satire to society itself. The satirists on whom we shall be focusing include the beguiling Horace, who often comes across as a friend giving us an informal chat, and the virulent Juvenal, who takes upon himself the role of ‘an angry young man’.

ROME OF THE CAESARS (Dr Sharland)

The aim of this module is to examine the history of ancient Rome under the early Principate, with particular attention being paid to the emperors themselves, as they are presented by a selection of near-contemporary and later ancient historical writers. We shall focus in detail on making comparisons between some of the so-called ‘Bad’ Emperors, and we shall also examine the periods interlinking them. We shall examine: the Julio-Claudians, in particular Caligula and Nero; the Year of the Four Emperors (A.D. 69); the Flavian dynasty, with especial focus on Domitian; Trajan and Hadrian; the Antonines, with especial focus on the emperor Commodus, son of the philosopher Marcus Aurelius. The historiographers we shall be consulting include Tacitus, Suetonius and Cassius Dio.

LATIN LOVE ELEGY (Dr Sharland)

This module examines mainly a selection of the works of the Roman poets Propertius, Tibullus, and Ovid. All these writers, who lived during the age of Augustus, wrote highly literary love poetry in the elegiac metre. They were strongly influenced by Greek predecessors and by the Latin poet Catullus (84-54 B.C.E.), who is in some senses their model. They all compose poetry to mistresses that are modelled on Catullus’ Lesbia, but who are possibly imaginary. The social status of these women, if they were real, has been greatly debated. In his *Elegies* Propertius celebrates the love he feels for but also extensively bemoans the faithlessness of his headstrong mistress Cynthia, Tibullus writes first to a mistress he calls Delia, then to one called Nemesis, but he also addresses boys in an erotic context. Ovid parodies the genre of love elegy extensively, writing poems that are witty and hugely conscious of their literary context. We

shall look at Ovid's *Amores* ('Loves'), his *Ars Amatoria* ('The Art of Love'), and his *Remedia Amoris* ('Cures/Remedies for Love'). The latter two examples are amusing mock didactic poems that purport to give 'instruction' on love; the three books of the *Ars Amatoria* advise various addressees on how to fall in love, while the *Remedia Amoris* undoes the damage, advising recipients on how to escape love. Commonplaces that are used by all these writers, like the locked-out lover (*exclusus amator*), love described as warfare (*militia amoris*), and love as slavery (*servitium amoris*) will be examined.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF PLATO (Dr Steinmeyer)

This module will deal with the central question of Plato's early philosophy: Is it possible to teach *arete* (*Protagoras*)? It will then follow the gradual development of Plato's thought towards the doctrine of Ideas (*Meno* and *anamnesis*), explicitly expressed for the first time in the speech of Diotima (*Symposium*). It will also deal with other topics of Plato's philosophy such as rhetoric (*Gorgias*, *Phaedrus*), *eros* (*Symposium*, *Phaedrus*), the sophists (*Protagoras*, *Gorgias*), the nature of the soul (*Phaedo*, *Phaedrus*, *Gorgias*, *Timaeus*), the creation of the world (*Timaeus*). Time permitting, excerpts from the *Republic* and the *Seventh Letter* could be included. These texts (or a selection of them) will be read in English translation.

WOMEN IN GREEK TRAGEDY (Dr Steinmeyer)

This module will study the representation in Greek Tragedy of female figures such as Medea, Phaidra, Electra, Hekabe, Iphigeneia and Antigone or others. The relevant tragedies will be read in English translation. The module will also familiarize students with the current scholarship about the interpretation of women in tragedy.

FROM CLASSICAL TRADITION TO RECEPTION STUDIES (Dr Steinmeyer)

It is the aim of this module to introduce students to this sub-discipline in the field of Classical Philology, "probably the fastest growing area in the field of classical studies" (Susanna Braund). After a theoretical overview of "the state of the art", various techniques and methods will be explored, using various examples from antiquity and modern times. The main focus will be on literary adaptations; however music and visual arts might be included as well. Students will gain first-hand experience in researching the primary sources of a given topic and will look at selected adaptations from modern times. Since this is an extremely vast field, there is no standard repertoire for this module. The actual selection of topics will be finalised in discussion with the participating students and lecturer in order to suit individual interests.

In addition to the above, Classics offers additional electives for Honours students in Latin or Classical Greek on a Latin or Greek author whose work will be read in the original language.

Applications

Applications for current UKZN students

Please submit the following:

- Application form <https://srpc.ukzn.ac.za/?mdocs-file=2219>
- Certified copy of ID or passport
- Certified copy of matric certificate

There is no application fee for current students.

Application for new applicants and previous UKZN students

Please submit the following application form together with all the requirements listed on page 7 of the application form:

- Postgraduate Application Form <https://srpc.ukzn.ac.za/?mdocs-file=2221>

Submission of applications

Please submit the application to:

Yolanda Hordyk
School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics
Memorial Tower Building
Howard College Campus
Tel 031-260 2292
hordyky@ukzn.ac.za

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 30 SEPTEMBER.

PLEASE DO NOT DO AN ONLINE APPLICATION FOR POST GRAD HONOURS, AND PLEASE DO NOT HAND IN YOUR APPLICATION AT THE CENTRAL APPLICATIONS OFFICE. ONLY APPLY AS INDICATED ABOVE, OTHERWISE YOUR APPLICATION COULD GET LOST IN THE SYSTEM.