

## **Term Information**

Effective Term Spring 2026

## **General Information**

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area	Classics
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org	Classics - D0509
College/Academic Group	Arts and Sciences
Level/Career	Undergraduate
Course Number/Catalog	2207
Course Title	Classical Origins of American Civics
Transcript Abbreviation	ClasOriginsAmCivs
Course Description	This course examines how American democratic civic traditions have been shaped by the Classical worlds of Greece and Rome. Students explore the direct and indirect ways in which the politics, philosophy, and culture of the ancient world has played a central role in the creation of the American Republic and develop means of critiquing the role of the ancient world in modern political discourse.
Semester Credit Hours/Units	Fixed: 3

## **Offering Information**

Length Of Course	14 Week, 12 Week, 8 Week, 7 Week
Flexibly Scheduled Course	Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component?	No
Grading Basis	Letter Grade
Repeatable	No
Course Components	Lecture
Grade Roster Component	Lecture
Credit Available by Exam	No
Admission Condition Course	No
Off Campus	Never
Campus of Offering	Columbus

## **Prerequisites and Exclusions**

Prerequisites/Corequisites	
Exclusions	
Electronically Enforced	Yes

## **Cross-Listings**

Cross-Listings

## **Subject/CIP Code**

Subject/CIP Code	16.1299
Subsidy Level	General Studies Course
Intended Rank	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior

## Requirement/Elective Designation

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

## Course Details

### Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Students will explore the direct and indirect ways in which the politics, philosophy, and culture of Greece and Rome has played a central role in the creation of the American Republic.
- Students will develop means of uncovering and critiquing the role of the ancient world in modern political discourse.
- Students will consider how ancient ideas about citizenship, power, and public life can help us to approach and understand these foundational American documents in new ways.

### Content Topic List

- Classics in early American culture and civic life
  - Scholarly approaches to the reception of the ancient world
  - Political culture between Greece, Rome, and Revolutionary America
  - 19th century American political oratory and ancient speeches and rhetorical theory
  - Slavery in the context of justice and law in both the ancient world and America
  - Economic, social, and political organization between the ancient world and American capitalism
- Yes

### Sought Concurrence

## Attachments

- Classics 2207 Concurrences.pdf: Concurrences  
*(Concurrence. Owner: Walton,Rachel Kathryn)*
- Classics Undergraduate Curriculum Map.xlsx: Curriculum Map  
*(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Walton,Rachel Kathryn)*
- Classics 2207 Classical Origins of American Civics.docx: Syllabus  
*(Syllabus. Owner: Walton,Rachel Kathryn)*

## Comments

## Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Walton,Rachel Kathryn	04/08/2025 10:36 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Fullerton,Mark David	04/09/2025 02:56 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	04/17/2025 01:31 PM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Jenkins,Mary Ellen Bigler Hanlin,Deborah Kay Hilty,Michael Neff,Jennifer Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal Steele,Rachel Lea	04/17/2025 01:31 PM	ASCCAO Approval

## **Classics 2207 *Classical Origins of American Civics***

Instructor: Professor TBA  
Office: 414 University Hall  
Spring Semester 2026  
Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00-4:00PM  
Class Times: Tuesday/Thursday 2:20-3:40 PM  
Instructor email: TBA  
Classroom location: TBA  
Lecture, 3 credit hours  
Format of instruction: Lecture

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines how American democratic civic traditions have been shaped by the Classical worlds of Greece and Rome. You will read seminal texts of American civics from *The Declaration of Independence* to Martin Luther King's *Letter from Birmingham Jail* alongside a series of ancient works that inspired, incited, informed or even enraged their authors. You will explore the direct and indirect ways in which the politics, philosophy, and culture of Greece and Rome has played a central role in the creation of the American Republic, and develop means of uncovering and critiquing the role of the ancient world in modern political discourse. You will also consider how ancient ideas about citizenship, power, and public life can help us to approach and understand these foundational American documents in new ways.

The class meets twice per week. In each week you will read one central work of American civics alongside one or more ancient texts. The course will be fundamentally comparative and text-focussed (though no knowledge of Greek or Latin is required), but lectures will also give you broad historical introductions to the texts and authors under discussion.

The course is arranged into five units. Unit 1, "Introductions," will orient you to key points in ancient Greek and Roman history and to the prevalence of classics in early American culture and civic life, as well as to scholarly approaches to the reception of the ancient world. Unit 2, "Political culture between Greece, Rome and Revolutionary America," investigates foundational texts of American governance against the background of Greek and Roman historiography and political thought. Unit 3, "Rhetoric and Power," puts essential works of nineteenth-century American political oratory into dialogue with the ancient speeches and rhetorical theory that influenced US education and oratorical style. In Unit 4, "Slavery and Justice," we investigate the challenges that slavery presented for justice and law in the ancient Greco-Roman and American contexts, with special attention to the problem of responding to unjust laws. In Unit 5, "Economic, social and political organization between the Ancient World and American Capitalism," we compare and contrast ancient and modern ideals of success and prosperity both for individuals and for societies.

**Key Texts**

Two PDF Document Readers:

1. American Civics Document Reader (contains all modern sources assigned in class)
2. Classical Documents Reader and Image Library (contains all ancient sources assigned in class)

All other prescribed readings will be available electronically via Carmen or OSU Libraries.

**Assignments and Grading:****Attendance and Participation (5%):**

You will be graded on your attendance at lectures and your contributions to class discussions. More than two unexcused absences will negatively impact your grade.

**In-Class Writing Exercises (10%):**

You will complete one low-stakes in-class writing exercise in most weeks (minimum 2 paragraphs). For each exercise you will a) compare and contrast an ancient and modern source or b) respond to a selection from assigned scholarship. These exercises will be marked complete (full credit) or incomplete (no credit).

**Short Quiz (5%):**

Short in-class quiz (25 minutes): multiple choice and short answer questions covering the first, introductory unit.

**Midterm Examination (20%):**

In class. Closed book.

Source IDs and analyses, and a section of multiple-choice answers. You will also be tested on the geography and timelines of ancient Greece and Rome and the modern US.

**Class Presentation (5%)**

Week 13. Capstone presentation in small group on your final writing assignment.

**Peer Review (5%)**

Week 13. Peer review exercise of a draft of the final writing assignment.

**Final Writing Assignment (25%)**

One 2000-word essay in which you examine one of the following the themes in an ancient contexts:

- Citizenship
- Constitutions and the rule of law
- Political change
- Political rhetoric, oratory and communication

**Final examination (25%)**

Exam Week. Closed book.

Cumulative. Emphasis on questions related to the key documents in the course, especially comparison between ancient thinkers and American civic texts.

Comprehensive essays, identifications, and multiple-choice answers.

## Grading Scale

A	93–100	B-	80–82.9	D+	67–69.9
A-	90–92.9	C+	77–79.9	D	60–66.9
B+	87–89.9	C	73–76.9	E	Below 60
B	83–86.9	C-	70–72.9		

## American Civic Literacy Requirement

Beginning with students who graduate in the spring of the 2029-2030 academic year, each state institution in Ohio is prohibited from granting a bachelor's degree to any student who has not completed a course with at least three credit hours in the subject area of American civic literacy.

This course fulfills the Three Areas of Ohio's American civic literacy requirements, as follows:

1. A study of the American economic system and capitalism (Unit 5)
2. A requirement that students read all of the following:
  - a. The entire **United States Constitution** (Week 5.2)
  - b. The entire **Declaration of Independence** (Week 4.2)
  - c. At least five essays in their entirety from the **Federalist Papers**, with essays being selected by the department chair. In this course, you will read **Federalist Papers 1, 10, 51, 63, 70** (Weeks 3.2 & 6.2)
  - d. The entire **Emancipation Proclamation** (Week 10.2)
  - e. The entire **Gettysburg Address** (Week 7.2)
  - f. The entire **Letter from Birmingham Jail** written by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (Week 11.2)
  - g. The writings of **Adam Smith**, including a study of the principles written in "The Wealth of Nations." (Week 12.2)
3. A requirement that students pass a cumulative final examination at the end of the course that assesses student proficiency on the required readings. (Exam week)

Weekly Schedule			
Date	Topic	Readings / Assignments	Assessment Deadlines
Unit 1: Introductions			
Week 1.1	Introduction to course		

Weekly Schedule			
Week 1.2	Introduction to Greece	<p>Sarah Pomeroy et al, 2017 Chapter 7 in <i>Ancient Greece, a Political Social and Cultural History</i>. OUP. pp.277-310.</p> <p>Rosalind Thomas 2000 "The Classical City" in Robin Osborne (ed.) <i>Classical Greece 500-323BC</i>. OUP. pp.52-80.</p>	<b>In-Class Writing Exercise 1</b>
Week 2.1	Introduction to Rome	Mary Beard 2015. "Chapter 1" in <i>SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome</i> . Profile pp.21-52	
Week 2.2	Classical education in the USA	Caroline Winterer 2002 "Antiquity in the New Nation" <i>The Culture of Classicism: Ancient Greece and Rome in American Intellectual Life, 1780-1910</i> . JHUP pp.10-43	<b>In-Class Writing Exercise 2</b>
Week 3.1	Reception Studies and the History of Ideas	<p>Lorna Hardwick 2003 "Chapter 1: From the Classical Tradition to Reception Studies" in <i>Reception Studies</i>. OUP. pp.1-12</p> <p>Quentin Skinner 2012 "Chapter 10 Retrospect: Studying rhetoric and conceptual change" <i>Visions of Politics Vol. 1</i>. CUP. 175-187.</p>	
Week 3.2	Reception in Practice: Publius Publicola	Livy 2.6-8 (Publius Valerius Publicola) <b><i>Federalist Papers 1</i></b>	<b>Short Quiz</b> (in-class 25 minutes)
<b>Unit 2: Political culture between Greece, Rome and Revolutionary America</b>			
Week 4.1	Revolution and change in ancient governance	<p>Herodotus 1.64-69, 5.55-65, Livy 1.56-60, 2.1, 2.22-40, 3.31-50</p> <p>Sarah Forsdyke 2006 "Herodotus, political history and political thought" in C. Dewald, J. Marincola eds. <i>The Cambridge Companion to Herodotus</i>. CUP. 224-241.</p> <p>Tim J. Cornell 1995. "Chapter 11: The Twelve Tables" in <i>The Beginnings of Rome: Italy and Rome from the Bronze Age to the Punic Wars (c.1000–264 BC)</i> Routledge. 272-92</p>	

Weekly Schedule			
Week 4.2	The American Declaration of Independence	<b><i>The Declaration of Independence</i></b>  Danielle Allen 2014. "Part I Origins" <i>Our Declaration</i> . Norton pp.27-47	In-Class Writing Exercise 3
Week 5.1	Ancient Constitutional Thought	Old Oligarch, <i>The Athenian Constitution</i> Polybius 6.2-21, 6.53-57  Robin Osborne 2023 "Introduction" <i>The Old Oligarch Pseudo-Xenophon's Constitution of the Athenians</i> . LACTOR CUP. pp.1-16	
Week 5.2	The US Constitution	<b><i>The Constitution of the United States</i></b>  David Bodehamer 2018. "2. Federalism". "3. Balance of powers" and "5. Representation" in <i>The US Constitution</i> . OUP. pp.22-45 & 60-76	In-Class Writing Exercise 4
Week 6.1	Aristotle on Constitutions	Aristotle <i>Politics</i> 3.6-13, 4.11-13 Aristotle <i>Constitution of the Athenians</i>  Ryan Balot 2006 "Chapter 7 Aristotle's Political Thought" in <i>Greek Political Thought</i> . Blackwell. 227-65	
Week 6.2	Federalism in debate	<b><i>Federalist Papers</i> 10, 51, 63, 70</b>  C-A Biondi.2007 "Aristotle on the mixed Constitution and its relevance for American political thought" <i>Social Philosophy and Policy</i> . 24: 176-198	In-Class Writing Exercise 5
<b>Unit 3: Rhetoric and Power</b>			
Week 7.1	Greek oratory during war	Thucydides 2.35-46 (Pericles' funeral oration)  Pomeroy et al. 2018 "Chapter 8: The Peloponnesian War" in <i>Ancient Greece, a Political Social and Cultural History</i> . OUP.	
Week 7.2	Lincoln's classical rhetoric	<b>Abraham Lincoln, <i>Gettysburg Address</i></b>	In-Class Writing Exercise 6

Weekly Schedule			
		<p>Garry Wills 1992 "Chapter 1: Oratory of the Greek Revival" <i>Lincoln at Gettysburg</i>. Simon &amp; Schuster pp.41-62</p> <p>D. Leigh Henson 2014 "Classical Rhetoric as a Lens for Reading the Key Speeches of Lincoln's Political Rise, 1852–1856" <i>The Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Society</i> 35: 1-25</p>	
Week 8.1	Roman rhetoric in times of Crisis	<p>Cicero, <i>Catilinarian Orations</i> (selections)</p> <p>John Hall 2013. "Saviour of the Republic and Father of the Fatherland: Cicero and political crisis" in Catherine Steel (ed.) <i>The Cambridge Companion to Cicero</i>. CUP. pp. 215-32</p>	
Week 8.2	Lincoln, rhetoric and reconstruction	<p>Abraham Lincoln, <i>Second Inaugural Oration</i></p> <p>Ronald White 2007 "The Second Inaugural Address: The Spoken Words", in John Simon, Harold Holzer, and Dawn Vogel (eds.), <i>Lincoln Revisited: New Insights from the Lincoln Forum</i>. OUP 231-51</p>	<b>In-Class Writing Exercise 7</b>
Week 9.1	Review of Units 2 & 3	Review of Unit 2&3 materials	
Week 9.2	Midterm examination		<b>Midterm</b> (in-class)
Unit 4: Slavery and Justice			
Week 10.1	Slavery in the ancient world	<p>Homer <i>Iliad</i> 1 and 21 (selections)</p> <p>Xenophon <i>Ways and Means</i> (mine slavery);</p> <p>Xenophon <i>Economics</i> 9-13 (slavery and women's management of the household)</p> <p>Aristotle <i>Politics</i> 1.5 (Natural slavery)</p> <p>Niall McKeown 2011. "Greek and Roman Slavery" in G. Heuman and T. Burnand (ed.) <i>The Routledge History of Slavery</i>. Routledge. pp.19-34</p>	

Weekly Schedule			
Week 10.2	Slavery in the US	<b><i>Emancipation Proclamation</i></b>  Margaret Malamud 2019 “Chapter 3: Ancient and Modern Slavery” in <i>African Americans and the Classics</i> . Bloomsbury. 105-146	In-Class Writing Exercise 8
Week 11.1	Imprisonment and punishment in Classical Anthems	Plato, <i>Apology</i> and <i>Crito</i> (selections) Xenophon <i>Memorabilia</i> 4.4-4.6  Danielle Allen 2002. <i>The World of Prometheus: The Politics of Punishing in Democratic Athens</i> . Princeton (selections)	
Week 11.2	Law, justice and imprisonment in the Civil Rights era	<b>Martin Luther King Jr., <i>Letter from Birmingham Jail</i></b>  Michelle M. Kundmueller and Jeremiah J. Castle 2021. “When a law is no law at all: Martin Luther King, Jr.’s use of Augustine and Aquinas in the battle against segregation” in B. Z. Kabala et al. <i>Augustine in a Time of Crisis</i> eds. Palgrave MacMillan. Pp. 37-53.	In-Class Writing Exercise 9
<b>Unit 5: Economic, social, and political organization between the Ancient World and American Capitalism</b>			
Week 12.1	Economics and social arrangements in Ancient Greece	Hesiod <i>Works and Days</i> (selections) Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> 5.5  Gordon, B. 1975. Chapters 1 & 2 in <i>Economic Analysis before Adam Smith: Hesiod to Lessius</i> . MacMillan. Pp.1-41	
Week 12.2	Modern economic theory	<b>Adam Smith, <i>Wealth of Nations</i></b> (selections)  Gloria Vivenza 2001. “Chapter 4. The Division of Labour and the Theory of Value” in <i>Adam Smith and the Classics: The Classical Heritage in Adam Smith's Thought</i> . OUP. 126-58	In-Class Writing Exercise 10
Week 13.1	Labor and work in Greece and Rome	Petronius, <i>Satyricon</i> : “Trimalchio’s Banquet”  Image Library: Roman funerary monuments	

Weekly Schedule			
		<p>Appian, <i>Civil Wars</i> Book 1</p> <p>Scott Meikle 2010. "Modernism, Economics and the Ancient Economy" in Walter Scheidel &amp; Sitta von Reden (eds.) <i>The Ancient Economy</i>. Routledge pp.233-50</p>	
Week 13.2	The ancient world and American Capitalism	<p>Margaret Malamud 2009 "Chapter 2: Working Men's Heroes" in <i>Ancient Rome and Modern America</i>, Wiley-Blackwell. pp.34-69</p> <p>Elizabeth Macaulay-Lewis 2018 "Dining like Nero: Antiquity and Immersive Dining Experiences in early Twentieth-Century New York" <i>Classical Outlook</i> 93: 13–19.</p>	
Week 14.1	Classical Origins of American Civics in Review		<b>Peer Review Exercise</b>
Week 14.2	Classical Origins of American Civics in Review		<b>Capstone Class Presentation</b>  <b>Final Writing Assignment</b>
Exam week			<b>Final exam</b>

## OSU Policies

### Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee ([Faculty Rule 3335-5-48.7 \(B\)](#)). For additional information, see the [Code of Student Conduct](#).

## **Disability Services**

The university strives to maintain a healthy and accessible environment to support student learning in and out of the classroom. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion.

If you are ill and need to miss class, including if you are staying home and away from others while experiencing symptoms of a viral infection or fever, please let me know immediately. In cases where illness interacts with an underlying medical condition, please consult with Student Life Disability Services to request reasonable accommodations. You can connect with them at [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; or [slds.osu.edu](https://slds.osu.edu).

## **Religious Accommodations**

Ohio State has had a longstanding practice of making reasonable academic accommodations for students' religious beliefs and practices in accordance with applicable law. In 2023, Ohio State updated its practice to align with new state legislation. Under this new provision, students must be in early communication with their instructors regarding any known accommodation requests for religious beliefs and practices, providing notice of specific dates for which they request alternative accommodations within 14 days after the first instructional day of the course. Instructors in turn shall not question the sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system in reviewing such requests and shall keep requests for accommodations confidential. With sufficient notice, instructors will provide students with reasonable alternative accommodations with regard to examinations and other academic requirements with respect to students' sincerely held religious beliefs and practices by allowing up to three absences each semester for the student to attend or participate in religious activities. Examples of religious accommodations can include, but are not limited to, rescheduling an exam, altering the time of a student's presentation, allowing make-up assignments to substitute for missed class work, or flexibility in due dates or research responsibilities. If

concerns arise about a requested accommodation, instructors are to consult their tenure initiating unit head for assistance.

A student's request for time off shall be provided if the student's sincerely held religious belief or practice severely affects the student's ability to take an exam or meet an academic requirement and the student has notified their instructor, in writing during the first 14 days after the course begins, of the date of each absence. Although students are required to provide notice within the first 14 days after a course begins, instructors are strongly encouraged to work with the student to provide a reasonable accommodation if a request is made outside the notice period. A student may not be penalized for an absence approved under this policy.

If students have questions or disputes related to academic accommodations, they should contact their course instructor, and then their department or college office. For questions or to report discrimination or harassment based on religion, individuals should contact the [Office of Institutional Equity](#). (Policy: [Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances](#))

**From:** [Ross, Alan](#)  
**To:** [Walton, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Classics Dept and American Civic Literacy  
**Date:** Monday, April 7, 2025 2:00:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Dear Rachel,  
Can you please also add this to the 2207 submission in Curriculum?  
Thanks,  
Alan

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**From:** Martin, Andrew <[martin.1026@osu.edu](mailto:martin.1026@osu.edu)>  
**Date:** Monday, 24 March 2025 at 13:01  
**To:** Ross, Alan <[ross.2005@osu.edu](mailto:ross.2005@osu.edu)>  
**Subject:** RE: Classics Dept and American Civic Literacy

Thanks Alan! In addition to the ones you mention, I would include Philosophy.  
Best  
Andrew



**Andrew W. Martin**  
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education  
Professor of Sociology  
114 University Hall, 230 North Oval Mall  
Columbus, OH 43210  
614-247-6641 Office  
[martin.1026@osu.edu](mailto:martin.1026@osu.edu)

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**From:** Ross, Alan <[ross.2005@osu.edu](mailto:ross.2005@osu.edu)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 12:53 PM  
**To:** Martin, Andrew <[martin.1026@osu.edu](mailto:martin.1026@osu.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: Classics Dept and American Civic Literacy

Hi Andrew,

My colleagues in Classics and I have been working on our draft Civics syllabus over the last couple of weeks, and are now ready to send it round for concurrence. Do you have any advice on which Depts we should approach? I notice History asked Poli Sci, AAAS and Chase. Are there any others who are also developing Civics courses?

Thanks,  
Alan



**From:** [Rucker-Chang, Sunnie](#)  
**To:** [Ross, Alan](#)  
**Cc:** [Walton, Rachel](#); [Fullerton, Mark](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Concurrence request for Classics 2207  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 10:17:48 PM

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Dear Alan,

I do not see any significant overlap between any class that we currently teach and what is proposed in this syllabus. So, I am happy to grant concurrence for this course.

Best wishes,  
SRC

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**From:** Ross, Alan <ross.2005@osu.edu>  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2025 at 1:39 PM  
**To:** Rucker-Chang, Sunnie <rucker-chang.1@osu.edu>  
**Cc:** Walton, Rachel <walton.640@osu.edu>, Fullerton, Mark <fullerton.1@osu.edu>  
**Subject:** Concurrence request for Classics 2207

Dear Professor Rucker-Chang,

I write to you on behalf of the Classics Department in your role as DUS in AAAS. Classics has developed a new course, CLAS2207 *Classical Origins of American Civics* (syllabus attached), for which we have been advised by Andrew Martin, ASC's Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, to seek your concurrence. Our course examines the influence of ancient political and philosophical texts upon modern American politics and civic discourse. Our emphasis is very much on the reception of Classical Antiquity, and our CLAS2207 should not be duplicative of current AAAS courses and hopefully will be complementary.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Classics' Program Coordinator (Rachel Walton, who is copied on this email). If not, please email your response/concurrence to us. We just need a brief reply of concurrence for the record.

Thanks for your kind consideration.

Best wishes,  
Alan

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Alan J. Ross  
Associate Professor,  
Director of Graduate Studies,  
Department of Classics,

414 University Hall,  
The Ohio State University,  
Columbus, OH 43201. USA

**From:** [Strang, Lee](#)  
**To:** [Ross, Alan](#)  
**Cc:** [Fullerton, Mark](#); [Walton, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Concurrence for new Classics Course: 2207 Classical Origins of American Civics  
**Date:** Monday, March 31, 2025 11:20:11 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Thank you Dr. Ross for sharing this course information. It looks fascinating, and we concur in it.

Regards,  
Lee



Lee J. Strang  
Executive Director, [Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society](#)  
Professor of Law, Moritz College of Law  
The Ohio State University  
(c) 734-277-0719  
[Originalism's Promise: A Natural Law Account of the American Constitution](#) (2019)  
You can access my papers on [SSRN](#)  
For more information on my case book visit [Carolina Academic Press](#)

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**From:** "Ross, Alan" <ross.2005@osu.edu>  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2025 at 2:00 PM  
**To:** "Strang, Lee" <strang.69@osu.edu>  
**Cc:** "Fullerton, Mark" <fullerton.1@osu.edu>, "Walton, Rachel" <walton.640@osu.edu>  
**Subject:** Concurrence for new Classics Course: 2207 Classical Origins of American Civics

Dear Professor Strang,

I write on behalf of the Classics Department here at OSU, where a group of my colleagues and I (all of whom have expertise in Greek and Roman politics, philosophy, and intellectual history) have been developing a new course CLAS2207: *Classical Origins of American Civics* (syllabus attached). This course is designed to meet Ohio's new Civic Literacy requirement by reading each of the prescribed American texts alongside a Greek or Latin classic which influenced it.

As you may well know, the Office of Academic Affairs typically suggests the proposing faculty member seeks the concurrence of units that are doing work in aligned or adjacent areas. May I ask for the Chase Center's concurrence for this course? We hope CLAS2207 will complement

the Chase Center's forthcoming programming.

If you have any questions, please do let me know. If not, please email your response/concurrence to me or Classics' Program Coordinator Rachel Walton, who is copied on this email. We just need a brief reply of concurrence for the record.

Thanks for your kind consideration.

Best wishes,

Alan Ross

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Alan J. Ross  
Associate Professor,  
Director of Graduate Studies,  
Department of Classics,  
414 University Hall,  
The Ohio State University,  
Columbus, OH 43201. USA

**From:** [Reed, Christopher](#)  
**To:** [Ross, Alan](#); [Levi, Scott](#)  
**Cc:** [Fullerton, Mark](#); [Walton, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Concurrence for Classics Course  
**Date:** Friday, March 28, 2025 3:33:04 PM

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Hi Alan,

The History department confirms concurrence for CLAS2207: *Classical Origins of American Civics*.

Thank you,

Chris Reed

\*\*\*\*\*

Christopher A. Reed  
Chair, Undergraduate Teaching Committee, 2024-26  
Assoc Prof of Modern Chinese & East Asian History  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, Ohio 43210  
[reed.434@osu.edu](mailto:reed.434@osu.edu)

On 3/24/25, 1:25 PM, "Ross, Alan" <[ross.2005@osu.edu](mailto:ross.2005@osu.edu)> wrote:

Dear Scott and Chris,

I'm writing on behalf of the Classics Department to ask for History's concurrence for our new course CLAS2207: *Classical Origins of American Civics* (syllabus attached). Like your new HIST2003, CLAS2207 will fulfil the new Civic Literacy requirement for Ohio universities. As you'll see in our syllabus, however, we take a comparative rather than historical approach: students study the influence of seminal Greek and Roman works upon the prescribed texts of the literacy requirement. We hope our new course will be complementary to yours.

Please let me know if you have any questions. If not, please email your response/concurrence to me or Rachel Walton, our program coordinator (cc-ed).

Many thanks,  
Alan

--

Alan J. Ross  
Associate Professor,  
Director of Graduate Studies,  
Department of Classics,  
414 University Hall,  
The Ohio State University,  
Columbus, OH 43201. USA

**From:** [Walton, Rachel](#)  
**To:** [Ross, Alan](#)  
**Cc:** [Fullerton, Mark](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Concurrence for new Classics course: 2207 Classical Origins of American Civics  
**Date:** Monday, April 7, 2025 4:13:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hi Alan,

I have also not received any reply regarding the course from either Philosophy or Political Science.

Rachel



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Rachel Walton**

Academic Program Services Specialist

**The Ohio State University**

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414 University Hall

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**From:** Fullerton, Mark <fullerton.1@osu.edu>

**Sent:** Monday, April 7, 2025 1:54 PM

**To:** Walton, Rachel <walton.640@osu.edu>

**Cc:** Ross, Alan <ross.2005@osu.edu>

**Subject:** Re: Concurrence for new Classics course: 2207 Classical Origins of American Civics

Hi, Rachel and Alan,

I have heard nothing from Philosophy either.

Mark

Mark D. Fullerton

Professor and Chair, Department of Classics

Professor of History of Art

The Ohio State University

414 University Hall

230 North Oval Mall

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<https://classics.osu.edu/>

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**From:** Walton, Rachel <[walton.640@osu.edu](mailto:walton.640@osu.edu)>

**Date:** Monday, April 7, 2025 at 1:46 PM

**To:** Fullerton, Mark <[fullerton.1@osu.edu](mailto:fullerton.1@osu.edu)>

**Cc:** Ross, Alan <[ross.2005@osu.edu](mailto:ross.2005@osu.edu)>

**Subject:** RE: Concurrence for new Classics course: 2207 Classical Origins of American Civics

Hi Mark,

Alan sent two separate emails – one for Political Science and one for Philosophy. Could you please reply to each of them individually that you haven't received concurrence?

Thank you,

Rachel



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Rachel Walton**

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**From:** Fullerton, Mark <[fullerton.1@osu.edu](mailto:fullerton.1@osu.edu)>

**Sent:** Monday, April 7, 2025 1:12 PM

**To:** Ross, Alan <[ross.2005@osu.edu](mailto:ross.2005@osu.edu)>; Walton, Rachel <[walton.640@osu.edu](mailto:walton.640@osu.edu)>

**Subject:** Re: Concurrence for new Classics course: 2207 Classical Origins of American Civics

I have heard nothing from Political Science about the course.

Mark D. Fullerton

Professor and Chair, Department of Classics

Professor of History of Art

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**From:** Ross, Alan <[ross.2005@osu.edu](mailto:ross.2005@osu.edu)>

**Date:** Monday, April 7, 2025 at 1:03 PM

**To:** Fullerton, Mark <[fullerton.1@osu.edu](mailto:fullerton.1@osu.edu)>, Walton, Rachel <[walton.640@osu.edu](mailto:walton.640@osu.edu)>

**Subject:** Re: Concurrence for new Classics course: 2207 Classical Origins of American Civics

Dear Mark and Rachel,

Two weeks ago, I wrote to the Chair and DUS in Philosophy to ask for concurrence for our new course CLAS2207: Classical Origins of American Civics. I have received no reply, and now that two weeks have elapsed, Philosophy can be deemed to have given their concurrence by default. Could you both reply to me for the record that you've also received no response?

Many thanks,  
Alan

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**From:** Ross, Alan <[ross.2005@osu.edu](mailto:ross.2005@osu.edu)>

**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2025 at 2:06 pm

**To:** Shabel, Lisa <[shabel.1@osu.edu](mailto:shabel.1@osu.edu)>, D'Arms, Justin <[darms.1@osu.edu](mailto:darms.1@osu.edu)>

**Cc:** Fullerton, Mark <[fullerton.1@osu.edu](mailto:fullerton.1@osu.edu)>, Walton, Rachel <[walton.640@osu.edu](mailto:walton.640@osu.edu)>

**Subject:** Concurrence for new Classics course: 2207 Classical Origins of American Civics

Dear Professor D'Arms and Professor Shabel,

I write to you on behalf of the Classics Department in your roles as Chair and DUS of Philosophy. Classics has developed a new course, CLAS2207 *Classical Origins of American Civics* (syllabus attached), for which we have been advised by Andrew Martin, ASC's Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, to seek your concurrence. Our course examines the influence of ancient political and philosophical texts upon American politics and civic discourse. Our emphasis is very much on the reception of Classical Antiquity, and our CLAS2207 should not be duplicative of current philosophy courses and hopefully will be complementary.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Classics' Program Coordinator (Rachel Walton, who is copied on this email). If not, please email your response/concurrence to us. We just need a brief reply of concurrence for the record.

Thanks for your kind consideration.

Best wishes,

Alan

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Alan J. Ross

Associate Professor,

Director of Graduate Studies,

Department of Classics,

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The Ohio State University,

Columbus, OH 43201. USA