



# FACULTY OF CLASSICS

MPHIL  
HANDBOOK  
2024-25



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

Faculty of  
Classics

## Welcome to the Faculty of Classics!

This handbook contains all the important information regarding the MPhil in Classics at Cambridge for 2024–25. Please read it carefully. Any important changes will be circulated during the year. Other useful information will be provided during induction.

The main source of information on all aspects of Classics and University life is the Faculty of Classics website (<https://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/>).

The [Unofficial Postgraduate Handbook](#) written by the Postgraduate Representative will give a student's perspective about postgraduate study in Classics.

If you find anything wrong or unclear in this handbook, please do let us know by emailing [pg@classics.cam.ac.uk](mailto:pg@classics.cam.ac.uk).

### Substantive changes since v.2.0

p.8 on typical frequency of meetings with Supervisors and Advisors

p.8 on the reading of work by senior members other than your Supervisor

p.20 on file formats for submitted work

p.22 MPhil log removed, CamSIS reports added

pp. 22 and 24 expanded information on appeals

Main email address changed to [pg@classics.cam.ac.uk](mailto:pg@classics.cam.ac.uk)



## Reference

### Academic calendar 2024-25

Michaelmas Full Term: Tue. 8 Oct. – Fri. 6 Dec.

Lent Full Term: Tue. 21 Jan. – Fri 21 Mar.

Easter Full Term: Tue. 29 Apr. – Fri 20 Jun.

*Lectures and seminars run in the period from the first Thursday to the last Wednesday of Full Term (e.g. 10 Oct. – 4 Dec. for Michaelmas). See also 'week' in the Glossary to this handbook.*

### Useful Links

Faculty website: <https://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/>

Moodle: <https://www.vle.cam.ac.uk/my/>

University lecture listings: <https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/timetable.html>

Cambridge University *Reporter*: <https://www.reporter.admin.cam.ac.uk>

Classics Society: <https://classicalstudies.org/>

Student-Staff Joint Committee: <https://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/student-information/SSJC>

Careers service: <http://www.careers.cam.ac.uk>

CUSU (students' union): <https://www.cusu.co.uk>

# Who's Who

## Director of Postgraduate Studies (DPS)

The Director of Postgraduate Studies, Prof. Christopher Whitton, is responsible for the overall running of the course and is available to help and advise on any aspect of MPhil life. His office is G.04. His email address is [clw36@cam.ac.uk](mailto:clw36@cam.ac.uk). For administrative requests please email [pg@classics.cam.ac.uk](mailto:pg@classics.cam.ac.uk).

## Director of Postgraduate Admissions (DPA)

The Director of Postgraduate Admissions is Dr Yannis Galanakis (room G.25) in Michaelmas 2024 and Dr Rebecca Laemmle (room 1.14) in Lent and Easter 2025. They are responsible for Postgraduate Admissions, including continuation on to the PhD course. They can be contacted on [pg-admissions@cam.ac.uk](mailto:pg-admissions@cam.ac.uk).

## Chief Secretary and Postgraduate Administrator

The Chief Secretary, Ms Lina Undicino, and Postgraduate Administrator, Mr Simon Flack, will be able to help with any administrative queries. Simon's desk is in the front office (G.01A = Reception), Lina's next door in G.02A. Both work from home some days. The best way to contact either of them is by email to [pg@classics.cam.ac.uk](mailto:pg@classics.cam.ac.uk).

## MPhil Language Co-ordinator

The MPhil Language Co-ordinator, Mr Franco Basso ([fggb2@cam.ac.uk](mailto:fggb2@cam.ac.uk)), is responsible for organising Greek and Latin classes for those taking Language Exams.

## Librarian

The Faculty Librarian, Lyn Bailey ([lkb24@cam.ac.uk](mailto:lkb24@cam.ac.uk)), is available to help with any queries regarding the Library and related resources.

## Postgraduate Studies Committee (PSC)

Postgraduate matters in the Faculty are administered by the Postgraduate Studies Committee, under the oversight of the Degree Committee; both bodies meet several times each term, and together deal with (for example) the admission and registration of PhD students, reviews of progress and scrutiny of examiners' reports. If you have any matters you wish to bring to these committees, please contact the Director of Postgraduate Studies.

## MPhil Examiners

The MPhil Examiners are the members of the PSC. The Chair of Examiners is the DPS. The External Examiner for 2024-25 is Dr Gideon Nisbet (University of Birmingham). Markers for essays, exercises and theses are drawn from across the Faculty of Classics.

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# 1. The MPhil in Classics

The MPhil is a self-contained course of study designed to give postgraduate students the opportunity to engage in focused research in classical subjects under close supervision, and to acquire or develop expertise relevant to their research interests. It is classified as a 'one-year' course, but the actual running time is just over nine months – from the beginning of October to the beginning of the following July. It is expected that you will be in Cambridge working throughout almost all this period.

This MPhil challenges students to begin work as postgraduate researchers, organising their own time whilst working to set deadlines throughout the year. It allows students to acquire the skills and working methods needed for further research at doctoral level, whilst also providing an intellectually stimulating course for those not necessarily intending to continue in academia. For students used to the constraints of undergraduate courses and examinations the course provides a freedom to pursue personal research interests in greater depth and with a different kind of intensity. To undertake the MPhil is to become part of the academic community, learning how to engage in discussion of research papers at seminars, to present papers in a professional format and to make productive use of detailed feedback on successive drafts.

Every MPhil student works with a dedicated Advisor, who will normally be a University Teaching Officer. This person is responsible for arranging supervision (i.e. teaching) for each of the three elements in the course, i.e. the two essays and the thesis. (If you choose to replace the second essay with a language paper or an exercise, separate arrangements will be made.) Your Advisor may well also be the appropriate supervisor of at least some of your MPhil work. If you have been assigned two Advisors over the course of the year, this is because at least one of them will be unavailable for part of the year (usually because of sabbatical leave). As well as arranging your teaching, the role of an Advisor is to offer guidance, encouragement and constructive criticism.

Regular seminars and one-to-one meetings allow for detailed discussion and development of research ideas. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the wide range of undergraduate lectures and postgraduate classes that the Faculty provides. The MPhil course is an excellent opportunity to acquire expertise in new areas of study and new specialist skills.

The principal objectives of the course are as follows:

- (i) To give students the experience and guidance necessary for them to be able to formulate realistic research proposals, and prepare written work based on such proposals to a strict timetable.
- (ii) To show students how to marshal relevant bibliography and resources (including electronic resources), to broaden their appreciation of the principal issues that shape a given field, and to encourage them to develop insights which might form the basis of an original contribution to the debates in question.
- (iii) To give students the experience of attending and contributing to a weekly postgraduate seminar, and in particular of presenting their own work and discussing the issues that arise from it with an audience of peers and senior members of the Faculty.
- (iv) To provide teaching in a range of technical/specialist subjects central to research in the different branches of Classics, and to give students the opportunity to base some of their essay work on such teaching, or alternatively to be examined formally on the knowledge acquired.
- (v) To provide students with the teaching necessary to bring an elementary knowledge of Greek and/or Latin to a standard adequate for research purposes, and to give them the opportunity to take an appropriate examination.
- (vi) To provide students, where necessary, with the opportunity to learn the basics of ancient languages related to Greek and Latin, and to take an appropriate examination.
- (vii) To encourage students to improve their knowledge of the modern languages in which research relevant to their principal field of interest is normally written.

## Course structure and requirements

Working out a coherent scheme of topics for the MPhil course is something that the student does jointly with their Advisor. The course can cater for candidates who need to bring their elementary knowledge of Greek and/or Latin up to an appropriate standard. All who work with Greek and Latin texts are expected to work with them in the original language.

The work on which you will be assessed during the year is as follows:

- (i) **a final thesis** of between 8,000 and 12,000 words, in any area of Classics;
- (ii) **an essay** of about 4,000 words and in no case longer than 5,000 words in any area of Classics; and
- (iii) **an essay, examination or exercise** taken from the following possibilities and approved by the Degree Committee:
  - (a) an essay of about 4,000 words, and in no case longer than 5,000 words, in any area of Classics;
  - (b) an essay of about 4,000 words, and in no case longer than 5,000 words, in a subject area which falls outside the teaching of the Classics Faculty;
  - (c) a submitted translation and commentary of a Greek or Latin passage into English **and** a language examination in Greek or Latin (the exam to be taken at the end of the Easter Term) (see [here](#));
  - (d) an examination in another relevant ancient or mediaeval language, or in textual criticism/palaeography, taken in the Easter Term (see [here](#)); or
  - (e) a written exercise in an area such as numismatics or epigraphy.

In addition, you are expected to attend:

- (i) the series of [Research Skills Seminars](#) given at the start of Michaelmas and Lent Terms; and
- (ii) one of the Faculty's [Text and Topics Seminars](#) in each of Michaelmas and Lent Terms;
- (iii) one [Thesis Seminar](#) in the Easter Term.

Attendance is monitored by convenors. You will be given an opportunity to present your work in the course of the Text and Topic seminars and the thesis seminar.

### **Failure to observe word limits specified, and submission deadlines set, will be penalised.**

Your choice of options and subjects requires the approval of the Faculty's Degree Committee. Among other considerations, the Committee will seek to ensure that there is no unacceptable overlap between the topics you choose, or between them and work you have done for any previous degree. You should make sure you discuss your intended programme of seminars and assignments with your Advisor. It will be appropriate for some of you to focus your research on particular material/questions and for others to range more broadly, experimenting sometimes with new areas/approaches. Everyone's programme of study, however, should make sense as a programme, taking into account individual backgrounds, and aims after completion of the MPhil.

## Organising your time

When allocating your study time over the year between the different elements of the course, it is worth bearing in mind that the thesis represents 50% of the course. You must pass both the 'essay' and the 'thesis' components to achieve a pass overall. You will find in the timetable (Section 2) the final absolute dates on which essays and thesis should be submitted. These deadlines are the latest you can submit your work and a penalty will be incurred for missing these deadlines. It is advisable to submit your essays ahead of the final absolute deadline as this will ensure that you have plenty of space for the thesis.

The division of the Cambridge academic year into terms (Michaelmas Term, Lent Term, Easter Term) and vacations (Christmas Vacation, Easter Vacation, Long Vacation) is primarily intended for undergraduates. Postgraduate seminars fall entirely within term time, **but postgraduates are expected to continue their work at Cambridge during vacations too**. You should plan on spending almost all of the nine months of the course in Cambridge, barring short periods over the Christmas and Easter vacations. This includes the period at the end of Easter Term during which oral exams ('vivas') are scheduled.

## Advisors and Supervisors

As noted above, you will have an Advisor, whose own expertise relates to your interests, assigned from the start. This is the person who is expected to arrange the supervision of your work more generally. You should discuss all the elements of your MPhil with your Advisor, even if you undertake elements of the course with other supervisors. Normally supervision for each element of the course is arranged consensually between the Advisor and the student; if you are uncertain, please approach the Director of Postgraduate Studies directly.

The key functions of your Advisor are:

- (i) to meet with you as soon as possible after your arrival and to advise you on getting started, and organising your work.
- (ii) to stay in close touch with you throughout the year, discussing your overall plan of work, and formally approving essay and thesis titles etc.
- (iii) to meet with you in November and December and advise you on developing your thesis topic.
- (iv) either to supervise your work on your essays and thesis, or to arrange an appropriate Supervisor for them, and, where relevant, to advise you about classes etc. if you plan to take a language paper or offer an exercise in place of a second essay.
- (v) discuss the feedback on each essay, and talk through appropriate responses to it in preparation for the next assignment.

Faculty guidelines state that students should meet formally with their Supervisors typically **around once a fortnight** during term. This is not a rigid prescription, and patterns may usefully vary, as may the length of meetings; but there should not normally be reason to meet as often as once a week (and that only occasionally), or for more than three or so weeks to pass without a meeting in term. While it is helpful to discuss a project in general terms at the outset, Supervisors and students often find it most productive to structure discussion around draft pieces of written work.

If a student is working with a Supervisor who is not their Advisor, they should meet their Advisor typically **once or twice a term**.

For your **thesis** you should expect to receive up to, and no more than, **five supervisions** in the period after the submission of the second essay or exercise. It is very important that you begin the planning and work for your thesis in the Michaelmas term: these sessions will be spread over the year, even if in practice supervision normally becomes more intensive after Easter, as you start to focus exclusively on your thesis work. You must submit a **thesis proposal** in April. This should be 200-500 words long and give the examiners a clear idea of the topic of the thesis, the principal texts or material you will consider, and your likely approach. In Easter term you will have the opportunity to present the core ideas of the thesis at a dedicated thesis seminar.

**It is your responsibility to arrange meetings with your Advisor and/or Supervisor, not their responsibility to contact you.** Your Advisor and/or Supervisor may be absent from Cambridge at certain times of the year: you should schedule your meetings well in advance, especially those in May and early June for the thesis. Supervisors need time to read and comment on your work and cannot be expected always to find this time at short notice. Please ensure that you give them your draft work 24 hours in advance of your supervision, at the very least (and preferably earlier). Please note that Supervisors are not co-authors or proofreaders: ultimate responsibility for the work you submit rests with you. Please note also that it is not always possible for Advisors or Supervisors to reschedule meetings, particularly at short notice: it is very important to keep to an agreed schedule where possible.

In the unlikely event that you are experiencing problems in contacting your Advisor or Supervisor, you should notify the Director of Postgraduate Studies (or the Chair of the Faculty Board if the Director of Postgraduate Studies is your Advisor or Supervisor). Note that **students are expected to submit a full draft of their thesis to their Supervisor by Monday 2 June**; it is important also to have a full draft of your essays ready for your Supervisor to read at least a fortnight before the submission date. If you do not do this, your Supervisor may not be able to read a full draft. It's important to note that **you should not expect your Advisor/Supervisor to comment on more than one full draft of your work**.

For reasons of fairness to students and senior members, the Faculty has agreed that **feedback on drafts of MPhil work may be offered only by the Supervisor of that piece of work**. You may, however, discuss an initial plan or abstract of a piece of work with your Advisor as well as your Supervisor.

## MPhil seminars (1): Research Skills Seminars

There are three sorts of MPhil seminars: Research Skills Seminars (held mostly at the start of Michaelmas), Texts and Topics Seminars (held in Michaelmas and Lent) and Thesis Seminars (held in the Easter Term).

All MPhil students are expected to attend a series of five seminars on research skills for Classics postgraduates. These will take place at the times listed below. Each session will last about 90 minutes.

**Seminar 1:** (Michaelmas Term) Making the most of the Cambridge MPhil – Finding a topic and identifying a question, understanding the marking criteria, working with your Advisor, building a bibliography, structuring an argument (Prof. Christopher Whitton). Tuesday 8 October, 2.00–3.30 pm in room G.19.

**Seminar 2:** (Michaelmas Term) Reading, writing and presenting – Strategies for note-taking, organising and writing your research (and avoiding plagiarism); presentation skills and seminar/conference etiquette (Prof. Tim Whitmarsh and Dr Lea Niccolai). Thursday 10 October, 2:00–3:30 pm in room G.19.

**Either Seminar 3:** (Michaelmas Term) Sources and Resources Option 1: Texts. Particularly useful for history, literature, philosophy – Tools for finding and interpreting primary sources: using reference works, commentaries, concordances, databases of ancient texts, monographs and journals (Dr Henry Spelman and Dr Shushma Malik). Friday 11 October, 2.00–3.30 pm in room G.19.

**or Seminar 3:** (Michaelmas Term) Sources and Resources: Option 2: Material Evidence. Particularly useful for art, archaeology, epigraphy, linguistics – Tools for finding and interpreting primary sources: inscriptions, catalogues, site reports; using reference works, databases, monographs and journals (Prof. Michael Squire and Dr Rupert Thompson). Friday 11 October, 2.00–3.30 pm in room G.21.

**Seminar 4:** (Michaelmas Term) How to get on in Classics – Writing a research proposal for a PhD and applying for a PhD (Prof. James Clackson) or career outside academia (Adrienne Jolly). Monday 14 October, 2:00–3:30pm in room G.19.

**Seminar 5:** (Lent Term) Doing Classics – A request for questions and topics on any aspect of being a researcher in the classics will be circulated early in January (Prof. Carrie Vout and Prof. Renaud Gagné). Tuesday 21 January 2024, 2–3.30pm in room G.19.

There are also opportunities to study academic German, numismatics, epigraphy, textual criticism and paleography, post-classical Latin, and Mycenaean epigraphy (see [here](#)).

## MPhil seminars (2): Text and Topic Seminars

All MPhil students must attend **one** MPhil Text and Topic seminar in Michaelmas Term **and one** in Lent Term. Courses aim both to explore a particular theme that offers a rich potential seam for further research and to give students some of the resources they need to write a submitted essay or thesis mining that seam. However, it is not required that any of your pieces of work should be connected to a seminar.

Seminars involve preparatory work, active participation, and some element of student presentation; preparation for a session may take as much as two to three days' reading. (For this reason MPhil students may attend **only one** Text and Topic seminar in a term.) Given the wide variation in topics and approaches, exactly what format the seminar takes, and the kind of preparation and engagement required, will differ. The convenor of the seminar will inform you in advance what is expected. Some seminars will involve close group reading of primary texts. Attendance and participation at one of these seminars in each term is a requirement. **If for any reason you are unavoidably prevented from attending, e.g. by illness, you must contact the seminar convenor, where possible in advance, to explain the situation.**

The seminars will normally meet weekly for six sessions of 90 to 120 minutes. Most will take place on Tuesday or Wednesday at 2pm. In Michaelmas Term the first session will usually be in week 2 (Tuesday 22 or Wednesday 23 October), although a brief meeting will be arranged before this to set up the programme for the first session.

The seminar convenor will inform you of the length of time you should speak for when making a presentation, and how the session will be organised. You are not expected to deliver a finished or polished product, and any questions and puzzlements you can address to your audience may prove more valuable, both to you and to them, than fully worked out theories or interpretations. An informal presentation, from notes, works much better than reading out a written text. You should provide or circulate handouts of texts, site plans (etc.) to be discussed; you may also supply

your fellow seminar participants with a short reading list and/or material to be studied in advance. If you want to use PowerPoint or other visual aids, please consult the seminar convenor. Photocopying of material for your seminar presentation can be done at Faculty expense, provided that you arrange it in advance with the seminar convenor, but you may find electronic circulation most convenient.

## MICHAELMAS TERM

### **Greek Lyric** (Dr Henry Spelman, [hls58@cam.ac.uk](mailto:hls58@cam.ac.uk))

Scholarship on Greek lyric seems to be at an inflection point, but it is unclear precisely where we are to go now—and what our organising set of central research questions ought to be. Taking J. Culler's *Theory of the Lyric* as an impetus, this seminar will explore some ways in which we might think productively about Greek lyric as a genre. Each seminar will focus on a set of original texts and one particular modern theoretical approach. We will focus on the lyric of the Archaic and Classical ages but make time for Athenian drama and also for Hellenistic and Roman revivals. Students will be invited to give presentations on selected texts that are related to their research interests.

### **Statius' *Silvae*** (Prof. Emily Gowers, [eg235@cam.ac.uk](mailto:eg235@cam.ac.uk))

This seminar will explore the world of Statius' *Silvae*, thirty-two poems in five books and various metres, “dashed off” in the late first century CE to celebrate special occasions, things and places, such as anniversaries, works of art, pets, villas on the Bay of Naples and the highspeed road that connected them to Rome. Through these poems, we will consider questions about imperial Greco-Roman culture, the politics and aesthetics of otium, the poetics of speed and occasion, literary history and the place of the emperor in personal poetry. We will range across the books and their prefaces, but *Silvae* 2 will be a central focus; please order C. Newlands's 2011 Cambridge Green and Yellow commentary (I will try to get access to other commentaries).

### **Late-Antique Latin Manuscripts** (Dr Jacob Currie, [jmrc2@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jmrc2@cam.ac.uk))

What are the oldest surviving Latin books still sufficiently intact that one can sit down and read them in extenso? In this seminar we will answer that questions, and we will read them. More than 1,800 Latin codices survive, in whole or as fragments, from before c. 800. The vast majority of these, however, were written in the seventh and eighth centuries. Far fewer books survive from the fourth through the sixth centuries: that is, from the beginnings of the dominance of the codex, c. 300, through the end of Roman rule in the west. Most of these have now been digitised. In this seminar we will read and study a selection of those earliest Latin books, written before c. 600. By using these remarkable survivals as they were meant to be used—by reading them—students will gain a first-hand understanding of the experience of reading in Late Antiquity. Topics include: the transmission of Roman literature; the formation of a Latin bible; Christian history; Church fathers; and Christian poetry. In each class we will read selections from two digitised manuscripts related to a theme. No previous knowledge of palaeography or codicology is expected.

### **Aristotle's *Politics*** (Prof. James Warren, [jiw1001@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jiw1001@cam.ac.uk))

Aristotle's *Politics* is a continuation of the ‘philosophy of human affairs’ begun in his ethical works. The seminar will concentrate on the first three books and will consider: Aristotle's account of ruling and being ruled, the nature and goal of the *polis*, the claim that ‘humans are by nature animals of the *polis*’, his account of slavery, his criticism of previous accounts of the best constitution, his definition of a citizen and what the excellence of a citizen might be, the case for political decision-making being opened to large groups of people. We will also look ahead to books 7 and 8 and their account of the best city and the correct education of its citizens. But participants in the seminar are free to nominate other topics if they prefer. We will think about: the supposed audience of the work, the relationship between the *Politics* and political history, and the influence of the *Politics* on later political philosophy.

Participants should read as much of the *Politics* as possible in English and to try to get through at least book one in Greek. There are good introductions to the work to be found in R. Kraut, *Aristotle: Political Philosophy* (Oxford, 2004) and M. Deslauriers and P. Destrée eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Aristotle's Politics* (Cambridge, 2013).

### **Ancient Greek Bodies**

(Prof. Serafina Cuomo, [sc134@cam.ac.uk](mailto:sc134@cam.ac.uk))

Ancient Greek representations of the body have sometimes been seen as normative: the beautiful body of a classical statue, or the healthy, balanced body of Hippocratic medicine. Yet the ways in which Greek culture imagined, illustrated, and interrogated the human body are diverse and surprising, and include the ugly, the ill, and the downright

monstrous. This seminar series will explore how bodies were represented and why they were represented in the way they were in Greek culture, from mythology to medicine, and from the world of work to that of the sanctuary. We will also explore modern receptions and the intersections between ancient sources and recent scholarship across disciplinary boundaries. The seminar will be structured as a series of relatively self-contained case-studies which will also provide opportunities for the exploration of different types of sources and different historiographical and methodological strands. Students will be encouraged to formulate their own questions in a flipped-classroom environment.

Sample outlook of topics:

- 1) The divine body - Hephaestus on pots
- 2) The post-human body - Pandora as a cyborg
- 3) The worker's body - the Foundry Cup
- 4) The sexed body - Aristotle on sex differences
- 5) The barbarian's body - *Airs Waters Places*
- 6) The sick body - anatomical votives from Asklepieian sanctuaries

### **Decolonising 'Classical Art & Archaeology'?**

(Prof. Michael Squire, [mjs73@cam.ac.uk](mailto:mjs73@cam.ac.uk), and Dr Jane Rempel, [jer75@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jer75@cam.ac.uk))

With its roots in not only classics, but also archaeology and art history, the field of 'classical art & archaeology' is bound up with a host of ideological agendas – among them western imperialism, nation-building and (at times) systemic racism. Debates about the history, nature and disciplinary scope of classical art and archaeology are not new. But they have been reinvigorated in recent years by calls to 'decolonise the curriculum', as well as by counterarguments (with associated accusations of so-called 'wokeism'): here in the university and colleges of Cambridge, debates on both sides have been particularly rife. This seminar series invites MPhil. students to explore these live and pressing themes in an inclusive and collaborative environment. The question mark in our title is important: we hope seminars will provide an open space for constructive discussion – and a full range of viewpoints. We will look at the past and present of (what in Cambridge is labelled ...) 'Classical art & archaeology'. But we'll also be thinking about the future – in particular, about how our work as classical archaeologists might contribute to contemporary debates. It is hoped that topics will touch upon a wide range of issues, including: accessibility; diversity and representation; global communities; political, religious and cultural identities; socio-economic class; nationalism and globalisation; regional inequalities; ethnicity and critical race theory; and gender, sexuality and LGBTQ+ history. Our six weekly seminars will be structured around six themes (with associated case studies and readings): issues of disciplinary history and affiliation; heritage, the antiquities trade and calls to 'repatriate' antiquities; critical approaches to theorising cultural contact (including traditional ideas of 'Hellenisation' and 'Romanisation'); art-historical rhetorics of 'provincialism' and aesthetic value; the role of 'foreign' classical archaeologists in local communities; and the contribution of classical material culture in forging national identities – both past and present. This is a seminar series open to those with or without any previous training in classical art and archaeology, including anyone interested in classical reception, critical theory and cultural heritage more generally: all students, whatever their background and viewpoint, are warmly invited to join us!

### **Writing in the Aegean Bronze Age**

(Prof. Torsten Meissner, [tm10012@cam.ac.uk](mailto:tm10012@cam.ac.uk))

In this seminar, we will look at the 3 major writing systems of the Aegean Bronze Age (Cretan Hieroglyphic, Linear A and Linear B) and their historical, archaeological and material context. We will then focus on Linear B, the only one of the three scripts that is properly understood. We will be learning how to identify the signs survey them systematically, including their epigraphic variants. We will then turn our attention to reading the tablets, and learn how to produce a transcription using standard editorial conventions. Finally, we will then cover approaches to the interpretation of the documents. This seminar is essential for MPhil candidates who intend to offer the Mycenaean epigraphy exercise in place of the second essay but are likewise of interest to anyone interested in the history of writing, the development of the Greek language, or in Bronze Age archaeology.

## LENT TERM

### Gods and Greek Literature

(Prof. Renaud Gagné, [rg404@cam.ac.uk](mailto:rg404@cam.ac.uk))

The language of Greek polytheism informs crucial domains of Greek literature. How do hymns construct their gods? Is the theology of tragedy a cacophony of disparate voices? Does Herodotus or Polybius offer a consistent vision of divine action in history? How were the gods of Homer 'canonical'? Distinctive representations of divinity were produced by the different genres of ancient Greek literature. And distinctive traditions of reading and exegesis, both ancient and modern, have made sense of these gods in their own way. The seminar will look for patterns, recurrences and specificities in the rhetoric and aesthetics of literary divine representation. Meetings will focus on the individual texts and authors of particular relevance to the group.

### Tacitus *Annals*

(Prof. Christopher Whitton, [clw36@cam.ac.uk](mailto:clw36@cam.ac.uk))

Tacitus' *Annals* is celebrated for its abrasive analysis of Julio-Claudian Rome, and stands tall among the greats of ancient Latin prose. This seminar will explore the *Annals* and its world, giving opportunities to consider among other things memory and history in imperial Rome, literary responses to autocracy, the socioliterary culture of the 'High' Roman Empire, and the historiographical turn in classical scholarship. We will combine close readings of selections from across the *Annals* with presentations tailored to participants' individual interests, such as discussions of passages or themes, critiques of scholarship, and presentations on related themes and texts (e.g. contemporary literature; other imperial historiography). The *Cambridge Companion to Tacitus* makes good introductory reading.

### Early Greek Philosophy

(Prof. Gábor Betegh, [gb230@cam.ac.uk](mailto:gb230@cam.ac.uk))

At the seminar we will discuss the beginnings of philosophy in Greece. We will consider the very question of 'beginning': what does it mean that a new discourse form emerges? What is 'new' in the fragments of the Presocratics and how are they related to authoritative texts of the tradition, such as Homer and Hesiod? In what sense are the ideas and arguments of the Presocratics philosophical? What types of reasoning do the different Presocratics use? The seminar will also provide an opportunity to discuss methodological issues related to working with fragments. We will consider recent approaches to, and editions of, the fragments of early Greek philosophers, such as the magisterial Loeb edition by André Laks and Glenn W. Most (Laks, A. and Most, Glenn W. (eds., trs.), 2016, *Early Greek Philosophy*, 9 Vols., Loeb Classical Library nos. 524-532, available online: <https://www.loebclassics.com>)

The text(s) to be read and discussed will be tailored to the interests of the participants. Before the seminar starts in LT, we will decide together whether we want to focus on one thinker, such as Heraclitus, Parmenides or Empedocles, or rather a selection of texts from different authors. Participants of the seminar should read the fragments of the most important Presocratics (Heraclitus, Parmenides, Empedocles, Anaxagoras, Democritus) at least in translation.

Convenient starting points are:

- McKirahan, R., 1994, *Philosophy Before Socrates: an introduction with texts and commentary* (2nd edition), Indianapolis: Hackett. (Useful and reliable, with introductions to each author.)
- Kirk, G. S., J. E. Raven, and M. Schofield, 1983, *The Presocratic Philosophers*, (Second Edition), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (contains a comprehensive selection of fragments with philosophical and philological commentary. A true classic.)

For those new to the Presocratics, very good introductions are:

- Sassi, Maria Michaela, 2018, *The Beginnings of Philosophy in Greece*, Princeton, 2018.
- Warren, J., 2007, *Presocratics*, Acumen.

### Globalising Greco-Roman History

(Prof. Josephine Quinn)

This course explores the friction between the breadth of the term 'ancient history' and its longstanding focus in the Euro-American academy on a small group of Mediterranean city-states. Calls to 'globalise' the study of ancient

worlds – to embrace wider geographies, contexts, connectivities, and comparisons, as well as to foreground new voices and perspectives in the scholarship – rub up against the largely or entirely Greco-Roman training and skills of many of the most eager enthusiasts. How can we surmount and even exploit this apparent contradiction? Our seminar will investigate the provincialisation of ancient history in eighteenth century Europe and the recent ‘global turn’ in historical studies more broadly before tackling a series of case studies in connective, comparative, and contextualised approaches to the pre-modern world. Participants will be encouraged to bring their own interests and expertise into our discussions as we develop strategies together to make the most of a new landscape.

### **The Contexts of Classical Archaeology**

(Dr Yannis Galanakis, [ig298@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ig298@cam.ac.uk), and Dr Jane Rempel, [jer75@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jer75@cam.ac.uk))

Contexts are central to the study of Graeco-Roman material and visual culture. Just as provenance is key to the interpretation of an individual archaeological find, so too do objects bring with them their own contexts of form, use and function. This seminar series, structured around a series of weekly readings and case studies, examines the dynamics of context from a variety of different angles: in particular, we investigate how the materials of classical archaeology lend themselves to different sorts of scholarly contextualisation, requiring a diversity of skillsets in turn. Along the way, we will not only explore the disciplinary history of classical archaeology, but also think critically about its future, especially its relationship with (amongst other fields) the broader disciplines of archaeology and art history.

### **Greek and Latin Conversation**

(Prof. James Clackson, [jptc1@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jptc1@cam.ac.uk), and Dr Tomaž Potočnik, [tp577@cam.ac.uk](mailto:tp577@cam.ac.uk))

In this seminar we discuss modern approaches to the study of discourse and conversation as applied to ancient drama and other representations of interactive speech. The seminar will be organised so that each week we shall look at different methodological approaches and relate these to selected passages of Greek and Latin, which seminar participants will prepare and present in turn. Topics covered will include speech act theory, Gricean pragmatics, conversation analysis, and politeness. Texts for discussion will be drawn from an array of authors including Aristophanes, Euripides, Menander, Plato, Plautus, Terence and Petronius.

### **In the Name of Classics**

(Dr Shushma Malik, [sm2737@cam.ac.uk](mailto:sm2737@cam.ac.uk))

Over the last three decades, the rise of reception studies has transformed the discipline of Classics. This seminar seeks to interrogate the theories and methodologies that inform the field, compare and contrast ‘postclassical’ agendas with more traditional approaches (what is it possible to do in the name of Classics?), and explore the future challenges of reception studies (where do we go from here?). In particular, we will consider the role of reception studies in bringing a greater sense of equality to the Classics, while also examining the idea of whether/how ‘Classics for all’ can be meaningfully achieved (and, if so, what it might look like). Seminar discussions will revolve around either a lecture by an invited speaker, or a set of assigned readings, or student-led presentations. No prior knowledge of reception studies is required: only the desire to discuss and explore.

### **MPhil seminars (3): Thesis Seminars**

All students will give a short presentation on the topic of their thesis at a seminar in Easter Term. You should talk to your Advisor or Supervisor about what makes most sense for you to do at this stage: some of you may want advice on particular material or a particular problem; others might want to provide their audience with more of an overview. Either way, you should aim to outline and test some of the thesis’s driving questions. Students will be put into small groups according to their interests; University Teaching Officers will chair the sessions. Presentations should be 15-20 minutes long, each followed by around 10-15 minutes of discussion. These seminars should take place no later than Monday 2 June 2025; you will be contacted around the start of Easter Term with details.

## Lectures and other seminars

### Undergraduate lectures

You are entitled to attend undergraduate lecture courses in the Classics Faculty and in any other Faculty - except Clinical Medicine! – provided there are no restrictions in a specific case. There may be lectures available which will help fill in the background to your research or supply necessary skills. Details of courses in the Faculty are [here](#) (follow the tabs on the left for Part IA, Part IB and Part II), and termly lecture timetables are [here](#). You may find Part II (final-year undergraduate) lecture courses useful for your research, and you are welcome to attend them; there's no need to ask the lecturer in advance. Handouts and other materials are increasingly posted on Moodle rather than distributed in hard copy. You should be able to self-enrol on each 'Moodle course'.

### Caucus seminars

It is a normal and valuable part of postgraduate life to play an active role in seminars. This forms an integral part of your research training and development, a valuable change from your own work, and an important opportunity to socialise (there is generally an optional pub visit afterwards). In most terms there is at least one seminar (usually weekly) organised by each of the main Caususes (subject groups) within the Faculty, held in the late afternoon on weekdays. They are aimed at postgraduate students, postdocs and academics.

- A Greek and Latin literature
- B Philosophy
- C History
- D Art and archaeology
- E Philology and linguistics
- X Interdisciplinary approaches to the ancient world, and classical reception

Lists of seminars are published each term at <https://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/seminars>. Suggestions for inviting outside speakers are always welcome; please direct these to the Secretary or Chair of the relevant Causus. PhD students are normally invited to give a seminar at least once, typically in their second or their year.

### Postgraduate Interdisciplinary Seminar (GIS)

[the acronym preferred not to be changed when 'graduates' were renamed 'postgraduates' ...]

This [seminar](#) meets at 4.15 pm in G.21 every Friday during Full Term. It is organised and attended by postgraduates in the Faculty. Each week, two students give a short presentation of work in progress followed by a discussion. There is a break for tea and biscuits, and a trip to a nearby pub after the seminar at 6 pm. This is an excellent chance to find out about other people's work, to roadtest your own, and to get used to taking part in seminars in an informal context: the emphasis is on work in progress and trying out ideas, rather than giving polished performances. All postgraduates in the Faculty are welcome.

### Cambridge Philological Society

The [Cambridge Philological Society](#) meets two or three times a term on Thursdays at 4.30pm (with tea at 4pm), either in G.21 or in a College, to hear papers on classical topics. (Despite its name, it is concerned with the full range of classical scholarship.) Membership is open to all, and you can ask your Advisor to propose you for membership. The membership fee includes a subscription to the *Cambridge Classical Journal* (£14 for online, £20 for print ).

## Greek and Latin languages

If you have not already studied Greek and Latin at school or university beyond GCSE level (or equivalent), you can do so by taking one of the MPhil Greek or Latin exam papers (at either pre- or post-GCSE level) in lieu of the second essay. Usually this option would be directly relevant to your MPhil research but you may also wish to take it if you are thinking of pursuing a career in Classics.

### Greek

MPhil students who offer the Greek language paper are enrolled in the Part IA 'Intensive Greek' undergraduate course. MPhil students are placed in pre-GCSE (i.e. *ab initio*) or post-GCSE undergraduate classes, as appropriate. The course is taught over 20 weeks, as follows:

- i) Michaelmas Term (weeks 1-3): pre-GCSE: three classes per week, covering *Reading Greek*, Sections 11-14; post-GCSE: one grammar class and two reading classes;
- ii) Michaelmas Term (weeks 4-8), Lent Term (weeks 1-8) and Easter Term (weeks 1-4): four hours per week, comprising one grammar lecture, one grammar class and two reading classes;
- iii) one weekly class in unprepared translation, offered only to MPhil students.

Attendance is mandatory for all components.

For those taking the pre-GCSE paper, the set texts, parts of which will be covered in the reading classes, are:

Michaelmas: Homer *Odyssey* 6.1-198 and 8.62-96, 256-366, 469-520; *Homeric Hymn to Apollo* 1-178

Lent Term: Herodotus 3.76-89, Euripides, *Hecuba* 1-67, 484-628, 657-904;

Easter Term: Gorgias *Helen*.

For those taking post-GCSE version of the paper, the set texts are:

Michaelmas: Homer *Odyssey* 6.1-198 and 8.62-415, 461-586; *Homeric Hymn to Apollo* 1-178

Lent Term: Plato *Ion* 535e-end; Herodotus 3.76-99, Euripides, *Hecuba* 1-67, 216-443, 484-628, 657-904;

Easter Term: Gorgias *Helen*.

### Latin

MPhil students offering the MPhil Latin paper attend the undergraduate classes and lectures in Latin language offered for the 'Prelim' undergraduate course. MPhil students are placed in pre-GCSE (i.e. *ab initio*) or post-GCSE undergraduate classes, as appropriate. This course is taught over 20 weeks, as follows:

- i) Michaelmas Term (weeks 1-8): five hours per week, comprising one grammar lecture, one grammar class and three reading classes on *Res Gestae*;
- ii) Lent Term (weeks 1-8), five hours per week, comprising one grammar lecture, one grammar class, one unprepared translation class and two reading classes on Ovid *Metamorphoses* 3;
- iii) Easter Term (weeks 1-4) four hours per week, comprising one grammar lecture, one unprepared translation class and two reading classes on selected poems of Catullus.

Attendance is mandatory for all components.

Because of the very intensive nature of both courses and the fact that they require students to engage with unadapted Greek and Latin texts from early on, all students attending these courses are required to undertake a significant amount of preparatory study before the beginning of the courses. If you have an offer for the MPhil course and are interested in taking a Greek or Latin language paper, please contact the MPhil language co-ordinator, Mr Franco Basso ([fggb2@cam.ac.uk](mailto:fggb2@cam.ac.uk)) as soon as your offer is confirmed; he will inform you about the preparation required.

MPhil students taking the pre-GCSE Greek course are in addition required to attend a series of nine preterm classes held on the Wednesday to Friday of the week before the beginning of full Michaelmas Term. MPhil students taking either Latin course are required to attend the Prelim 'summer session' at the beginning of September.

## Language examinations

The examinations (both pre- and post-GCSE) consist of two elements, of equal weight:

- i) a closed-book examination in Greek or Latin translation;
- ii) a submitted translation of a Greek or Latin passage into English, accompanied by a commentary.

The **closed-book examination** is a 3-hour paper containing one unseen prose passage, one unseen verse passage, and one passage from each of the set texts. Candidates must translate the unseen prose and verse passages, one passage of prose from the set texts, and one passage of verse from the set texts. Passages for unseen translation from Greek will be taken from Homer, Herodotus, Euripides, Plato, Lysias and Xenophon. Passages for unseen translation from Latin may be taken from any author. Glosses for vocabulary and grammar will be provided, as appropriate.

Past exam papers can be found [here](#). Option A is pre-GCSE, option B is post-GCSE. Please note that some set texts in Greek have changed since 2023-4.

The **submitted translation** should be accompanied by a detailed commentary explaining the decisions taken in the course of the translation. The commentary may refer, where relevant, to non-linguistic aspects of the text, but it should be clear how these have affected the translation; to avoid doubt, the commentary should be linguistic and not (for instance) literary. The commentary should be about 2,000 words and **in no case longer than 2,500 words**. You may use all available resources in preparing the translation and commentary. A bibliography (not included in the word-count) should be included. You must **specify which edition** of your text you have used, and **provide a copy** of the relevant part of that edition with your submission.

You should agree on an appropriate Supervisor with your Advisor (who may, of course, be the Supervisor). You should expect no more than two meetings with your Supervisor in the course of preparation of the translation and commentary.

You should discuss a suitable passage (which may consist of part of a larger text, or more than one shorter texts) with your Supervisor, and submit details of your choice by the deadline given in the timetable below. There is no set length for the passage to be translated, and different texts will provide different challenges to the translator. Two examples of suitable choices are:

- a) Plato *Statesman* 309c1-311c8;
- b) the *Senatus Consultum de Bacchanalibus* (*Corpus Inscriptionum Latinorum* I<sup>2</sup> 581) and the *Sententiae Minuciorum* (*CIL* I<sup>2</sup> 584).

Your first essay or thesis may cite and discuss elements of a passage chosen for the translation and commentary exercise, but may not include lengthy discussion of the meaning and/or translation. (You may cross-refer in your first essay or thesis to your translation and commentary if you wish.)

## Exercises in place of the second essay

Another alternative to the second essay is to undertake some project of equivalent value, subject to the approval of the Degree Committee. These projects are known by the cover-all term 'exercise'. This may enable you to develop a skill of value either for its own sake or with a view to research you hope to pursue in the future. It is wise to combine it where possible with attendance at one of the 'specialist skills' courses offered (in textual criticism and paleography, epigraphy, and numismatics, Mycenaean epigraphy or post-classical Latin), or by attending a class in a relevant ancient or mediaeval language

One possibility for an 'exercise' is to take a formal examination. For Mycenaean epigraphy and any language other than Greek or Latin organised by the Faculty this will take place in April. Candidates being examined on textual criticism and paleography take Paper A4 from Part II of the Classical Tripos in June; you may choose to sit an adapted version which requires answers on only Greek or Latin. Assessments and exams for courses based in other Faculties take place according to their timetables. Requests to take such an examination must be submitted to [pg@classics.cam.ac.uk](mailto:pg@classics.cam.ac.uk) by 31 October.

If you want to learn or extend your knowledge of an ancient language other than Greek or Latin, discuss this with the Director of Postgraduate Studies at, or ideally before, the start of the course. Tuition will be provided when possible, and we will seek permission for you to take an appropriate language paper (this permission depends on the organising Faculty, and cannot be guaranteed). In the past, students have taken exams in Classical Sanskrit, Oscan, Aramaic, Hebrew, Old Irish and Continental Celtic. Details will be supplied during the introductory sessions at the beginning

of Michaelmas Term.

It is also common to write an essay using the type of data (e.g. coins, inscriptions) you have been studying in one of the 'specialist skills' classes. Such a project would be treated in the same way as any other essay in terms of deadlines, length and marking criteria.

Another possibility, for skills for which there is no exam (such as epigraphy or numismatics), is to work out an individual project in consultation with the lecturer. The exercise might consist in, for instance, the annotated transcription of an epigraphic text, the classification of a set of coins or other artefacts, the collation of two or more manuscripts from microfilms, a linguistic commentary, or a set of archaeological drawings. You should consult the section below on length for the special regulations relating to such an exercise. Requests to submit an exercise, giving full details of the proposed format and content, must be submitted to the Director of Postgraduate Studies by 31 October, but you should discuss possibilities in advance of that. Any criteria proposed for assessment of the exercise which differ from those in the marking criteria for MPhil essays and thesis (below) must be specifically approved by the Degree Committee.

## Standards and the use of sources

What sort of standard are you expected to achieve in your essays and thesis? In the time available you cannot necessarily be expected to arrive at, let alone prove, radically original conclusions. What we do expect, is that your work should show *independent judgement, based on your own research*. You will find it helpful to look carefully at the [marking criteria](#) and guidance on [plagiarism](#) below. You will be expected to display a solid grasp of existing publications relevant to your topic, but the work which you submit must show us your mind operating independently on the material you have studied.

Students sometimes ask if a particular approach or style of argument is most appropriate for an MPhil essay (or thesis). It is hard to generalise, given the wide variety of topics studied and intellectual approaches found in the Faculty, but as a rule of thumb you should avoid work which is primarily descriptive; rather, we are looking for an argument in which your independent judgement is displayed. This might come in the form of a reading of a text, image or monument – perhaps evaluating previous approaches to the example on which you are concentrating – or putting forward a more general proposition or argument based on a particular set of data. It is important to avoid a topic which is either too narrowly focused (and thus fails to relate to the broader context, whether literary, historical or intellectual) or too broad (leading to excessively general and perhaps unsupported observations and conclusions). Often the best topics deal in some detail with a particular body of data in a way which makes a contribution to the reader's understanding of the broader context. As a result, it is important to think at an early stage which of your chosen topics would fit most appropriately the model of an essay (maximum 5,000 words) and which that of the thesis (8,000 to 12,000 words). The advice of your Advisor (and Supervisor, where this is a different person) will be particularly helpful in thinking about these issues, so do discuss them in some detail with them.

Your individual marks, and the comments transmitted to you by the Director of Postgraduate Studies, will give you an idea of where your work so far stands in quality. If you are dissatisfied with the level you are achieving, your Advisor will be able to give an idea of what would be needed to raise the standard next time. But do not assume that there is some simple set of instructions which, if you follow them, are bound to raise your performance to the desired level. It is *your* work that is being judged, with your own distinctive intellectual imprint. There is no mechanical set of rules for success.

It is crucially important in preparing your written work to maintain a clear distinction between your own contributions and views derived from the published literature. Each piece of work should include a bibliography at the end. This must list all works cited; it should also include a separate 'list of works consulted' if your work is informed by any scholarship which you have not cited, though it is usually preferable to include citations of all the work you have found useful. Bear in mind that markers will expect to see clear evidence that you have engaged with the ideas and arguments of any literature in the bibliography: you may find yourself penalised if your work takes insufficient account of books and articles which you claim to have consulted. You should not use unpublished work without its author's consent, and should be prepared to supply a copy of any unpublished material cited if requested to do so by the examiners. You should acknowledge where you have included material derived from a lecture or seminar which you have attended.

## Use of modern languages

In the work you submit, you are expected to take due account of modern scholarship on the topics you treat. Does this mean scholarship in all the standard languages of classical scholarship, namely English, French, German and Italian? No: you cannot be expected to acquire a reading knowledge of these in the space of nine months. The sole formal requirement is that you take due account of the relevant literature in English.

However,

- (i) where you do have a reading knowledge of one or more of the other languages, it will be to your advantage to show acquaintance with important work written in them.
- (ii) If you are advised that material in a language you cannot read is *indispensable* for a given topic, this may raise doubts as to whether this is an appropriate topic for you to undertake. Consult your Advisor, your Supervisor and/or the Director of Postgraduate Studies if you are concerned that this may be a problem for your particular project.
- (iii) If you need to learn or develop your knowledge of a modern language, there are regular language courses and other learning facilities provided by the Language Centre. German courses at several levels take place in the Faculty (see [below](#)). Bear in mind, too, the resources of the postgraduate community. For example, there may be native speakers of the language in question on the MPhil course, or in your College, who would be willing to help you read articles in their own language in return for help with correcting their own English.
- (iv) If you hope to continue to a PhD, it is prudent to make a start on developing an adequate knowledge of the language or languages most likely to prove indispensable for your research. Working through articles in those languages with a dictionary and grammar is one way of doing this, but you may do better to sign up for a course at the Language Centre. At the end of the year, when the Degree Committee considers your request to continue with a PhD, any work you have done on modern languages during the year may be taken into consideration.

Details of courses and facilities can be found on the Language Centre website, <https://www.langcen.cam.ac.uk/>. In particular, see <https://www.langcen.cam.ac.uk/graduates/learning-opportunities.html> for details of courses for postgraduates studying in the School of Arts and Humanities (of which Classics forms a part). Academic reading courses are offered in Portuguese, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

## Length, title and formatting

### Length

The regulations state that essays must be ‘about 4,000 words in length’. This is meant to give an idea of the scale of work envisaged: something substantially less ambitious in scope (although not in quality!) than the thesis. Essays must be **no longer than 5,000 words**, including title, headings and footnotes but excluding the cover sheet, bibliography, any acknowledgements and any appendices containing source material supplied for the benefit of the examiners. **Any essay over 5,000 words long will be given a mark of zero.** A mark of zero may result in your failing the MPhil course.

For those taking an examination in Greek or Latin language, the submitted translation may be of any length, but the accompanying commentary must be **no longer than 2,500 words. Any commentary that is over 2,500 words long will result in a mark of zero for both the translation and commentary.** A mark of zero may result in your failing the MPhil course.

An MPhil thesis must be **no longer than 12,000 words** and normally at least 8,000 words in length including title, headings and footnotes, and appendices including argumentation but excluding the cover sheet, bibliography and any appendices containing source material supplied for the benefit of the examiners. Prefaces, acknowledgements and tables of contents are not required; if included they will not count towards the word-count. **If the examiners find that the thesis is longer than 12,000 words, they may impose a severe penalty**, and they may in any case choose to stop reading when they reach 12,000 words.

Students must specify the word-count when submitting any essay, commentary or thesis. This must conform precisely to the count of the electronic file submitted; although computer word-counts have their quirks, it is the word-count in MS Word (.docx) that matters. It is of great importance that you keep an accurate check on the word length and ensure that your essay or thesis is within the specified range.

A page of statistics shall be regarded as the equivalent of 150 words. For pictures/figures, captions will not be counted as long as (a) these pictures/figures are in a separate section at the end and (b) the captions simply identify the picture/figure. If a picture or figure is part of your argument rather than source material included for the benefit of examiners, it should be included in the main part of the essay (and captions or other words will be counted).

Translations of Greek and Latin quoted in essays or thesis are not required, although you are free to provide them if it is appropriate or necessary in the context of the argument you are making. Translations are counted within the word limit. You should credit translations appropriately (either to yourself, or giving the bibliographical details of a published translation). In the case of a published translation, you should make sure that, for the passage in question, it is based on the same text as the one you are using.

If you plan to provide source material at the end of your essay or thesis for the benefit of the examiners, you must seek permission in advance from the Director of Postgraduate Studies. Permission will be granted only when:

- (a) the evidence referred to is difficult to obtain and constitutes a body of material on which the essay or thesis is based (example: unpublished archaeological data/a new papyrus); or
- (b) there is a substantial body of evidence whose analysis forms the work of the essay or thesis, and the examiner would benefit by having the body of evidence easily available (example: a catalogue of vases); or
- (c) the texts discussed are difficult to obtain or occur in widely dispersed sources.

Permission will not be granted for passages from familiar texts which should be cited in the body of the essay, or for texts which are integral to the argument of the essay.

The following further rules apply in respect to word limits:

- (i) When an exercise in place of the second essay takes the form of a *catalogue raisonnée* with an introductory essay, the catalogue is not subject to a word limit, but the essay accompanying it **may not exceed 3,000 words**.
- (ii) Any appendices submitted without permission or in contravention of these regulations will be disregarded by the examiners.

## Title

The title of each piece of work that you submit must be the one that has been approved by the Degree Committee. Titles should be sufficiently informative to allow the Committee to assess the nature and viability of the proposed project and appoint markers. You will find in the timetable the date by which each title must be submitted for approval, and the latest date for any request to change a title which has been approved. Forms will be available on Moodle in advance. Allow time for your Advisor to approve the form before the deadline. A change of essay title must be submitted on the relevant form and be approved by the Advisor. The deadline for submitting your thesis title is Wednesday 23 April. It is not possible to request a change to your approved thesis title. Unless you hear to the contrary from the Director of Postgraduate Studies, you may assume any title (or change of title) has been approved.

Students and/or Advisors should inform the Director of Postgraduate Studies as soon as possible if a proposed topic is likely to fall outside the usual bounds of the Faculty's ability to examine it.

You **must** submit each piece under the currently approved title. If at a late stage it becomes clear that your title is too broad, you may add a subtitle (e.g. 'with special reference to ...'), or a prefatory note explaining why in the event you have narrowed the focus. If your topic does not clearly match your title you may be penalised.

## Presentation and formatting

It is important that your written work is presented in good English. If English is not your first language, you may find it useful to ask a native speaker to read through your work and make comments on the language, style and idiom.

The formal presentation of your work is important. It must be **typed 1.5-spaced** and **paginated**. A priority at the start of the course is to establish your word-processing habits. If you do not have your own computer, locate one or more mutually compatible machines that are suitable for your needs (e.g. check that they can do Greek), perhaps one at the Classics Faculty and one in your College, and ensure that you learn the basic skills of formatting early on. Ask your supervisor whether you are making any mistakes in your formatting when you submit your drafts; don't leave such matters until the final stages. It makes obvious sense to compile your bibliography as you acquire it, so that it can easily be copied into your work without retyping, or to use an automated bibliography programme such as Endnote. There is detailed guidance on formatting in Section 8 below.

## Submission of work

Each piece of work **must be submitted electronically**. All submissions must have a cover-sheet (which you will receive by email direct from the Faculty) bearing the title of the piece of work, your candidate number (for essays/translations and commentaries/exercises) or your name (for the thesis), the word count (as defined under 'Length, title and formatting' above) and (in the case of the essays) whether the first or second essay. You may either (a) submit your work to the portal in MS Word format (.docx) or (b) submit your work to the portal as a PDF (e.g. to preserve complex fonts or formatting) **and** email an identical copy in MS Word (.docx) format to [pg@classics.cam.ac.uk](mailto:pg@classics.cam.ac.uk) (for checking length).

The deadlines for submission of work are given in the timetable below. Reminders will be sent out, explaining the process and how the electronic copy should be submitted. Essays and thesis can only be submitted once: do not submit your essay or thesis until you are sure it is complete. For the thesis, please note the additional deadline by which you should submit the **full draft** of your thesis (directly) to your Supervisor; it is important that you and your Supervisor know that you have enough material for your thesis by this date.

**These deadlines must be strictly observed.** Work submitted late is subject to a **deduction of 3 marks** from the mark agreed by the examiners, with a further 3 marks deducted for each subsequent period of 24 hours.

The only circumstances in which short extensions to deadlines can be granted are 'illness or other grave cause'. If you need to invoke this clause you must either get your College Tutor to write on your behalf to the Director of Postgraduate Studies at [pg@classics.cam.ac.uk](mailto:pg@classics.cam.ac.uk) or (in the case of illness) provide a medical note from your GP (to the same email address) as soon as possible, and normally **at least one week** before the deadline. Those with a Student Support Document which recommends extensions where appropriate should email the Director of Postgraduate Studies with their request in good time. 'Other grave cause' means e.g. a serious crisis in your family. It does not include such events as the loss of work from your computer – one reason to back your work up frequently.

Bear in mind that extensions to deadlines for essays will reduce the time available for you to work on your next piece(s) of work. Extensions for the thesis are strongly constrained by the need for marking and viva to take place before the final meeting of the MPhil Examiners. If this is not possible, you may need to make an application (with the support of your Tutor) to 'extend your end of registration date'. This will mean that your degree cannot be awarded before the start following academic year.

### Checklist for submitting theses

- A completed Faculty cover sheet, bearing the approved thesis title and your name.
- Text of your thesis in a MS Word document (.docx). If you have pictures or specific formatting you could submit a pdf document instead.

Thesis submissions (unlike essays) are subject to a number of University regulations. Provided that you use the cover sheet provided by the Faculty, your thesis will fulfil those regulations. You may read them here: <https://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/your-course/examinations/graduate-exam-information/submitting-and-examination/mpilmres>

## Marks

Each piece of work you submit will be marked by two examiners. Apart from the thesis, where the viva makes anonymity impossible, work will be marked anonymously. Each examiner independently assigns a numerical mark out of 100. (In practice a narrow range is used: the pass mark is 60, and marks of 80 and above are very rare.) The two examiners then discuss the work and award a joint numerical mark. Your different pieces of work are likely to be marked by different examiners and should be free-standing in their argumentation; they may however be thematically linked, and you are welcome to refer in one piece to another (e.g. with a footnote such as 'I discuss this problem in detail in my first essay', with a sentence or phrase in the main text summarising your argument there).

The External Examiner reviews all marks where the first two markers gave marks in different grade boundaries and any agreed marks outside the range 60-80.

Your marks for essays, thesis and language exams will be emailed to you, in accordance with the timetable found in this booklet. In the case of the essays and the thesis, the examiners' reports will provide both an explanation of the marks they have given, and feedback on how the work could be improved. It is important to understand that examiners' comments and suggestions are not a simple recipe that you can follow to improve your marks next time. Learning how to respond to constructive critical feedback is a crucial skill in the academic environment, which can

be challenging and painful.

If you need help in interpreting your marks or the examiners' comments and wish to know where your current strengths and weaknesses may lie, you should consult your Advisor, your Supervisor and/or the Director of Postgraduate Studies; they will be able to tell you whether you should modify your future research in the light of the examiners' comments.

Formally, marks for all components remain provisional until the final meeting of MPhil Examiners at the end of the academic year: all marks are reviewed at that point by the Examiners in conjunction with the External Examiner, and may exceptionally be altered in the light of that process of moderation. There is no mechanism for challenging judgements of academic quality, or to request an additional marker. You can only appeal against a result on procedural grounds, i.e. if there is reason to believe that the marking process was flawed or unfair. If you wish to appeal, you should talk first to your Advisor and then to the Director of Postgraduate Studies. The window for appeals on any element of the course opens when you receive your formal results at the end of the course, and closes 28 days later. See the University's policy [here](#).

The [marking criteria](#) are included below.

## The oral examination ('viva')

A week or so after you submit your thesis, its two markers will meet you for an oral examination, commonly known as the 'viva' (short for '*viva voce* examination').

In 2024-25 vivas are scheduled to take place in the week from Monday 23 June to Friday 27 June; you will be notified of the time and place shortly beforehand. In the meantime, make sure that you are available on all of these days. If, for special reasons, you absolutely cannot attend a viva in this period, the examiners *may* be able to hold your viva a day or two earlier, provided that you put in a request in good time. But such requests should be avoided if at all possible, and do not include reasons such as attendance at May Balls. You should not expect to leave Cambridge before the last Faculty Degree Committee meeting (expected to take place on Tuesday 8 July).

Vivas usually last for 20-25 minutes and are held in person. If in exceptional circumstances approved by the Director of Postgraduate Studies the viva must be held virtually, you will be offered the use of a room and computer in the Faculty.

Most vivas prove a rewarding experience for both candidate and examiners. It is impossible to predict exactly what the viva will cover. The examiners may, for example, want to see how you respond to challenges that might (if only hypothetically) be brought against your arguments or methods, and may ask you to fill in gaps, to clarify obscure points, or to help resolve doubts. Although both of them will already have read and marked the thesis, they may use the impressions made by the viva to resolve any discrepancy between their respective marks, and can even, in principle, agree a higher (or, more rarely, lower) mark than either in the light of what they learn from your responses. The viva is unlikely to make a significant difference to your final mark, but it is important enough to take seriously: do use the intervening week to think over issues which might come up at it, and re-read your thesis; it is a good idea to bring a copy along. Students are encouraged to discuss with their Advisor (and/or Supervisor, where this is a different person) how they might best prepare for the viva.

The regulations allow the examiners to include questions about your essays or other exercises submitted earlier in the year. This is very unlikely to happen, but it could just be that some unclarity or other problem about one of your earlier pieces of work needs to be resolved. If so, you would receive advance warning. In exceptional circumstances an additional viva might be held at an earlier stage in the year.

## Results

The examination is divided into two parts: two essays of around 4,000 words each (or one essay plus a language examination or exercise), and the thesis. In order to pass the MPhil, you must pass both parts: i.e. you must achieve **both** a pass on the 'essay' part of the examination (60+ on each of the two elements; a fail mark on one essay/exam/exercise may be discounted) **and** a pass (60+) on the thesis. Occasionally, a marginal failure in one part of the examination may be compensated by a mark of 70 or higher in the other part. No aggregate numerical mark is awarded.

Your overall result will be either a Distinction, a Pass or a Fail, according to the classification criteria set out below. Your result and marks will be given on a certificate, signed by the Chair of the Faculty Board of Classics, at the end

of the course. This certificate will indicate that you have been awarded an MPhil in 'Classics'. Specification of your subject area (e.g. 'Ancient History', 'Classical Literature', 'Ancient Philosophy'), rather than simply 'Classics', will be available on request.

In 2025 we anticipate emailing you with your result on Wednesday 9 July, and your certificate and other documentation will be available on Monday 14 July. This will enable you, if you are successful, to receive your degree at any University degree ceremony ('Congregation') after that date, the earliest being in the second half of July. Your College will have full details of how to apply for graduation.

## Continuation to the PhD

In order to proceed to a PhD the Faculty's normal requirement (which will be a condition of your continuation) is that you must achieve an overall **Distinction** in the MPhil. To achieve an overall **Distinction** in the MPhil, you must achieve at least a **Pass on the essay section** (marks above 60 in each of the two elements) with an agreed 70 or higher on at least one element, **and a Distinction (75+) on your thesis**.

## Applying for the PhD

You may view your MPhil course as itself completing your Classical studies, or as a step towards further study elsewhere. Alternatively, you may have, or develop during the MPhil year, plans for a PhD at Cambridge. If you intend to continue directly to a PhD and wish to apply for funding of any sort, you must start thinking about your application in Michaelmas Term. Consult the [Postgraduate Admissions web page](#) for full details.

Interviews for PhD places are conducted by two senior members of the Faculty, who make a recommendation to the Postgraduate Studies Committee and the Degree Committee. Any PhD place offered by the Degree Committee will be conditional on your MPhil result (see above). Normally the PhD will take a further three years after the MPhil year, but it is in some circumstances possible to apply to have the MPhil year counted as the first of the three years of study you need for the PhD. This can be and is best done when you are well into your PhD work.

The final decision as to whether you may continue will be taken by the University's Board of Postgraduate Studies, on the recommendation of the Faculty's Degree Committee. The decision will be based principally on your research proposal and interview performance, MPhil marks and thesis examiners' reports. A Distinction overall in the MPhil will normally guarantee a PhD place (see previous section); those who narrowly miss a Distinction overall *may* also be accepted depending on their spread of marks, research proposal and Advisor's report – but there is no guarantee that anyone missing a Distinction will be offered a place. The Degree Committee decision will be notified to you by email, together with your overall MPhil result, on Wed 9 July.

It may well be important to you to know early on how strong your chances are of being permitted to continue. But you should not, for this purpose, rely too heavily on the marks for your first essay. It is perfectly normal that these should fall below the level you achieve by the end of the year. We both hope and expect to see a learning gradient over the 9 months of the MPhil. It is more helpful, as the year proceeds and the marks come in, for you to ask your Advisor for a candid and frank assessment of your chances. You should in any case have alternative plans prepared, perhaps an application for a postgraduate course elsewhere. In order to apply for continuation, you need to apply online and follow the instructions [here](#).

Whether or not you are seeking funding you are strongly urged to apply by Tuesday 7 January 2025 if at all possible. Funding deadlines are given [here](#).

For more details of the different sources of funding available and application deadlines and procedures, check <https://www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/funding> and the [Postgraduate Admissions pages](#) of the Faculty website.

All queries concerning postgraduate funding should be directed to the Postgraduate Administrator at [pg@classics.cam.ac.uk](mailto:pg@classics.cam.ac.uk).

## CamSIS reports

Your Advisor will write a brief progress report on [CamSIS](#) at the end of each term, informed where relevant by your Supervisor. This will be seen by you, the Postgraduate Studies Committee and your College Tutor.

## How the course is administered

The MPhil course is administered by the Faculty's Postgraduate Studies Committee, which also constitutes the Board of MPhil Examiners. Individual pieces of work are marked by examiners chosen from among the Faculty's senior members.

Certain matters, after vetting by the Postgraduate Studies Committee, are formally decided or approved by the Degree Committee of the Classics Faculty within the framework established by the Student Registry. These are (1) admission to the MPhil course; (2) the award of the MPhil degree; (3) permission to continue as a postgraduate student after the MPhil year. The ultimate authority in all postgraduate matters, including cases of appeal, lies with the University's General Board Education Committee.

The timetable in this handbook includes the scheduled dates of Postgraduate Studies Committee and Degree Committee meetings, in case you have any matters you wish to bring to either of them. Please contact the Director of Postgraduate Studies in the first instance if this applies to you. Urgent matters can often be dealt with even between meetings.

Prof. Christopher Whitton, the Director of Postgraduate Studies, will meet each of you towards the end of the Michaelmas Term to see how your first term has gone. The Postgraduate Studies Committee is also eager to learn how it could do things better and we will ask you to fill in questionnaires over the course of the year; you are also encouraged to pass on any observations about the course to Prof. Whitton.

## Troubleshooting and support

The MPhil is an intensive and demanding course, and it is not unusual to come across problems during the year. If you have any problems or questions concerning the academic side of the course you should approach, as appropriate, *either* your Advisor *or* your seminar convenor *or* the Director of Postgraduate Studies. Another very important channel for concerns or dissatisfactions is the Faculty's Postgraduate rep., who sits on the Faculty Board and several other committees and represents the interests of postgraduate students in the Faculty. The current Postgraduate rep (until end of Michaelmas 2024) is Oliver Parkes, a PhD student in classical reception ([graduate.representative@classics.cam.ac.uk](mailto:graduate.representative@classics.cam.ac.uk)), who will host a 'meet and greet' session for new postgraduates at the beginning of Michaelmas Term.

It is a good idea to make contact with your College's Postgraduate Tutor, who will be able to provide advice relating to any problems that arise in connection with College (e.g. accommodation) or more generally. Colleges also offer good support networks and pastoral care. The [University Counselling Service](#) offers help, workshops and counselling across a wide range of issues.

If your work is disrupted as a result of illness or other problems, please let the Director of Postgraduate Studies and your College's Postgraduate Tutor know **at once**, as well as your Advisor. Remember, it is possible to defer submission of work due to illness or other grave cause, but in normal circumstances you must make an application to defer at least one week before the submission deadline.

For problems of a very serious nature, or that cannot be resolved within the Faculty, the University has a [complaints procedure](#).

## FAQs

*'I can't get in touch with my Advisor or Supervisor. What do I do?'*

Advisors and supervisors may not always be able to reply immediately to requests to meet, and you should make sure that you give them adequate advance warning of a planned meeting. You are, however, entitled to expect a reply within a reasonable timescale (two to three working days in termtime), so do not feel shy about sending a follow-up message. The Faculty expects meetings with Supervisors to occur at least once a fortnight during termtime, and no more than once weekly. If you have ongoing difficulties, do not hesitate to contact the Director of Postgraduate Studies.

*'Can I go to two Text and Topic Seminars series in one term?'*

No: preparation for these can be time-consuming, and it is best for you to focus on one.

*'How do I change my essay / thesis title from the one I submitted?'*

**Before** the published deadline for final changes, you should complete the relevant form and get your Advisor's approval for the new title. You are not allowed to change the title **after** the deadline, but you may add a subtitle to the submitted work, narrowing the focus of the original title, without seeking permission.

*'Where can I find a past paper for my language/epigraphy exam?'*

Sample papers will be made available on Moodle. Please note that the Mycenaean Epigraphy exam involves examining physical materials, which cannot be replicated digitally.

*'My essay/commentary/thesis is over the word-count. What do I do?'*

You may be able to cut down your word-count by adopting a short reference system (see Appendices), and do remember that your bibliography does not count towards the total. Ultimately, however, it is important for students to learn how to make their central arguments in a manner that is both effective and concise. You cannot expect your Advisor (or Supervisor) to cut words for you. The final submitted essay/commentary/thesis **must** be within the word-limit as measured by the 'word count' function in MS Word.

*'How do I get hold of submission forms?'*

Cover sheets are created once the proposed essay and thesis titles have been approved by the Faculty; they will be emailed to you. You will need to complete the word count declaration.

*'Can I extend the submission deadline of my essay / thesis?'*

Only in certain cases: see 'Submission of work' above.

*'Where are my essay marks?'*

Essay/commentary/thesis marks and feedback will be sent by email, at the date and time specified on the timetable.

*'Can I know who marked my essays?'*

Candidates are not informed of who their essay markers are. (Nor are Supervisors or Advisors.) You will be told the identity of your thesis examiners after submission and before the oral examination.

*'Can I appeal against an essay mark?'*

There is no mechanism for challenging judgements of academic quality, or to request an additional marker. You can only appeal on procedural grounds, i.e. if there is reason to believe that the marking process was flawed or unfair. If you wish to appeal, you should talk first to your Advisor and then to the Director of Postgraduate Studies. The window for appeals on any element of the course opens when you receive your formal results at the end of the course, and closes 28 days later. See the University's policy [here](#).

## 2. Resources

### Libraries

Most Classics postgraduate students make the [Faculty Library](#) their main base. You will have access 24/7 once you have signed the 24-hour access form when you call in at the Enquiries Office at the beginning of induction week. Use your University card to enter when the doors are locked. (Your University card is issued by your College.) This 'out-of-hours access' is restricted to the Classics Faculty's lecturers, postgraduate students, and official visitors. Those granted this access must not admit others (including undergraduate students as well as non-members of the Faculty) to the building when it is closed. Please ensure that unauthorised persons do not enter the building when you use the automated doors out of hours; that means allowing the door to shut on someone, even if it seems rude, unless you are sure they are authorised.

The Library collection is excellent, and in regular use. Use your University card to borrow, using the self-service machine. Do not remove books from the library unless they are on loan to you: missing books greatly inconvenience other readers. Please use the reservation slips if you wish to keep books which are not currently on loan to you on a desk in the library.

New students are given a library tour, and the library team are always glad to help with enquiries: feel free to knock on the office door if you find the desk unmanned during working hours. Recommendations for new books are always welcome (email [library@classics.cam.ac.uk](mailto:library@classics.cam.ac.uk)).

You will also want to register to use the **University Library (UL)**, a short walk away on West Road. One of the three 'deposit libraries' in England, its collection duplicates many of the holdings of the Faculty Library, and complements them. Much of the collection is in open stacks and most of the rest can be fetched within 24 hours; it has several reading rooms and study spaces, and you will be given borrowing rights. There is a handy [scan and deliver](#) service, and you can request books, chapters and articles from anywhere in the world through the [interlibrary loans](#) service. There is also a legendary tea room.

You are welcome to use **other departmental libraries**. There are more than 100 libraries across the University. Information about each library can be found [here](#). Most of the arts and humanities libraries (e.g. Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, English, History) are located on the Sidgwick Site. Some may allow you to borrow books.

### Common room

The postgraduate common room is Room G.10. The common room provides a valuable social space, as well as various practical facilities (e.g. the ever-essential kettle, for all things caffeinated). Please keep it clean and tidy! Postgraduate students also have access to the common room in Stage 3 of the building (G.22).

### Museum of Classical Archaeology and Cast Gallery

The Museum of Classical Archaeology located in the Faculty is home to one of the three major surviving plaster cast collections in the UK. The Museum's Cast Gallery (directly above the Library) is open to all 10am-5pm Tuesday-Friday and 2-5pm on Saturdays during term only.

You are welcome to use the Gallery as a space to work, relax and wander. For security reasons, postgraduate access is limited to opening hours.

The Museum also has a small collection of original artefacts (some on display in 1.04), a large collection of sherds, and a collection of epigraphic squeezes.

The Museum runs several volunteer programmes, ranging from collections roles to LGBTQ+ tour guides to the Minimus Latin After School Latin programme, which has seen student volunteers running Latin clubs in local primary schools for more than a decade.

Join [MyMOCA](#) on Facebook to get updates about the Museum. You're also welcome to join [MOCASoc](#), a student society. To find out more, visit the [website](#) or contact the Curator, Dr Susanne Turner ([smt41@cam.ac.uk](mailto:smt41@cam.ac.uk)).

## Computing

In the Faculty Library you'll find four shared Windows desktop computers at the far end for general use, including Microsoft Office applications. There is a printer for student use in the library connected to the University's managed print service. Eduroam wi-fi is available through the Faculty building.

You can find out more information about the University IT services [here](#).

## Copying, printing and scanning

There are 2 MFDs in the Faculty Library. Both devices can print in colour, staple and print A4 and A3. One is in the Library Office (G.13) behind the issue desk. The other is at the far end of the library, near the Archive and fire exit.

'Follow Me Printing' software lets you print to the 'Classics\_FindMe' printer and then collect your printing from either of the MFDs when you release the print job. You can install the 'Classics\_FindMe' printer using the instructions on the SAHIS website (<https://sahis.csah.cam.ac.uk/print>), or ask the IT Helpdesk ([helpdesk@classics.cam.ac.uk](mailto:helpdesk@classics.cam.ac.uk)) for help. Print jobs will be held in the queue for 96 hours (4 days), then deleted.

Swipe your University ID card against the card reader on the MFD to release your prints, or to copy or scan a document. Scans are sent to your @cam.ac.uk email address.

Postgraduate students receive a FreeCredit printing balance at the start of the academic year: £20 for PhD students; and £10 for MPhil. To top up your credit please go to <http://www.ds.cam.ac.uk/mydsprint>. The cost of printing and photocopying is 5p per A4 sheet and 10p per A3 sheet in black and white and 20p per A4 sheet and 40p per A3 sheet in colour. Scanning is free. A card is available from the Library staff to enable postgraduate to copy material for Faculty seminars, classes and reading groups at no charge.

### 3. Specialist skills courses

#### Academic reading courses in German

German for Classicists is taught by Paul A. Hoegger, Coordinator for German at Cambridge University Language Centre and Affiliated Lecturer in the German Section of the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages. He has many years of experience teaching German to undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The course, running from October 2024 until March 2025, will consist of 15 classes of 90 minutes each. It is offered at three levels of proficiency:

**Total beginners**      Thursdays 11.30-1, starting 17 October 2024

**Intermediate 1**      Tuesdays 11.30-1, starting 22 October 2024

**Intermediate 2**      Fridays 1.30-3, starting 18 October 2024

The course aims to help students from all branches of Classics to cope with reading specialist literature. Similar courses exist in some other Faculties, but there is a special need for advanced students in Classics to have a reading knowledge of German, because of the major role of German scholarship in many areas of Classics. The classes will help students with their immediate needs, while providing linguistic training for those planning further academic work.

*Course structure and content.* The first session will be devoted to academic reading skills in general as well as to particular issues concerning reading in German. After that each session will be divided into two equal parts of 45 minutes.

The first part will consist of the teaching of general language skills, that is to say basic grammar relevant to reading texts, structure of written academic German, points of word formation, comprehension exercises, cognates, and 'international' words - plus academic conventions, abbreviations, etc.

The second part will be devoted to reading original German texts. There will be tasks to develop insight into the reading process. Here specific vocabulary and terminology relevant to Classics will be practised. The typical features of academic style will be analysed in order to enable students to work out sentence- structure and so promote fast-reading skills; in addition, close reading of material in word-by-word detail will be practised. The subject matter of the texts used will be drawn from main areas of classics in which the participants are involved, and will be varied, so that students can get to know the terminology of their specific field. Depending on the size of the group, help will be given to individuals with the specific texts on which they are working.

Please register for your preferred course [here](#). NB there are other basic (= total beginners) LAP courses. Please make sure you enrol in the correct course. Look out for 'primarily for Classicists'.

Mr Paul Hoegger (pah3)

#### Skills in Classics

##### Greek and Roman epigraphy

Inscriptions provide a wealth of information regarding almost all aspects of the Greek and Roman worlds: institutions, administration, law, religion, society, language, prosopography etc. The aim of the course is to introduce students to how this material can be used by the historian, as well as to the scholarly tools used in epigraphy. Students will be encouraged to read and discuss interesting texts from different classes of inscriptions, and there will be a particular focus, where possible, on the physical context of the inscription.

An introductory session will be followed by three classes on different types of Greek epigraphy, then four on different types of Roman epigraphy, concluding with a session on the Greek epigraphy of the Roman Empire. The course is available to Part II and postgraduate students; no previous experience in working with inscriptions is required and only basic knowledge of Greek and Latin.

Preliminary reading: J. Bodel, *Epigraphic Evidence. Ancient History from Inscriptions* (London 2001).

Prof. Robin Osborne (ro225) and Dr Ben Kolbeck (bgrk2)

##### Mediaeval Latin manuscripts

There will be three classes: on Late-Antique and Early Medieval Latin, High-Medieval Latin, and Late-Medieval and Renaissance Latin. Each will meet once per week for 20 weeks (MT, LT, and ET weeks 1-4). They should be in the History Faculty Boardroom: classes 1 and 2 on Friday mornings; and classes 3 on Monday or Tuesday mornings (subject to confirmation).

In each we'll read a series of texts in digitised manuscript form, generally spending two weeks on each text. Students will be given the text in advance (i.e. not unseen) and are asked to read it (and if needed, take notes) but under no circumstances prepare a translation. We'll then read it together and discuss script, abbreviations, the manuscript, grammar, text, and literary/historical content together in class.

Dr Jacob Currie (jmrc2)

### **Mycenaean epigraphy**

Those interested in taking the Mycenaean epigraphy exercise in place of the second essay should attend the 'Writing in the Aegean Bronze Age' Text and Topic seminar in Michaelmas. There will be further hands-on sessions in Lent term. Past exam papers can be found [here](#).

Prof. Torsten Meissner (tm10012)

### **Greek and Roman numismatics**

A series of eight lectures and hands-on classes, conducted in the collections of the Department of Coins and Medals of the Fitzwilliam Museum. The material, which ranges from the 7th century B.C. to the Late Roman Empire, will be considered from various angles – e.g. thematic, typological, archaeological and historical. Students will be exposed to the scholarly techniques of numismatics and will have the opportunity to develop their ideas for an MPhil essay or dissertation.

Dr Adrian Popescu (ap345), Affiliated Lecturer in Numismatics

### **Textual criticism and palaeography**

Candidates interested in doing an exercise in either textual criticism or palaeography as a substitute for an essay should contact Prof. Stephen Oakley. MPhil students are welcome to attend the Part II lectures in Greek and Latin textual criticism (the course called 'A4').

Prof. Stephen Oakley (spo23)

## 4. Financial matters

Two types of travel funding are available to MPhil students.

### Henry Arthur Thomas awards ('HAT grants')

If you are planning to travel **in connection with your studies** (for example, to attend a conference or to visit a museum or library to study a particular object), you may apply for support from the Henry Arthur Thomas Fund, having first approached your College for funding. Each postgraduate student has an individual annual allowance; for 2024-25 this is £1000. Details of how to apply and how the money may be spent, along with an application form, can be found on Moodle [here](#).

Other types of expenses essential for your research (e.g. subscription to computer software) may on occasion be reimbursed from the Henry Arthur Thomas Fund. In this case, you should discuss the matter with your Supervisor and then contact the Secretary of the Finance Committee (Dr Yannis Galanakis, [ig298@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ig298@cam.ac.uk)) prior to incurring the expenditure.

If you have any queries, please contact Dr Galanakis ([ig298@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ig298@cam.ac.uk)).

### Corbett Travel Awards

If your travel plans are **unconnected with research** you may apply for a Corbett Travel Award. Preference is given to students who have not visited Classical lands before, who carry a strong recommendation from their Supervisor, and who have worked out a thoughtful itinerary.

Application forms are available on Moodle (as above), and must be returned before the division of the Lent Term (for travel during the Easter vacation) or the end of the Easter Term (for travel in during the Summer vacation). Late applications are not accepted.

### Risk Assessment

Students should contact the Faculty Administrator ([administrator@classics.cam.ac.uk](mailto:administrator@classics.cam.ac.uk)) for help making a suitable risk assessment if they intend to carry out research or visit museums or sites which are

- a) outside the UK and the EU, and/or
- b) beyond the normal course of tourism, and/or
- c) in countries with any British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) safety warnings.

### Childcare support

Postgraduate students may claim reimbursement of unavoidable out-of-pocket expenses for childcare incurred when attending Faculty seminars outside normal working hours (weekdays 9am-5pm) and the Corbett and Gray Lectures. Applications will be considered by the Managers of the Postgraduate Studies Fund, and must be accompanied by a statement of support from the Advisor. You are advised to discuss applications in advance with the Director of Postgraduate Studies.

### Hardship

The Classics Faculty Board is able to offer limited financial assistance from its own Trust Funds to postgraduate students who are experiencing **unexpected financial difficulties**. Postgraduate students in unexpected financial hardship may apply to the Postgraduate Studies Fund at any stage of their degree. Application forms are available on Moodle.

## 5. Further information

### The Classical postgraduate community

One of the great assets available to you is the support and collective experience and expertise of your 80 or so fellow postgraduates in the Classics Faculty. All our postgraduate students, whether registered for the MPhil or PhD or visiting, are equally valued and form a single community. All officially registered postgraduate students have the same rights, including library privileges, use of G.10 (the postgraduate common room) and G.22, and access to Faculty grants for research purposes (see above).

For further details, see the [unofficial postgraduate handbook](#).

### Equality and diversity

The Faculty is committed to supporting and sustaining a diverse community, and to avoiding prejudice based on race, gender (female, male or other), sexuality, class or religion (or lack of it). When anyone enters the Faculty building or interacts with the Faculty's members, they are implicitly entering into a contract requiring them to treat others — including, importantly, non-academic staff — with courtesy and dignity. We expect all members of our community to strive to be welcoming towards and supportive of each other. In particular, we expect each individual to engage positively with those who do not share their social identity and/or role within the Faculty.

For further information see [here](#).

### Harassment and discrimination

Unfortunately, sometimes things do go wrong, and it is important to acknowledge this and where appropriate seek redress. 'Harassment' is any kind of unwelcome or inappropriate physical or verbal interaction, however fleeting it may appear. 'Discrimination' occurs when an individual or group is denied an opportunity on the grounds of gender, race, sexuality or religion (or lack of it), or because of particular circumstances (e.g. family or caring responsibilities). It can be direct (e.g. if a decision is taken on the explicit grounds that a member of one social group is to be preferred) or it can be indirect (i.e. if a decision taken for one reason has the additional and perhaps unintended consequence of discriminating; for instance, when an important meeting is scheduled at a time when those with family responsibilities are unlikely to be able to attend).

Harassment and direct discrimination are always wrong and we encourage you to report all instances. Indirect discrimination is by definition more nebulous, and may be justifiable in certain circumstances. For example, it may be that there is a good reason to schedule certain events such as open days for potential undergraduates at times that are inconvenient for those with family responsibilities or on religious holy days. Nevertheless, indirect discrimination should be avoided whenever possible. It is always worth letting someone in the Faculty know if you perceive it, and it may be appropriate to report it.

If you have experienced harassment or discrimination, you can get advice on how to report it and/or get support [here](#). For further resources on harassment and sexual misconduct see [here](#).

The Faculty's Equality Officer is Prof. Tim Whitmarsh ([tjgw100@cam.ac.uk](mailto:tjgw100@cam.ac.uk)). He is available to talk through, in complete confidence, any equalities-related issues you would like to discuss with him; please do not hesitate to contact him if you would like to meet with him. There are several other possible places to seek advice: (a) your Advisor (b) a college tutor or (c) the Director of Postgraduate Studies. The Faculty Administrative Officer Mr Nigel Thompson ([administrator@classics.cam.ac.uk](mailto:administrator@classics.cam.ac.uk)) is always happy to offer advice about where best issues should be raised.

For further information on what the Faculty is doing to ensure that all students, staff and visitors feel equally welcome and for further resources see [here](#).

### Disability and mental health

As a Faculty we are committed to supporting disabled students. Disability is defined as any long-term health condition, mental or physical, which substantially affects your ability to carry out normal daily activities.

Students who have a disability may find it helpful to contact the University Accessibility and Disability Resource

Centre (ADRC) for help and advice. It is located in the Student Services Centre, Bene't St, Cambridge, CB2 3PT; telephone 01223 332301; textphone 01223 764085; website <https://www.disability.admin.cam.ac.uk>.

Support available at the ADRC:

- Information and advice on disability issues
- Specialist one-to-one study skills sessions and mentorship
- Assessment for dyslexia
- Guidance on assessments for disabilities other than dyslexia
- Assistance with funding applications
- The loan of specialist equipment
- Human support (e.g. note-taker or mentor) through the Non-Medical Assistance Scheme
- Liaison with your College and Department

The ADRC can also provide a **Student Support Document (SSD)** outlining reasonable adjustments that must be made by the Faculty, such as lecture recording, flexibility with deadlines and special arrangements for examinations. SSDs are circulated with student consent to relevant teaching staff.

The Disabled Students' Campaign provides information, resources and support for disabled students on issues such as exam adjustments and intermission; see <https://www.disabled.cusu.cam.ac.uk/>.

The Faculty's Disability Liaison Officer is Mr Nigel Thompson ([administrator@classics.cam.ac.uk](mailto:administrator@classics.cam.ac.uk)), who will also be very happy to give advice.

For further resources and support within the University for students with mental health difficulties, please see <https://www.studentsupport.cam.ac.uk/mental-health-advice-service>.

For information on access to buildings in the University, please see <https://www.disability.admin.cam.ac.uk/building-access-guide>. The Faculty follows the University's Code of Practice in relation to reasonable adjustment for disabled students, details of which are available at <https://www.disability.admin.cam.ac.uk/code-practice-reasonable-adjustments-disabled-students>.

## Keeping up to date

There are many events and opportunities of interest to postgraduate students, taking place both in Cambridge and elsewhere, and being aware of them all is no easy task. Details of lectures, seminars, courses, scholarships, jobs and so forth are circulated in emails to all postgraduate students from time to time by the Chief Secretary, Postgraduate Administrator or the Postgraduate Representative. It is also a good idea to look regularly at the Faculty website. You might also like to join a national classicists' email list. Scholars from around the world regularly send messages to such lists, and they are a great way to keep up to date. Two of the best lists are:

JISC M@IL: [classicsgrads@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:classicsgrads@jiscmail.ac.uk) see [www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/CLASSICSGRADS.html](http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/CLASSICSGRADS.html)

Classics listserv: [classicsists@listserv.liv.ac.uk](mailto:classicsists@listserv.liv.ac.uk) see <http://listserv.liv.ac.uk/archives/classicists.html>

## Training needs

The Faculty is committed to ensuring that the training needs of its postgraduate students are met. Courses in specialist skills are run by the Faculty throughout the year; for details, see the relevant sections of this handbook. Postgraduates can also take advantage of the training courses run by the University's Researcher Development Programme, (<https://www.rdp.cam.ac.uk>), by the Language Centre (<https://www.langcen.cam.ac.uk>) and by the Computing Service (<https://www.uis.cam.ac.uk/training>). The Careers Service has a wealth of useful information about jobs and future study available on its website (<http://www.careers.cam.ac.uk>), and it is possible to arrange an individual interview with a careers adviser to discuss your future plans.

## 6. Course timetable and deadlines

This section sets out the key dates for MPhil students. The first two columns are most crucial – *record them in your calendar*. The third and fourth columns schedule meetings for the Postgraduate Studies and Degree committees, which are of less immediate importance.

Lecture timetables and seminar details can be found online. However, changes are common, and you should check the Faculty website (or the notice board in the Faculty foyer) for revisions.

Meetings for Students	Student Deadlines	Postgraduate Studies Committee		Degree Committee
MICHAELMAS TERM				
<b>Tue 8 Oct</b> <b>11.00-12.00:</b> Tours of the Library and Museum <b>1.00-2.00:</b> Lunch and Getting to Know (room G.21) <b>2.00-3:30:</b> Welcome & Research Skills Seminar 1 (G.19)  <b>Wed 9 Oct</b> <b>1:00-2:00:</b> Electronic Resources (room G.21) <b>2.00-3.30:</b> Intro to Specialist Skills (1.02) <b>4:30-5:30:</b> Meet and Greet with Postgrad Rep (G.21) <b>5.30-6.30:</b> Drinks party for new postgraduate students (Cast Gallery)  <b>Thu 10 Oct</b> <b>2:00-3:30:</b> Research Skills Seminar 2 (G.19)  <b>Fri 11 Oct</b> <b>2:00-3:30:</b> Research Skills Seminar 3 (G.19)  <b>Mon 14 Oct</b> <b>2:00-3:30:</b> Research Skills Seminar 4 (G.19)  <b>Tue and Wed from 22-23 Oct to 3-4 Dec</b> <b>2.00-3.30 or 4.00:</b> Text and Topic Seminars  <b>Mon 25 Nov to Fri 6 Dec</b> Individual meetings with Director of Postgraduate Studies (room G.04)  <b>Mon 16 Dec</b> <b>4.00:</b> First essay marks by email	<b>Wed 30 Oct</b> <b>12 noon:</b> First essay title deadline  <b>Thu 31 Oct</b> <b>12 noon:</b> Submission of requests to take an examination or exercise  <b>Wed 13 Nov</b> <b>12 noon:</b> Last date to request change to approved first essay title  <b>Wed 27 Nov</b> <b>12 noon:</b> <i>Deadline for first essay submission</i>  <b>Wed 4 Dec</b> <b>12 noon:</b> Submit proposals for translation and commentary for those taking Greek or Latin language	<b>Tu 15 Oct</b>          <b>Mo 11 Nov</b>          <b>Fr 13 Dec</b>	<b>2.00</b>          <b>2.00</b>          <b>2.00</b>	<b>Th 24 Oct</b>          <b>Th 14 Nov</b>          <b>Th 5 Dec</b>

LENT TERM				
<b>Tue 21 Jan</b> <b>2.00–3.30:</b> Research Skills Seminar 5 (G.19)	<b>Wed 22 Jan</b> <b>12 noon:</b> Second essay title deadline			
<b>Tue and Wed from 4-5 Feb to 18-19 Mar</b> <b>2.00–3.30 or 4.00:</b> Text and Topic Seminars	<b>Thu 23 Jan</b> <b>12 noon:</b> Last date to propose revised exam arrangements	<b>Mo 3 Feb</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>Th 6 Feb</b>
<b>Fri 21 Mar</b> <b>4.00:</b> Second essay and translation and commentary for those taking Greek or Latin language marks by email	<b>Wed 12 Feb</b> <b>12 noon:</b> Last date to request change to approved second essay title			
	<b>Thu 13 Feb</b> <b>12 noon:</b> Last date to request change to translation and commentary for those taking Greek or Latin language			
	<b>Wed 26 Feb</b> <b>12 noon:</b> <i>Deadline for second essay submission</i>		<b>2.00</b>	<b>Th 27 Feb</b>
	<b>Thu 27 Feb</b> <b>12 noon:</b> <i>Deadline for submission of translation and commentary for Greek and Latin language</i>	<b>Mo 17 Mar</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>Th 20 Mar</b>

EASTER TERM				
	<b>Wed 23 April</b> <b>12 noon:</b> Thesis title deadline. Note there is no possibility to change thesis title			
<b>Fri 9 May</b> <b>4.00:</b> Mycenaean epigraphy marks by email	<b>Thu 24 April</b> <b>10 am - 1 pm:</b> Mycenaean Epigraphy exam	<b>Tue 6 May</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>Th 8 May</b>
	<b>Mon 2 June</b> <b>4 pm:</b> Last date for submission of full draft of thesis to Supervisor	<b>Tue 27 May</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>Th 29 May</b>
<b>Wed 11 June</b> <b>6.00-8.00:</b> Drinks party and course discussion	<b>Tue 10 June</b> <b>10 am - 1 pm:</b> Greek and Latin language exams			

(Cast Gallery)	<b>Wed 11 June</b> <i>12 noon: Deadline for thesis submission</i>			
	<b>Mon 23 to Fri 27 Jun</b> Oral examinations			
	<b>Wed 9 Jul</b> Email notification of result by email including Greek and Latin exams and status of PhD applications	<b>Fr 4 Jul</b>	<b>9.00</b>  <b>2.00</b>	<b>Th 3 Jul</b>
	<b>Mon 14 Jul: Results released</b>		<b>10.00</b>	<b>Tu 8 Jul</b>

## 7. Marking and classification criteria

### Marking criteria for MPhil essays and theses

MPhil students are not required to read modern languages other than English. Errors of spelling or of editing should not be taken into account in marking where they do not affect the clarity of the argument.

Class	Numerical Mark	Typical features
<b>DISTINCTION</b>	80–85	Topic important and decisively treated. Discussion is rigorous, sophisticated, imaginative and far-reaching. Theoretical and methodological issues are identified and acutely discussed. Primary material is completely mastered and treated with acuity, freshness, and sustained insight. Scholarship on both the narrower and the wider field is comprehensively understood. The argument is original* and irresistible. The writing is invariably clear and often elegant. Work at this level would almost be publishable with little change.
	75–79	Topic is well chosen, offering scope for significant research results and new insights. These opportunities are effectively realised. The topic is covered completely. Discussion is notably perceptive and impressive in its range. Theoretical and methodological issues are well treated. Primary material is known in detail and treated with subtlety and insight. Scholarship is thoroughly covered and well understood, and ramifications of study for wider issues are well indicated. The argument is significantly original* and compelling. The writing is lucid and well adapted to the subject.
<b>PASS</b>	70–74	Topic is well chosen, offering scope for significant research results and new insights. Discussion of the particular topic is coherent and cogent. Theoretical and methodological issues are clearly indicated. Primary material is well understood, and exploited effectively. Relevant scholarship goes beyond the obvious landmarks, is appropriately referred to, and is engaged with in a mature way. The overall argument is clear and convincing. The writing is well structured.
	65–69	Topic is suitable in scale, offering scope for significant research results, and the questions posed are clear and reasoned. Analysis of individual aspects is sensible, and an overall argument can be followed. The relevant primary material is known and awareness is shown of appropriate techniques for its analysis. Major scholarly landmarks are known and referred to, and relevant methodologies are employed.

	60–64	Topic is suitable in scale, offering scope for significant research results, and awareness is shown of the kind of questions that the topic should prompt. Most relevant primary material is known. Knowledge is displayed of the most important scholarship and methodologies. A broad overall argument is discernible, and discussion of many individual aspects is sensible.
<b>FAIL</b>	59 and below	<p>Topic may be poorly chosen, either too broad or too narrow to allow significant research results. What the topic demands is poorly understood. Discussion of the topic is superficial, too highly generalised or too narrowly focused.</p> <p>Knowledge of the relevant primary material is insufficient or insecure. Knowledge of the modern scholarship has very significant gaps. The argument may be incoherent or implausible. The writing may be seriously lacking in clarity.</p>

\* ‘Original’ for this purpose does not mean ‘unprecedented in the history of scholarship’; work marked at the Distinction level will, however, show a strong understanding of current orthodoxies in the relevant field, and an ability to position arguments effectively within and against them.

## Marking criteria for a submitted translation of, and commentary on, a passage of Greek or Latin

Class	Numerical mark	Typical features
<b>DISTINCTION</b>	Normally 75 to 80. Higher marks may be given for exceptional work.	Translation: accurate and coherent translation of the text, written in idiomatic English which is easy to follow.  Commentary: identification of, and appropriately thorough discussion of, parts requiring explication; evidence of wide-ranging knowledge of secondary literature and modern interpretations of the text; evidence of independent critical thought in weighing up alternative explanations. Cogent and compelling discussion.
<b>PASS</b>	70–74	Translation: largely accurate translation, with minor inaccuracies which are occasional and infrequent; written in English which is easy to follow but may contain some infelicities which do not impede understanding.  Commentary: identification of parts requiring explication, addressed in a satisfactory but not necessarily complete fashion; clear evidence of knowledge of secondary literature and modern interpretations of the text; evidence of critical thought in weighing up alternative explanations. Cogent discussion.
	60–69	Translation: weaker, with a greater number of inaccuracies or misunderstandings; written in English which ranges from workmanlike at the top end to ‘translationese’ at the bottom.  Commentary: identification of points requiring explication variable, with some covered in less detail than others; at the bottom end, frequently superficial discussion. Some evidence of knowledge of secondary literature and modern interpretations of the text; some evidence of critical thought in weighing up alternative explanations. Discussion may be non-committal or unconvincing in parts.
<b>FAIL</b>	59 and below	Translation: many errors, English incoherent or unclear.  Commentary: little sign of identification of points requiring explication, with entirely superficial discussion. Little evidence of knowledge of secondary literature and modern interpretations of the text; no evidence of critical thought in weighing up alternative explanations. Significantly below the level expected of a postgraduate student.

## Marking criteria for an MPhil language exam in Latin or Greek

Class	Numerical Mark	Typical features
<b>DISTINCTION</b>	80–85	Outstanding comprehension of the original, with few if any mistakes. Good English style. 85 indicates a translation which can scarcely be improved on and reads like an original piece of English.
	75–79	Excellent comprehension of the original, with a few mistakes. Good English style.
<b>PASS</b>	70–74	Good comprehension shown of the original. Vocabulary and understanding of grammar and syntax are largely secure, and the original is rendered into generally good English style. There will be few fundamental errors, but occasional imprecision or paraphrase or gaps are permissible.
	65–69	The gist of the original is understood to a reasonable level. Syntax is largely under control. Some basic errors of syntax and weaknesses in knowledge of vocabulary are permissible.
	60–64	The original is understood at a basic level. An understanding of grammar and syntax is shown, and some vocabulary is known. There may be some gaps, weaker patches, paraphrase or guesswork (even for entire sentences or clauses).
<b>FAIL</b>	59 and below	Little or no comprehension of the original. No great evidence of understanding of syntax, grammar or vocabulary. A fail mark may also be given for a seriously incomplete script, where no positive judgement of quality can be made.

## Marking criteria for an MPhil language exam in an ancient language other than Latin or Greek

Class	Numerical mark	Typical features
<b>DISTINCTION</b>	Normally 75 to 80.  Higher marks may be given for exceptional work.	A performance which includes some or all of the following features: accurate and coherent analysis of data; good range and precision in knowledge of primary material; excellent understanding of relevant phenomena in related languages; an ability to make connections between different words and texts; clear evidence of knowledge of secondary literature and modern interpretations of texts; evidence of independent critical thought in weighing up alternative explanations.
<b>PASS</b>	70–74	Two alternatives: i) uneven performance with many features earning Distinction marks but with some inaccuracies and misunderstandings as well; ii) a generally well informed and clearly written performance, but without the depth and range of an overall performance of Distinction.
	60–69	Weaker, with a greater number of inaccuracies or misunderstandings. The reports may indicate the presence of First class (i.e. 70+) work, but the overall strengths of the performance clearly do not outweigh its flaws. Lower marks in this range indicate a bare competence in the criteria, with just enough knowledge of the data and ability to present it to merit a pass, but with significant signs of error or miscomprehension.
<b>FAIL</b>	59 and below	Lightweight, with significant and consistent failure of comprehension of material. Many errors, and substantial misunderstandings of phenomena. Incoherent or unclear accounts, with little or no evidence of knowledge of modern scholarship. A script significantly below the level expected of a postgraduate student.

## Criteria for classifying performance in the MPhil

The examination is divided into two parts: (i) an essay part consisting of two elements (two essays of around 4,000 words each; or one essay plus a language examination or exercise); (ii) a thesis of up to 12,000 words.

### Essay part

Candidates are deemed to have **failed** in this part where there is an agreed mark below 60 in either element. Where a candidate has failed marginally in one element and performed strongly in the other element the Examiners may choose to award a Pass.

Candidates are awarded a **Pass** in this part where the agreed marks for both elements are in the range 60–74.

Candidates are awarded a **Distinction** in this part where the agreed mark for one element is 75 or above and the agreed mark for the other element is 60 or above.

### Thesis part

Candidates are deemed to have **failed** in this part where the agreed mark for the thesis is below 60.

Candidates are awarded a **Pass** in this part where the agreed mark for the thesis is in the range 60–74.

Candidates are awarded a **Distinction** in this part where the agreed mark for the thesis is 75 or above.

### Overall classification

Candidates are deemed to have **failed overall** where they have failed **one or both** parts. Where a candidate has failed one part marginally and displayed a strong performance elsewhere the Examiners may choose to award a **Pass**.

Candidates are normally awarded an **overall Pass** where they have achieved a Pass in the thesis **and** a Pass or Distinction in the essay part.

Candidates are normally awarded an **overall Distinction** where they have achieved a Distinction in the thesis **and** a Pass in the essay part, with an agreed mark of 70 or above for at least one element in the essay part.

The Examiners may award an overall Distinction where the agreed mark for the Thesis is marginally below that required for a Distinction, on the basis of a strong performance in the essay part.

## 8. Formatting

When writing your MPhil essays and thesis, even the first drafts, it is important to establish consistent habits from the outset. If you do not do this, you will waste a lot of valuable time later on.

Work should be typed on **A4** (not US letter) pages, **1.5-spaced** and **paginated**. Notes should be numbered consecutively, and presented preferably as footnotes.

Check a style guide if you are uncertain of the correct use of standard **punctuation** (especially the comma, colon and semicolon).

**Quotations** of English and other modern languages using the Roman alphabet should be printed roman (i.e. not italics), in **single inverted commas**. A quotation within a quoted passage has double inverted commas. [These conventions should be reversed if you are using US spelling and punctuation.]

**Proofread** your work carefully, and take especial care with **quotations of Greek and Latin**. If you copy and paste from the internet, be sure to remove hyperlinks and extraneous markings, and check the text against an authoritative edition such as an Oxford Classical Text.

Short passages of self-contained phrases in languages other than English (such as *coup de grace* or *fait accompli*) should be **italicised**. When quoting **Latin**, use italics or inverted commas, but not both: *ueni uidi uici* or ‘ueni uidi uici’. Greek should not be italicised or put in inverted commas. Quotation marks in Greek should always be double. Longer passages in any language should be ‘displayed’ and printed roman, without quotation marks, like this:

Arma uirumque cano, Troiae qui primus ab oris  
Italiam ... (Virg. *Aen.* 1.1-2)

**Greek** must be printed with breathings (aspiration). You may print iotas either adscript or subscript, and both lunate and standard sigma are permissible; but consistency is required. **Accentuation** is not formally required for MPhil essays or theses, and examiners are not allowed to penalise mistakes with it. However, you are strongly encouraged to include it as a standard and necessary part of the language. If you are unfamiliar with the principles of Greek accentuation, you may wish to attend the lectures and classes on Greek accents.

In **citing ancient and modern works**, you are expected to use a consistent and clear system. There are several ways to present bibliographic references. It is sensible to follow that of a major press, such as Cambridge University Press. The most economical way to give bibliographic references is the ‘Harvard system’, giving name and year in a footnote (e.g. ‘Syme 1962a’ or ‘Jones 2010: 278-9’) and full bibliographic details in an alphabetically arranged bibliography at the end. (Remember that footnotes are included in the wordcount, but the bibliography is not.) There is no need to give presses as well as places of publication (e.g. write ‘Cambridge’, not ‘Cambridge: Cambridge University Press’), and common journal titles are best abbreviated (e.g. *CQ*, *JHS*, *MD*, *TAPA*).

**Abbreviations** may be assigned to books that will be generally familiar (e.g.: *OCD*<sup>5</sup> [the superscript ‘5’ indicating ‘fifth edition’], *LSJ*, *CHCL*, *FGrHist*, *IG*, *RE*, omitting full points). A useful list of conventional abbreviations can be found on the website of the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (<https://oxfordre.com/classics>).

**Ancient authorities** should be referred to following the style adopted in an English-language journal such as the *Classical Quarterly*: e.g.: Aristophanes, *Birds* 135; Hom. *Od.* 1.1 (not ‘α 1’); Lucr. *DRN* 1.47; Cic. *Phil.* 2.20 (not 2.8 or 2.8.20); Plin. *NH* 9.176 (not 9.83.176 or 9.83); Quint. 10.1.46; Soph. *OC* 225.

Titles of works are always **italicised**. Use **arabic numerals**, not Roman, in all references. Use ‘v.’ and ‘vv.’ (not ‘1.’ and ‘1l.’, which are ambiguous) to specify line numbers.

**Footnotes** should be treated like any other sentence, i.e. should end with a full stop (even if it consists only of references), and should include spaces between words, numbers, and after full stops. They are best set at the end of a sentence, after any punctuation (as in this example).<sup>1</sup>

**Diacritics**, common in particular in foreign names and thus likely to appear in bibliographies, must always be indicated, e.g. Väänänen (not Vaananen), Książki (not Ksiazki). For purposes of alphabetical listing, diacritics are disregarded: Čop should be listed under C, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> See e.g. Smith 2000: 22.

## 9. Plagiarism and academic misconduct

Academic misconduct can take a number of forms, including (but not limited to):

- Plagiarism: using someone else's ideas, words, data or other material produced by them without acknowledgement;
- Self-plagiarism: using your own ideas, words, data or other material submitted for formal assessment at this University or another institution, or for publication elsewhere, without acknowledgement;
- Using any unacknowledged content generated by AI;
- Contract cheating: contracting a third party to provide work, which is then used or submitted as part of a formal assessment as though it is your own work;
- Collusion: working with others and using the ideas or words of this joint work without acknowledgment, or allowing others to use the ideas or words of joint work without acknowledgment.

**You are obliged** to have read the [University's policy on plagiarism](#). Here you will find the University's guidelines on plagiarism, how to avoid it, what will happen if plagiarism is suspected, and what will happen if plagiarism is found to have occurred. If, after reading that guidance and this handbook, you have any outstanding queries you should seek clarification at the earliest opportunity from the Director of Postgraduate Studies or your Supervisor or Advisor.

**Plagiarism** is the commonest form of academic misconduct. If you submit as your own work, irrespective of your intent to deceive, work that derives in part or in its entirety from the work of others (including programmes like ChatGPT) without due acknowledgement, you are plagiarising. It is also possible to plagiarise yourself, by submitting your own work where that work has been previously submitted for assessment either in Cambridge or in another university. Plagiarism represents both poor scholarship and a breach of academic integrity.

The Faculty uses the anti-plagiarism software Turnitin to screen all postgraduate work submitted for examination. Details are available on request to [pg@classics.cam.ac.uk](mailto:pg@classics.cam.ac.uk).

If you present as your own ideas those which are in fact drawn from the work of others, or you submit work of your own that has previously been submitted for assessment, you run the risk of being penalised by the examiners and of being disciplined by the University. The Faculty is aware that some students are initially unclear as to what constitutes fair and unfair use of the work of others: here follows some guidance on the subject. Students from other academic traditions should be aware that there may be differences in the approach to academic writing with which they are familiar and those expected in Cambridge, where you are expected to be explicit when acknowledging all sources whether paraphrased or quoted.

The problem of plagiarism relates to all types of written work, including work submitted for supervisions. In fact, it is through the writing of these drafts that most students quickly come to appreciate the extent to which earlier work in a particular field should be explicitly acknowledged. Supervisors and Advisors can advise their students whether they are giving adequate recognition to the ideas formulated by other scholars which are being reported in their writing. On common-sense grounds, it is clearly safer to be overscrupulous in attributing other writers' ideas than to be too sparing. The experience of attending lectures and reading academic books and articles will also help you see in practice how scholars acknowledge the contributions of others.

The possibility of plagiarism should be borne in mind particularly when writing work for assessment. You are expected to have a solid grasp of existing publications relevant to the topic, but the work that you submit must be your own, except where the contributions of others are acknowledged. It is essential when you are working on, and writing up, your essays and thesis to be extremely careful to distinguish your own ideas from those of others, and to show by means of references in footnotes or main text (and quotation marks, when you are using an author's own words) occasions when you are alluding to someone else's work. In any case, you should aim to 'make the argument your own' by using your own words and providing your own judgments on the other authors' views, rather than following closely someone else's argument and examples. Likewise, when referring to ancient authors or documents, you should add references, so the reader can find the passage in question: you are required by the Regulations to 'give full references to sources'. If you use a published English translation, you should acknowledge it.

## 10. Glossary of Cambridge words and phrases

**Academic:** someone employed by the University or a College to teach and/or research.

**Academic year:** the year from 1 October to 30 September.

**Administrative staff:** those employed by the Faculty for purposes other than academic teaching and research.

**Advisor:** the individual who guides an MPhil student's studies over the course of the year.

**Caucus:** a subject division within the Classics Faculty. The six Caucuses are A (literature), B (philosophy), C (history), D (art and archaeology), E (philology and linguistics) and X (interdisciplinary studies and classical reception). Each Caucus has a Secretary and Chair from among the UTOs in that subject.

**Chair:** the Chair of the Faculty Board (generally known as 'Chair of the Faculty') has *de facto* responsibility for the running of the Faculty. The position is held by a UTO and rotates every 2-3 years. In Michaelmas 2024 the Chair is Prof. James Warren. From Lent 2025 it will be Prof. Emily Gowers.

**College Teaching Officer (CTO):** an academic employed by a college rather than by the University (contrast 'University Teaching Officer').

**Convenor:** the senior member tasked with organising a Text and Topic seminar.

**Degree Committee:** the body of UTOs (identical with the Faculty Board) who oversee admission, registration, review and the award of degrees.

**Director of Postgraduate Studies (DPS):** the UTO tasked with overseeing the MPhil and PhD programmes. In 2024-25 this is Prof. Christopher Whitton, [clw36@cam.ac.uk](mailto:clw36@cam.ac.uk).

**Director of Studies (DoS) in Classics:** the individual responsible for the studies of undergraduate students in Classics in a given College. This is most often a Fellow of the College. You may meet the Classics DoS of your College in a social capacity (e.g. drinks parties or a Classics Society), but s/he has no formal responsibility for postgraduates.

**Easter:** see 'Term'.

**Faculty:** Classics in Cambridge is called a 'Faculty' rather than a 'Department'. The word 'Faculty' is used both for the institutional structure and for the building (but not for academics in general).

**Faculty Board:** ultimate authority for decision-making in the Faculty lies with the Faculty Board, a body of 19 UTOs and others whose membership varies annually.

**Fellow:** a senior member of a College. All UTOs in Classics hold Fellowships in Colleges, but not all Classics Fellows of Colleges are UTOs (see CTO and JRF).

**Graduate student:** the former term for a Postgraduate Student.

**Holiday:** properly, time spent off work. Loosely, used by undergraduates for 'vacation' (the period between terms). PhD students are expected to take holidays, but otherwise to work through the vacations.

**Intensive Greek/Latin:** Greek or Latin studied by undergraduates from beginner or intermediate level.

**Junior Member** (of the Faculty of Classics): any student (undergraduate or postgraduate) of the Faculty of Classics.

**Junior Research Fellow (JRF):** a postdoctoral researcher employed by one of the colleges.

**Lecture:** most commonly a scheduled lecture for undergraduates (but open to postgraduates). Lectures usually occupy 1-hour slots, starting at 5 minutes past the hour and ending at 5 minutes to the hour.

**Lent:** see 'Term'.

**Michaelmas:** see 'Term'.

**Oral examination:** after submission you will be invited to discuss your work with your examiners. This is commonly known as a 'viva' (see full description above).

**Postdoctoral Researcher ('postdoc'):** someone with a PhD who is employed to research, either independently or as part of a larger research project. Postdoctoral researchers may be employed by a national or international research body (such as the European Research Council), by a charity (such as the Leverhulme Trust), or by a College (in

which case they are usually called Junior Research Fellows).

**Postgraduate Representative:** the Postgraduate Student (by convention a PhD student) periodically elected to represent the views and any concerns of the postgraduate body to the Faculty Board.

**Postgraduate student:** a student who already holds a BA or equivalent. In the Faculty you will meet MPhil and PhD students.

**Professor:** another term for UTO. They come in three flavours: Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and (Full) Professor. Confusingly, only Full Professors are addressed by the title 'Professor'; 'Dr' is used for all others who hold a PhD, and 'Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms' for those who do not.

**Research Seminars:** the Faculty hosts research-level seminars in each of the subdisciplines of Classics in termtime, throughout the year. Research seminars are sometimes referred to as 'postgraduate seminars'. They are attended by MPhil and PhD students, as well as senior members of the Faculty and some visitors.

**Seminar:** any meeting built around one or more research-level presentation.

**Senior Member** (of the Faculty of Classics): any member of the academic staff with an established role in the Faculty of Classics; contrast 'Junior Member (of the Faculty of Classics)'. Senior Members are typically University Teaching Officers, College Teaching Officers, Postdoctoral Researchers or Junior Research Fellows.

**Supervisor:** for MPhil students, someone tasked with supervising a particular piece of work.

**Term:** the academic year is divided into three terms, Michaelmas (autumn), Lent (spring) and Easter (summer), separated by vacations. 'Full Term' is the period when students are required to be in residence and within which lectures, seminars and other scheduled events take place. Like academics, postgraduate students are expected to work in the vacations as well, allowing for reasonable holidays. The names of the terms were originally taken from the Christian calendar, but have no religious significance now.

**Tutor:** usually a Fellow of your college who is tasked with looking after your wellbeing, and to whom you can turn for advice about accommodation, welfare etc. The term is not used in connection with the Faculty.

**Undergraduate:** a student studying for the BA.

**University Teaching Officer (UTO):** an academic employed by the University of Cambridge to teach and research (usually but not always a permanent member of staff).

**Vacation:** the periods of the academic year that lie between the Terms. It is conventional to speak of the 'Christmas', 'Easter' and 'Summer' vacations.

**Viva:** see 'oral examination'.

**Week** (of term): be aware that weeks can be said to begin on different days of the week in different contexts. Full Term has eight weeks. Undergraduate *lectures* begin on Thursdays, so that 'lecture week 1' runs from Thursday to Wednesday. But undergraduate *supervisions* begin on Mondays, so that 'supervision week 1' runs from the following Monday, and 'supervision week 8' runs to the Friday *after* lectures end. 'Week 1' may refer to either of these (one of Cambridge's more confusing conventions), and it is worth checking if you are unsure.

## 11. Appendixes

### Health, safety and security

A copy of the Faculty's Safety Policy is available on the Faculty website.

#### Occupational Health Advisers

Tel. 01223 336594

#### Fire Action

In the event of the fire alarm sounding:

1. Leave building by the nearest exit
2. Do not use the lift
3. Report to assembly point by the Little Hall

In the event of a fire, flood or other serious incident **in normal working hours** inform the Faculty Administrator (Tel. 01223 335193) or the Chairman of the Faculty (Tel. 01223 761007).

In the event of a fire, flood or other serious incident **outside normal working hours**:

1. Operate the nearest fire alarm
2. Leave building by the nearest exit
3. Do not use the lift
4. Phone the University Central Security emergency number 101

The **University Central Security** number is Tel. **01223 331818**. This office operates 24 hours every day of the year. **The emergency number is 101 on internal phones.**

#### Mobility disabilities

Students with mobility disabilities who are likely to be unable to use the stairs in the event of an emergency are asked to inform the Faculty Administrator, Mr Nigel Thompson, so that a personal evacuation plan can be designed.

#### Medical conditions

The Faculty maintains a confidential record of members of the Faculty with any specific medical conditions together with a note of urgent remedial action. If this applies to you, please consult the Chief Secretary.

#### Report book

When staff are unavailable and out of office hours, please report any matters of concern in the Report Book to be found by the Faculty Library issue desk.

#### Smoking

No smoking is allowed in the Faculty building.

#### Lone working policy

Working hours for the Faculty, its Library and the Museum are 9–5 Monday to Friday. The Library is also open 9–6 during Saturdays in Full Term, and the Museum is open 10–1 during Saturdays in Full Term. The Museum is closed to visitors on Mondays.

During Full term, the outside doors are unlocked between 8.30am and 7pm Monday to Friday, and between 8.50am and 6pm on Saturday. The doors are not unlocked on Sundays. Outside Full Term, the outside doors are unlocked between 8.30am and 5pm during the week and are left locked at all times at weekends.

When the outside doors are locked, access is then available to staff, postgraduate students and visitors whose University card has been set to allow access at such times.

All staff, postgraduate students and visitors in the Faculty who wish to work in the Faculty outside working hours should follow the following guidelines.

It is **essential** that if you use the building out of hours, on your own, you have ID with you at all times – you will need your University card to get you into the building, but you need ID in case a member of the University's Security team should ask to see it (as they are always entitled to do).

If working in the Faculty late at night or at weekends, tell others of your plans and liaise with other people working late. If you are worried about leaving late at night you can ring Security on 01223 331818 and they will monitor your exit on CCTV.

You can contact Security who will check in regularly with you whilst you are working but you must conform to their instructions (the 'buddy' system). Ring Security on 01223 331818 when you begin work and leave them:

- 1) a contact number for you and details of the room where you are working
- 2) tell them the time you expect to be working to
- 3) *ring them when you leave*. If you fail to do this they will instigate a search and if they cannot find you will then contact the department's emergency keyholders.

Before you start working on your own, ensure that you are aware of

- emergency exits,
- location of first aid boxes,
- location of a telephone in case of an emergency (if you don't carry a mobile)
- how to call for help in an emergency.

Security can be reached **in emergencies only** on 101 (on internal phone network) or on 01223 331818 (outside the network). Police/ambulance/fire can be reached by dialing 1999 (on internal phone network) or 999 (outside the network).

You are advised to carry a mobile phone with you, on silent mode. You are advised not to listen to headphones as these might prevent you from hearing fire alarms.

Before leaving the Faculty at night and at weekends check that computers, printers and other equipment are switched off (where appropriate) and that doors and windows are closed.

You should familiarise yourself with the '[Guidance to Lone Working in the University of Cambridge](#)'.

## **Regulations for the MPhil degree**

The formal regulations for the MPhil course are as follows:

1. The scheme of examination for the one-year course of study in Classics for the degree of Master of Philosophy shall consist of:

(a) a dissertation of not less than 8,000 words and not more than 12,000 words in length, including footnotes and appendices but excluding bibliography, on a topic approved by the Degree Committee for the Faculty of Classics;

and

(b) two pieces of submitted work, each of which may be, subject to the approval of the Degree Committee, either an essay of about 4,000 words or an exercise of comparable substance, each on a topic approved by the Degree Committee and falling within the same general area as the candidate's dissertation or otherwise suitably related to it. The Degree Committee may require a candidate to offer instead of one of the essays a language examination consisting of an exercise in alternative Greek or alternative Latin translation in one of the following written papers, and a submitted translation and commentary, the commentary to be about 2,000 words:

Paper 1. M.Phil. Greek language and texts (A).

Paper 2. M.Phil. Greek language and texts (B).

Paper 3. M.Phil. Latin language and texts (A).

Paper 4. M.Phil. Latin language and texts (B).

2. The examination shall include an oral examination on the dissertation and on the general field of knowledge within which it falls and, at the discretion of the Examiners, on the essays or other exercises submitted by the candidate; save that the Examiners may, at their discretion, waive the requirement for an oral examination.

## Examinations data retention policy

The following policy applies to the MPhil in Classics:

<b>Routinely Available Data:</b>		
<i>Data</i>	<i>Retention period</i>	<i>Accessible through:</i>
Marks and comments on individual essays and examinations	Indefinitely	Director of Postgraduate Studies
Final transcript of marks	Indefinitely	Director of Postgraduate Studies

At the end of the retention period, data are either destroyed or anonymised and used for statistical analysis.

Please request data in writing from:

### **Director of Postgraduate Studies**

Faculty of Classics, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9DA

E-mail: [pg@classics.cam.ac.uk](mailto:pg@classics.cam.ac.uk)

Release of data under this policy does not constitute a subject access request under the Data Protection Act 1998. Request for access to all other personal data should be directed to:

### **University Data Protection Officer**

The Old Schools, Trinity Lane, Cambridge CB2 1TN

Tel: 01223 332320

E-mail: [data.protection@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:data.protection@admin.cam.ac.uk)