

## Learning Goals of the Swarthmore Classics Department

1. Language students will learn to read Greek and Latin texts accurately and perceptively, and with enough fluency to appreciate complexities of language and thought.
2. Through careful reading and analysis of ancient texts students will learn to move beyond subjective response and dedicate the patient, sustained effort necessary to come to an understanding of a text in its own right.
3. Students will learn the value of coming to understand a culture through its language.
4. Students will recognize and appreciate the diversity of Greek and Roman cultures and peoples, and the profound differences between the ancient and the modern worlds. They will also gain an understanding of how the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome are connected to other ancient cultures, for example, to those of the Near East.
5. Students will be able to place classical texts within the history of Greek and Latin literatures.
6. Students will learn to participate in the scholarly discourse of the field of Classics.
7. Students will acquire foundational knowledge of, and learn the issues, debates, and interpretations of significant works of Greek and Roman literature significant periods of historical experience in classical antiquity.
8. Students will develop their own perceptions of important interpretive issues in various disciplines of Classical Studies, along with enough background knowledge in primary and secondary sources to allow arguments to be pursued in depth, both orally and in formal academic prose.
9. Students will learn the methodologies and tools of other disciplines and how to write about Classical literature and history from a variety of critical perspectives.
10. Students will learn to assess critically the evidence of the past through first-hand exposure to primary sources and historical research. Students will learn how to conceptualize a historical problem, conduct original research, read deeply primary source documents, assess evidence critically, formulate analytical questions, construct and support lucid, original arguments, and connect their arguments to the writings of other historians.
11. Students will develop the skills of clear and coherent interpretative writing as well as careful listening and oral presentation. Students will understand and produce the elements of well-written essays, including correct grammar and punctuation, lucid and felicitous style, appropriate citation of primary and secondary sources, the statement of a thesis and the

construction of persuasive, well-reasoned, and organized arguments. Students will also learn to make cogent oral arguments about scholarly writing, to offer constructive criticism of their peers' work, as well as clear and concise verbal presentations of their own historical interpretations.