

# ANTIQUITY NOW



**Hello! • Salvete • Χαίρετε •  
• مرحباً بكم! • שלום אליכם •**

*Antiquity Now* is the official newsletter of the Macalester College Classical Mediterranean and Middle East Department, featuring and highlighting students, staff, opportunities, and the future endeavors of the department. For more information about the CMME department, visit our website at <https://www.macalester.edu/classics/>

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# WELCOME!

As we wrap up the end of the Fall 2023 semester, the Macalester Classics department is ecstatic to share the student achievements and opportunities that came into fruition this past semester. Looking toward the future and the beginning of second term, we extend to new Classics students the warmest of welcomes, and receive our returning students back with open arms.



The study of the Classical Mediterranean and Middle East is intrinsically tied to the lives of those who lived before us. As such, we as a department value diversity, intellectual curiosity, and passion for the past and future in our pursuits. Whether interested in the beginnings of Syrian monasteries, building a repertoire of ancient languages, or learning about the history Egypt and Rome, CMME students come from an expansive variety of backgrounds and disciplines. Through their unique experiences and an intense love for learning, they challenge our notions of the past and expand our understanding of humanity throughout the centuries.

The endless hard work and enthusiasm of these students, in tandem with the generosity and warmth of our staff and professors, are what allows our department to thrive and be proud of what it achieves and contributes. Thank you.





# OUR FALL EVENTS



## Welcome Picnic

Students and staff members from the CMME Department met outside of Old Main for a welcome back event with food and desserts. A great showing of new and returning majors intermingled with professors and discussed the beginning of the new semester!



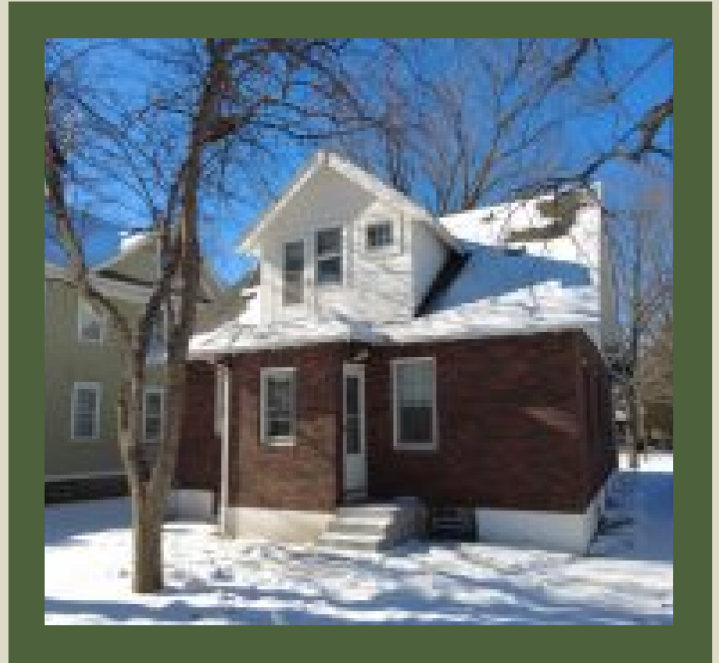
## Pre-Registration Lunch

Professors Overman and Severy-Hoven announced their new course offerings for the Spring 2024 semester at our CMME Pre-Registration Lunch this October. In addition to new course offerings, students and faculty discussed upcoming opportunities such as Arabic House applications and the Theater department's upcoming production of *Eurydice*.

# OUR FALL EVENTS

## Arabic Conversation Tables

The Arabic House held twice-weekly Conversation Tables where students were encouraged to practice their Arabic in an immersive setting. Students met in the Arabic House for lunch and tea while working with one another to gain experience and converse in Arabic.

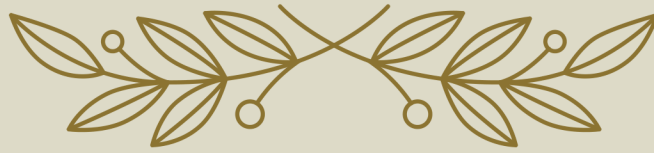


## Cookie Party

The CMME Department got together to celebrate the last day of the semester with the Annual Cookie Party! Students and staff enjoyed a wide selection of baked goods and cocoa as they enjoyed a break from studying and finals.



# CAPSTONES



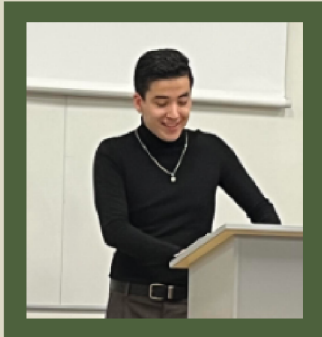
This year the Classics department is ecstatic to feature 12 incredible seniors and the research they've accomplished in their last years at Macalester. On December 6th and 7th, these hardworking students were finally able to present to their peers and families the research they have dedicated themselves to over the last few months, covering a diverse span of topics, cultures, and time periods.



Capstones are a true tribute to the passion, hard-work, and vigilance of our students. As such, completion of a Capstone presentation is a tremendous achievement, and we couldn't be more proud of our senior class.  
Congratulations all!

A huge thank-you to everyone involved in making our Senior Capstone nights a success, including our fantastic professors, our Department Coordinator Carla Zelada, and all the friends and family who attended (in-person and virtually) to support our wonderful seniors!

## Wednesday, Dec. 6th Presentations:



-- Gabriel Gonzalez --  
Fables as Smoking Mirrors: Nahuatl  
Translations of Aesop at the Franciscan College  
of Santa Cruz in Tlateloco



-- Maraka Bradford --  
*Matronae Etruscae*: The Impact of Etruscan  
Femininity on Collective Identity



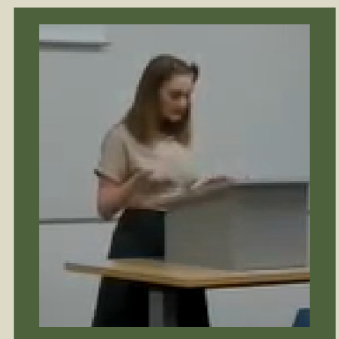
-- Ruben Schneiderman --  
Shaping Moroccan Power Structures  
through Cinema



-- Mikey Tang --  
The Trial of Abraham and the  
Trembling of the Audience:  
Rereading the *Aqedah*



-- Grace McDonough --  
Transmission in Transition:  
Explorations of Orality in Early  
Arabic Poetry



-- Izzie Behl --  
Birth Control in Ancient Greece





## Thursday, Dec. 7th Presentations:



-- **Beatrice Mellso** --

Thread of Time: The Respect of Women's Work  
in Ancient Greece



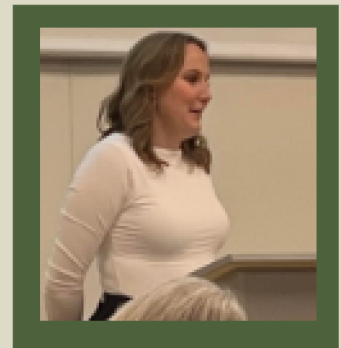
-- **Rebecca Porter** --

Jerusalem Under Empire: How the 7th  
Century Transitioned the Byzantine City  
into an International Beacon



-- **Jessica McAllister** --

Conservation Dos and Don'ts: A Case  
Study in Conservation of the Caliphate  
City of Medina Azahara in Cordoba, Spain



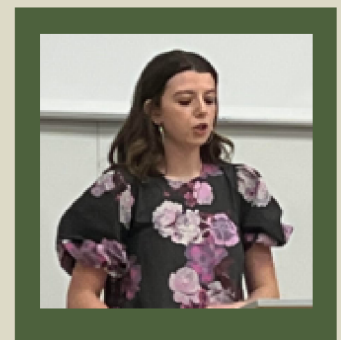
-- **Liam Childs** --

It's the End of the World as We  
Know It: Apocalyptic Literature of  
Resistance in 2nd Temple Judaism  
and 21st Century Conspiratorial  
Thought



-- **Tara Stroup** --

Gender Dynamics of Childhood  
Adversity in Classical Athens



-- **Sami Banat** --

Acre: At the Crossroads of Eastern and  
Western Antiquity



# FEATURING: NEW MAJORS/MINORS

Several students in the department were gracious enough to share their experiences with Macalester CMME, featuring perspectives from students who recently declared their majors.



**Ned Keyse '26**, an Arabic and Linguistics Double Major and Religious Studies Minor on language and learning--

*Ned decided upon his Arabic and Linguistics Majors after his first year of studying Arabic at Macalester. He grew up in a family which valued learning a second language, and came into Macalester already knowing Spanish. He decided upon Arabic because he wanted to select a language as dissimilar as possible to what he was already familiar with in order to "broaden [his] idea of what language could do."*

*Ned is interested in pursuing a career in either translation or teaching English in the Middle East, and hopes that his upcoming study abroad trip to Jordan will help to further flesh out his future plans. His perspective on language and interpersonal relationships has been changed and sharpened by his time in the Classics, Linguistics, and Religious Studies departments, as he relates this important message: "Humans are humans, regardless of what language they speak." He notes that we often feel as though language barriers are insurmountable, or that we view those who speak a different language as too unlike ourselves to relate to. In reality, language can be a tool for learning and experiencing new cultures, and gaining a better understanding of humanity.*

*Overall, Ned's love for learning and language was incredibly evident in the passion he demonstrated when discussing his areas of study. Fittingly, his final piece of advice to anyone considering their major is: "Find the things that you're interested in and study them. That makes all the difference."*



**Emily Hodson '26**, a Classical Archaeology Major and and Art History/Religious Studies Double Minor on her favorite area of study--

*"Currently I've been really interested in the repurposing of ancient material culture to serve later causes thanks to Serdar Yalcin's Art and Iconoclasm class. I'm working on a paper about the reuse of Athenian temples as churches and mosques, and it's proving to be incredibly interesting!"*

**Marta Sorenson '25**, a newly declared Classical Civilizations Minor on why she decided to pursue Classics--

*"I took an art history class this semester and all the sudden felt really inspired by ancient peoples - humans have always been human; we have always tried to depict ourselves in art and always made little doodles of our pets." She hopes that her degree will lead her to something connected to wider human history, like curating or directing at a museum, or working as a visual artist.*



# FALL 2023 COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

## Sanskrit and Classical Religion in India

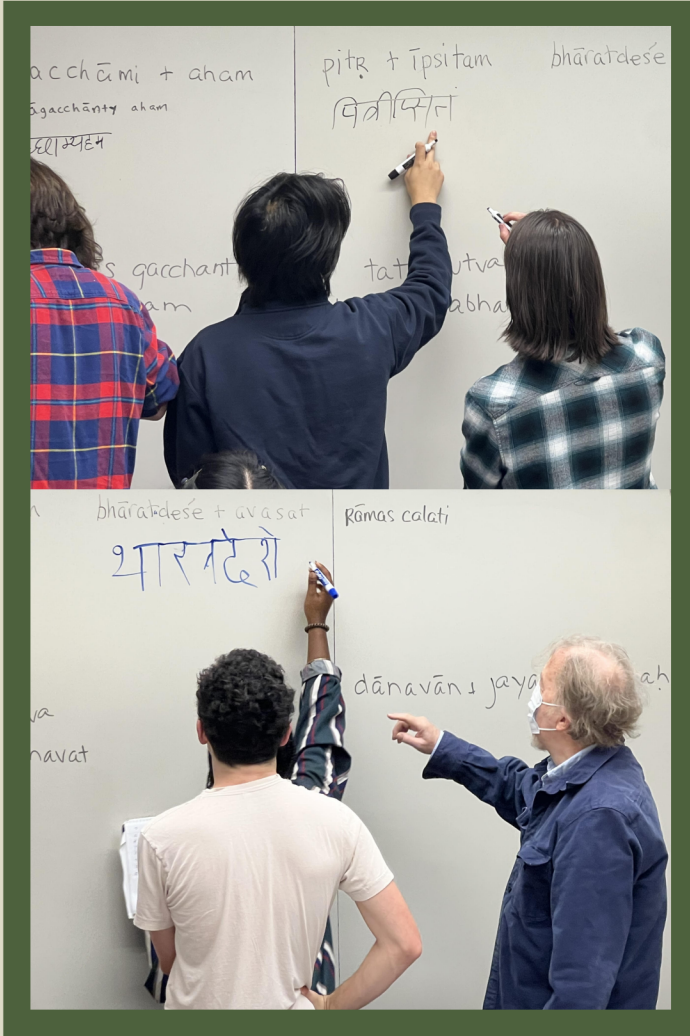
CLAS 202 • RELI 236/ASIA 236/LING 236  
with Professor James Laine



A note from Professor James Laine: “I have offered a Sanskrit class perhaps six or seven times over the last thirty years, and have recently cross-listed it with the Classical Mediterranean and Middle East, Linguistics, Religious Studies, and Asian Studies departments.

Going back to the eighteenth century, Europeans have explored the Indo-European roots of Latin, Greek, and Sanskrit, seeing cognates in words like *pitr/pater*, *deva/deus*. Like its cousins Greek and Latin, Sanskrit is a highly

inflected language (with eight cases and three numbers--dual, as well as singular and plural). The grammar was carefully analyzed from a very early period (ca. 400 BCE) and it became a refined language of scholars across the Indian sub-continent while the general population spoke numerous vernaculars. Since the script used today is that same as that for languages like Hindi, Marathi, and Nepali, some students are interested in the Sanskrit roots of those languages. Other students have interests in classical Indian literature, philosophy, and religion, and find that even a short introduction to the language enhances their understanding in these fields.”



# Ancient Healing and Medicine

CLAS 220 with Professor Andrew Overman



*Primum non nocere* (or ὠφελῆειν ἢ μὴ βλάπτειν in its original Greek) is an excerpt from Hippocrates' work *Of the Epidemics* often roughly translated to: "first, do no harm." This is the objective that all physicians, healers, and philosophers should strive to achieve; a sentiment voiced in the 4th B.C.E. and echoed in the modern day by students studying medicine and healthcare. This tenet has withstood the test of time--as have many ancient healthcare practices that are still alive today.

Professor Overman's Ancient Healing and Medicine course seeks to examine the evolution of traditional medicinal practices throughout a vast expanse of time and space. Students are introduced to the concepts and practices of Traditional Chinese Medicine, the Buddhist *Yoga Sutra*, the Hippocratic School and Stoics of Greece and Rome, the Golden Age of Early Islamic Medicine, and Indigenous healing practices. With opportunities to travel to local community centers to interact with certain practices which are still alive today, as well as numerous speakers sharing their experiences and scholarship with the class, the course offers an all-inclusive, hands-on approach to centuries of otherwise elusive medical practices.





## Greek Myths/Ancient Comedy

CLAS 129 + 194 with Professor Fade Manley

Students from Professor Fade Manley's Greek Myths and Ancient Comedy courses were generous enough to share some of the artwork they created over the course of the semester. Below is a small gallery of student-made projects drawing inspiration from the ancient Greek sources explored in these respective classes.



Ellie Fitzpatrick's 1790's inspired costume and fashion designs for the character's of Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*. Lysistrata (middle) and Calonice (right) are dressed in more trendy and fashionable garments while Cinesias (left) dons a much more costume-y outfit, which pays homage to the sexual humor and subject matter of *Lysistrata*. Ellie draws both from a long tradition of Greek costuming and from much research on the emerging fashion of 1790's France.

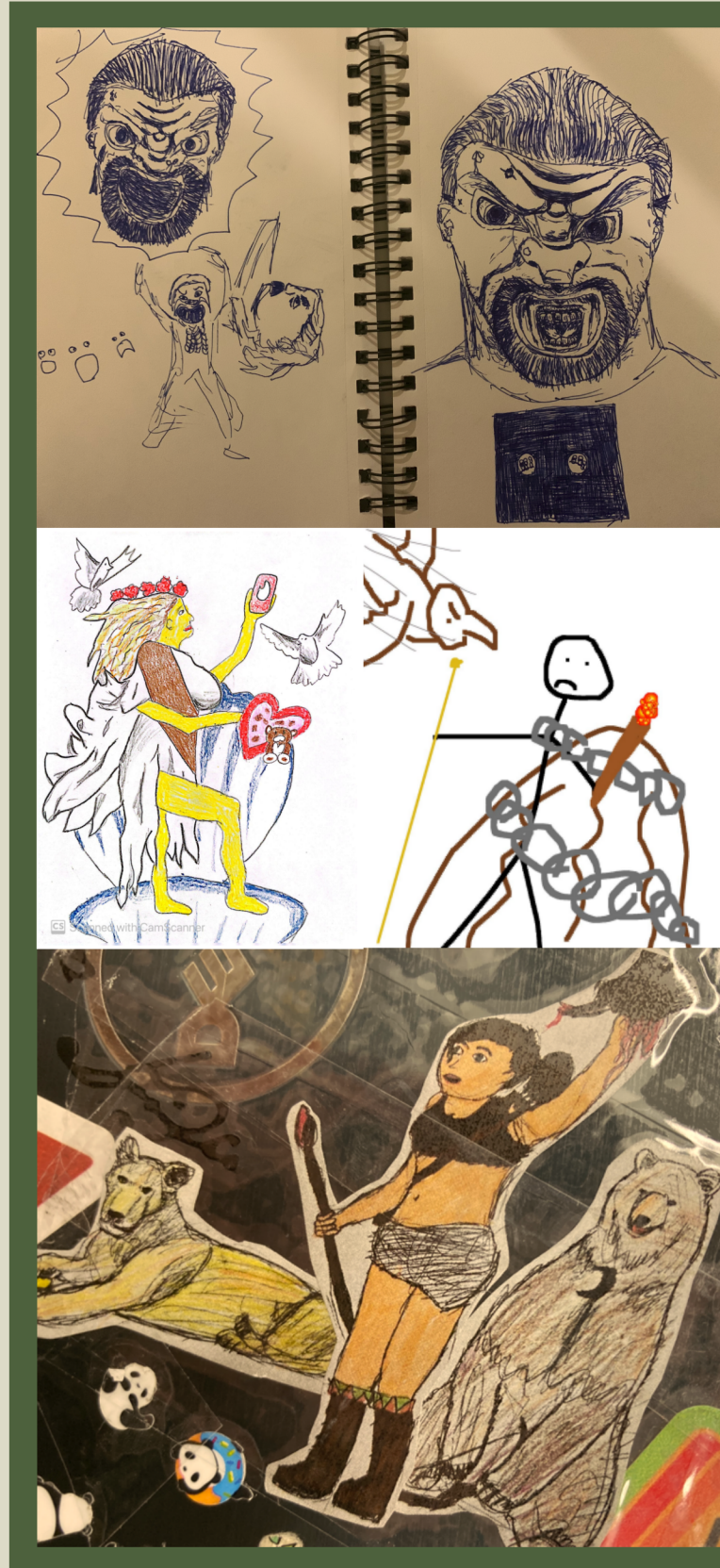


**Frederick Meinhardt** created this terrifying design for a **Grecian mask (top right)**, which draws inspiration from the emotive and often uncanny masks utilized in Ancient Greek theater. These masks were vital to the transformative performances of the theater, as they conveyed emotion from great distances, turned ordinary men into gods or mythological heroes, and allowed a very small cast of men to play a large number of roles. Although none survive today, these masks were featured on a number of mosaics, cameos, and paintings from antiquity.

**Nick Bice's** drawing of the Goddess of Love, **Aphrodite (middle left)**, cleverly combines ancient iconography with imagery easily recognizable to the modern eye. She is draped in linens, emerging from a seashell and surrounded by doves, in line with her traditional depictions, but she is also seen opening Tinder on her phone.

**Nick Duncan's** humorous presentation on the wily nature of the trickster **Prometheus (middle right)** ended with his artistic interpretation of Prometheus chained to the rock. Upon stealing fire from the gods and secretly bestowing it upon humanity, Prometheus was condemned to eternal torture by Zeus. He was chained to a rock for his transgressions and each day an eagle would tear out and eat his liver, which would regrow again each night in a never-ending cycle.

**Lilian Adams' adorable Artemis sticker** depicts the Greek Goddess of the Hunt surrounded by a bear and a lioness. The Queen of Beasts is shown donning a quiver full of arrows and wielding a spear, two pieces of iconography which recur throughout the Greek artistic tradition.





## CURRENT COURSE SPOTLIGHTS



Eva Loranz's *Theseus on the Attack*, a textile depiction of Theseus inspired by a vase painting (c. 490-480 BCE) attributed to the Kleophrades Painter. During his journey to Athens to meet with his father, Aegeus, Theseus encountered a series of bandits and villains, including Periphetes, who smashed the heads of anyone he came across with a large iron club. Upon killing him, Theseus took his club as a weapon for his future endeavors, and it became integrated into his central iconography in Greek myth and material culture.



Nathan Wu's depictions of **Hercules** (left, middle) compare and contrast the manner in which modern comedy takes subjects, especially mythological ones, and renders them in a completely new light. He utilizes Disney's *Hercules* as an example of his phenomenon for his project in Ancient Comedy. For a separate project in his Greek Myths class, Nathan drew a scene from *The Odyssey* (right) in which **Odysseus** binds himself to the mast of his ship in order to listen to the calls of the sirens.



## UPCOMING COURSE FEATURES



### The Maghreb: History and Culture of North Africa from Hannibal to 1492

CLAS 194 • HIST 294 with Professor Andrew Overman



This course explores the dynamic and diverse cultures and people of the Maghreb -- North Africa. From Carthage and other Indigenous empires of North

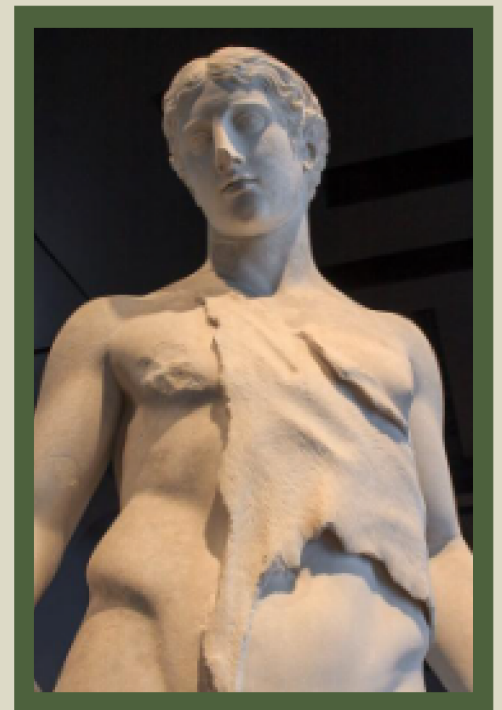
Africa, through early Christian centuries, to the arrival of Islam and its various expressions, to the “golden period” when North Africa and Spain came together in Al-Andalus; one of the greatest chapters of human creativity and cooperation. We conclude c.1492, and the beginning of the early modern period in North Africa and the Mediterranean.

### Bodies in Stone: Gender, Sexuality, and Empire in Roman Sculpture

CLAS 394 • WGSS 394 with Professor Beth Severy-Hoven



Art reflects, refracts and helps construct a society’s culture. Thousands of pieces of sculpture survive from the ancient Roman period and can provide valuable information to the historian. Material from Rome includes looted Greek, Etruscan and Egyptian sculpture, copies of antique masterpieces, and new creations combining different styles for varied purposes. After we develop a basic history and understanding of Roman sculpture, this course will examine select pieces each week to explore questions that may be productively brought to bear on this unusual historical source. No formal pre-requisites, but some prior experience with ancient art, art history or Roman history is recommended.



# STUDENTS OF TEL SHALEM

Professors Overman and Goldman led 14 students on an archaeological dig in the Jordan Valley, Israel in May of 2023. To read about the site of Tel Shalem and its legacy, visit the Macalester CMME Newsletter Website to read up on an article published about Tel Shalem by ERETZ Magazine!



Verity Wray-Raabolle ('25) shared her experience in Tel Shalem this past summer, describing the opportunities and duties she participated in while on the dig. Working alongside Dr. Benjamin Arubas from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Dudi Mevorach, a chief curator at the Israel Museum, as well as Macalester's own Professors Nanette Goldman and Andrew Overman, Verity and our other students got hands-on excavation experience. Verity specifies that student experience with archaeology was heavily varied, but that the instructors did an incredible job guiding and

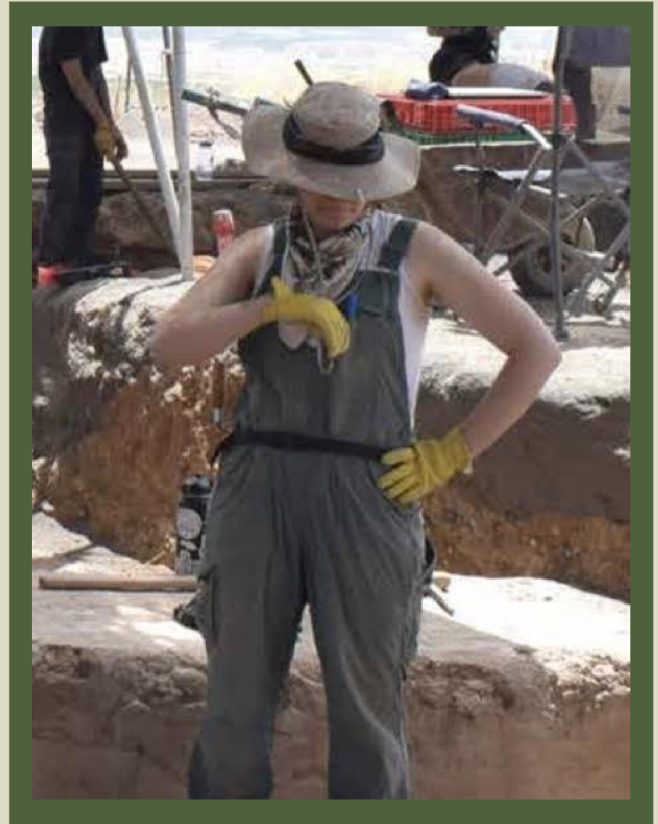
encouraging students of all archaeological backgrounds. Verity was supervisor of her square, meaning that her daily responsibilities included recording the dig progress in a square notebook. This predominantly included tracking the layers of sediment opened and closed, sketching to-scale drawings of the square, and keeping track the location each of the finds were discovered and also the bucket number they were sorted into. She relates that this was a truly unforgettable experience: despite the difficulties of waking up at 4 AM and working in the heat, it was an incredible opportunity for her to bond with her peers. Furthermore, Verity explains how the dig was special and exceptionally confidence-building in comparison to the educational but predominantly theoretical focus of archaeology courses.





## TEL SHALEM EXPEDITION

A few of Emily Hodson's ('26) excavation experiences and take-aways: despite declaring her major only five months before, Emily's love for archaeology was reinforced by her time in Tel Shalem. From filling in plasterwork to preserve architecture, to sorting and identifying extant potsherds unearthed in the 60's and 70's, Emily got to work with our other Macalester students on the preservation and excavation of this important historical site. She related the vast variety of objects unearthed at the site, including remains from 13th-14th century Mamluk settlers who left behind remains like coins and spear heads. Additionally, they found potsherds from the early Islamic period, two Hellenistic oil lamps, large Roman potsherds, and even the remains of Chinese porcelain. Emily's message to students who are considering studying abroad is quite simple, but resonant: "Do it. You won't regret it at all. It's not everyday you're given a travel experience like this, even with the dig aside."



Below, an image of the dig site generously provided by Emily.





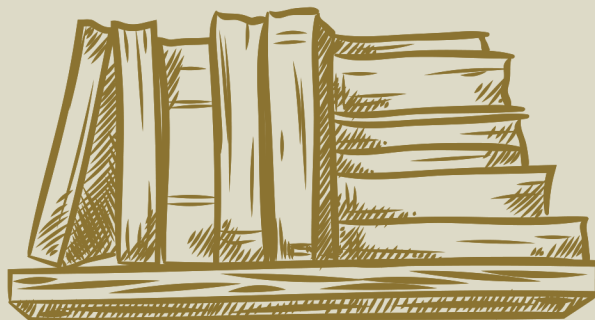
THANK YOU!



## A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

An incredibly heartfelt thank you goes out to Mr. Craig Swanson for his generous donation of dozens of beautiful, well-loved books to the Classics department. Students and faculty alike were ecstatic to receive such a magnanimous gift. Many of the books feature an transcription of the texts in their original language on one page, and an English translation on the opposite. Others are volumes of contextual works by historical and philosophical masters such as Thucydides and Aristotle. Whether aiding students in their practice and comprehension of Greek or Latin, or simply provided enrichment toward their knowledge of ancient history, these books are a wonderful resource for students to easily access. Knowing the voracious reading habits of many Classics students, there is no doubt that these books will continue to be tenderly loved, read, and thoroughly appreciated.

Thank you again for such a wonderful gift, and an opportunity for many students to interact with texts in their original languages that might otherwise be inaccessible. The Classics Department thanks you whole heartedly.



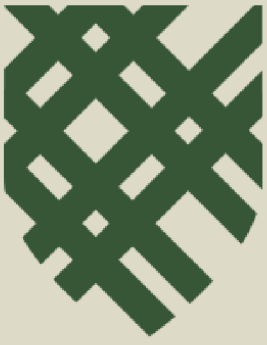
# SPRING COURSES

Number	Name	Days	Time	Instructor
CLAS-101	The Classical Mediterranean and Middle East	MWF	10:50-11:50	Beth Severy-Hoven
CLAS-223	Introduction to Archaeology	TR	9:40-11:10	Andrew Overman
CLAS-194	The Maghreb: History and Cultures of North Africa from Hannibal to 1492	TR	1:20-2:50	Andrew Overman
CLAS-394	Bodies in Stone: Gender, Sexuality, and Empire in Roman Sculpture	R	1:20-4:20	Beth Severy-Hoven
CLAS-212	Elementary Latin II	MWF	12:00-1:00	Nanette Goldman
CLAS-212 L1	Elementary Latin II: Lab	T	3:00-4:00	Nanette Goldman
CLAS-212 L2	Elementary Latin II: Lab	T	10:10-11:10	Nanette Goldman
CLAS-332	Intermediate Latin: Poetry	MWF	2:20-3:20	Nanette Goldman



SPRING 2024 COURSE OFFERINGS

Number	Name	Days	Time	Instructor
CLAS-214	Elementary Arabic II	MWF	2:20-3:20	Kelly Tuttle
CLAS-214 L1	Elementary Arabic II: Lab	T	1:20-2:20	Kelly Tuttle
CLAS-214 L2	Elementary Arabic II: Lab	T	3:00-4:00	Kelly Tuttle
CLAS-342	Intermediate Arabic II	MWF	3:30-4:30	Kelly Tuttle
CLAS-342 L1	Intermediate Arabic II: Lab	T	3:30-4:30	Kelly Tuttle
CLAS-235	Elementary Greek II	MWF	2:20-3:20	Brian Lush
CLAS-235 L1	Elementary Greek II: Lab	T	1:50-2:50	Brian Lush
CLAS-235 L2	Elementary Greek II: Lab	T	3:00-4:00	Brian Lush
CLAS-487	Advanced Reading in Greek	MW	8:00-9:30	Brian Lush
CLAS-294-01	Art and Architecture of Ancient Near East	MWF	10:50- 11:50	Serdar Yalcin
CLAS-294-02	Art and Architecture of Byzantium and Medieval Europe	MWF	2:20-3:20	Serdar Yalcin



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visiting the Macalester Classics website or scanning  
the QR code above!

