

Washington University Department of Classics
Senior capstone option: enhanced 400-level course

Guidelines

For L09, 10 (Greek and Latin) courses

Senior Classics or Ancient Studies majors have the option of using this course as a capstone experience by completing certain requirements in addition to those on the main syllabus. There are several choices available, but please note that none constitute a substitution of any other degree requirement:

1. **Enhanced final paper:** Your final research paper for the class will go beyond the assignment given to the rest of the class, entailing additional research, analysis, and preparation and amounting to a ca. 20-25pp. (double-spaced) work. You and your instructor will discuss your plans for the paper one-on-one at regular intervals starting no later than the middle of the semester, and also hold a formal discussion of the completed work with the instructor that explores the methods employed and conclusions reached. Please note that if the course is taken as Writing Intensive, the paper need not be more than ca. 15-20pp.
2. **Primary text portfolio:** At regular intervals, you will produce original literary translations of select portions of our primary text, including passages both on and off the syllabus in equal measure, and making full use of scholarly commentaries both on and off the syllabus (the instructor will provide guidance on these resources). Total work will cover the equivalent of 7-8 Oxford Classical Text pages or be the equivalent of ca. 15-20 double-spaced pages. You may also produce a commentary on a section of original text under the direction of the instructor, and for verse texts you may also substitute scansion for a portion of translation, again in consultation with the instructor.
In addition, you will compose an essay of ca. 1000 words at the end of the semester, describing your experience devising literary translations and explaining how it has enhanced your understanding of the ancient world and the field of Classics.
3. **Secondary literature portfolio:** At regular intervals, you will produce written summaries and assessments (300-500 words each) of a total of five assigned secondary readings and five additional secondary readings (journal articles or book chapters) off the syllabus. With some guidance from your instructor, you will locate the additional readings yourself. In addition, you will compose an essay of ca. 1000 words at the end of the semester, describing what you learned about classical scholarship on the course topic and how the experience has enhanced your understanding of the ancient world and the field of Classics.

For L08 (Classics) courses

(note modifications to guidelines for L09 and L10 courses)

1. Enhanced final paper: Your final research paper for the class will go beyond the assignment given to the rest of the class, entailing additional research, analysis, and preparation and amounting to 2 ½ times the length of the paper assigned for the class or at least 20pp. (double-spaced), whichever is greater. You and your instructor will discuss your plans for the paper one-on-one at regular intervals starting no later than the middle of the semester, and also hold a formal discussion of the completed work with the instructor that explores the methods employed and conclusions reached. Please note that if the course is taken as Writing Intensive, the paper need not be more than ca. 15-20pp.
2. Secondary literature portfolio: At regular intervals, you will produce written summaries and assessments (300-500 words each) of a total of five assigned secondary readings and five additional secondary readings (journal articles or book chapters) off the syllabus. With some guidance from the instructor, you will locate the additional readings yourself. In addition, you will compose an essay of ca. 1000 words at the end of the semester, describing what you learned about classical scholarship on the course topic and how the experience has enhanced your understanding of the ancient world and the field of Classics. This option may be undertaken in addition to the regular paper assigned for the class.