**Proposed seminars for MPhil in Classics 2017-18**

**Hellenistic Poetry** (Richard Hunter). This seminar will offer an introduction to the principal poets of the Hellenistic period, particularly Callimachus, Theocritus and Apollonius of Rhodes, and to Greek poetic production more generally, both within Alexandria and further afield, in the period between the death of Alexander and the Augustan age.

**Early Christian Literature: New Dynamics** (Fran Middleton). This course will look at Christian literature of the fourth and fifth centuries AD, in the aftermath of Constantine. How did Christianity change the concept of literature, and how did the classical canon combine with scripture? Seminar participants will be introduced to a wide range of Christian literature, including theology, poetry, cento and hagiography.

**Roman historiography** (Stephen Oakley). Why did the Romans come to embrace history? How did they manipulate and adapt their Greek precedents? What challenges present themselves to modern readers of Roman historiography who want to use it to access ancient history?

**Greek epic poetry of the Roman Empire** (Tim Whitmarsh). What role did Greek epic poetry play in the literary culture of the Roman Empire? How did poets like Quintus and Triphiodorus adapt Homeric themes, language and narrative to a new cultural environment? How are we to read - and how can we explain - the 'baroque' turn of late antique epic poetry, such as Musaeus' *Hero and Leander* and Nonnus' extraordinary *Dionysiaca*?

**Aristotle's ethics and politics** (Nicholas Denyer) MT

Friendship, happiness, slavery, democracy, justice. This course will examine Aristotle’s thought on these and other topics central to understanding human life, the life of rational animals who by nature dwell in cities.

**Ancient cosmology** (Gabor Betegh) LT

How is our world built up? What forces govern it? Was it designed by a divine intelligence or is it the product of mechanical forces? What is the place of humans in it? Such questions were central to ancient philosophical reflections. The course offers an introduction to ancient cosmology from the Presocratics through Plato and Aristotle to the Stoics and Epicureans.
Sueto nius (Mary Beard) MT. The seminar will explore Su eto nius’ Twelve Caesars: how we should now it read it (as text, as biography, as history, as meditation on power?), and how it has been read since the sixteenth century, and with what effect on our understanding of Roman imperial history, culture and transgression. But it will also raise wider questions about how historians hierarchise their sources and under what rubrics of “reliability”.

Empire (Robin Osborne and Christopher Kelly) LT
Approaches to empire across the ancient world, from the fifth-century B.C. through to late antiquity

Problems in Aegean Archaeology (Yannis Galanakis)

Framing the ancient economy: theories, data and problems (Alessandro Launaro)
GENERAL TOPIC AREAS: Classical Archaeology; Ancient History; Economic History

Death and Afterlife in Ancient Macedonia: Religious, Philosophical and Archaeological Perspectives (Gábor Betegh and Tiziana D’Angelo)

The Reading and Interpretation of Sabellic Inscriptions (Nicholas Zair) MT
This seminar will be focused on a selection of Sabellic inscriptions from first millennium BCE Italy

Greek Dialects from a historical perspective (Rupert Thompson) LT
This seminar will be concerned with the evolution of and relationships between the Greek dialects.