**Major Information**

The goal of the Classics Department is to transmit comprehensive first-hand knowledge of the Greek and Roman civilizations through Latin and Greek literature.

In this body of writings, a student will discover the bedrock of the intellectual history of Western civilization:

- principles of philosophical inquiry and a rational understanding of natural phenomena;
- political theory and the origins of democracy; and
- codification of law and the wisdom of jurisprudence.

General courses in classical culture offer a broad background for both major and non-major students beyond language instruction.

The more advanced and specialized courses in the ancient languages emphasize the contributions made by outstanding thinkers of Greek and Roman times. The student who chooses to major in classics should, at the completion of all courses, possess an apprentice-level mastery of classical mythology, history, philosophy, literature and art, in addition to his or her general liberal arts education. Advanced classics courses are also available as electives to students concentrating in other areas, and are intended to enrich and balance their world view.

**Classics as a Foundation**

The Classics Department at St. Bonaventure has a long and storied history, and continues to the present time to offer to students – majors and non-majors alike – a wide variety of course offerings. These include the basics, like Latin, Greek and Roman culture and civilization, mythology, and Greek and Latin literature in translation. And less traditional courses, such as sports in ancient Greece and Rome, find their way into the department’s list of offerings from time to time.

The department has recently initiated an upgrade in its physical space in Plassmann Hall. We have created a Classics library, for shelving and highlighting an array of books on Greek and Roman literature and history, written by authors both ancient and modern. There is also a work space in the library for student use.

In addition, a small Classics lounge offers a congenial place for students to gather to converse, perhaps have a cup of coffee, and generally relax between classes, or at any time during the day.

**Our Faculty**

Classics Department faculty at St. Bonaventure are dedicated to their profession, and passionate about delivering a high quality educational experience to the students who enroll in their courses. Beyond that, they are active professionally; they have authored books on ancient sport, Roman daily life, and Greek and Roman history and society.