CLAS 190: Senior Seminar in Classical Studies

Fall 2018, F 1:15-4:00 PM, PR 3 or in Honnold-Mudd Library

Instructor: Christopher Chinn (christopher.chinn@pomona.edu; 7-2926)

Office: PR 7

Office Hours: MW 10:00-10:50 or by appointment. I have an open-door policy and am in my office quite a bit, but it’s always best to let me know ahead of time if you intend to drop in.

Course Objective: The goal of this course is twofold: (1) to provide the student with hands-on experience in the methods and sub-disciplines in Classics; (2) to prepare the student to produce scholarship according to the standards of the discipline.

Course Plan: Sessions will involve instructor-led practica and self-directed (i.e. “flipped classroom”) research projects utilizing library resources. There may be some readings associated with the practicum sessions, but most out-of-class work will focus on individual research projects. Students will be expected to work with their thesis/research advisors to complete at least a part of their senior project.

Texts: There are no texts required for purchase in this class. Various readings may be provided on Sakai. Most of your reading, however, will be directly related to your senior project and will be obtained through the library.

Academic responsibility: I take the issues of cheating and plagiarism seriously. Please familiarize yourself with Pomona’s policies and procedures regarding appropriate and inappropriate academic behavior by reading the following document:

http://catalog.pomona.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#Academic_Standards

It is your responsibility to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct, plagiarism, and other violations of academic honesty.

Academic accommodations: Pomona College is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations may be made by contacting the Dean of Students Office. It is up to the student to contact the professor to fulfill the accommodations. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

Grading: Here is the breakdown of assignments. For my views on grading, participation, and classroom etiquette, please read this: http://pages.pomona.edu/~cmc24747/policies.htm.

In-class work (50%)

In-class writing (30%): For nearly every session there will be writing assignments of different types to be completed and handed in during course sessions.

Presentations (10%): You will give a brief (around 20 minutes plus question and answer) presentation of your sample chapter or research paper at the end of the term.

Participation (10%): The participation component is based on my impression of your preparedness. If I feel you are not prepared on more than one occasion, you will lose 2 percentage points for each subsequent instance of unpreparedness. Attendance is mandatory. Your overall grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade for each unexcused absence. For an absence to be excused you must provide me with appropriate documentation within one day.

Out-of-class work (50%)

Sample chapter or research paper (40%): Due November 26. Those writing a senior thesis or producing a senior project in the Spring are required to have completed a chapter from their thesis (ca. 25 pages). Others are required to have completed a large-scale research project (ca. 25 pages).

Advisor meetings and materials (10%): Students are required to meet with their research advisor and regular intervals. Your advisor will send me meeting reports.
Schedule of topics and assignments: We will follow the course of readings and assignments indicated below. This schedule is subject to change.

Week 1
F Sept 7: Introductions
The professor of Classics
The field

Week 2
F Sept 14: Your projects
Status report (W)

Week 3
F Sept 21: Scholarly Questions
Bibliographical resources/ L’Année Philologique/citation
Bibliography (W)

Week 4
F Sept 28: Commentaries and Companions
Use of basic resources in Classics
Relating scholarly and research questions (W)

Week 5
F Oct 5: The Monograph
Books are long!
Review review (W)

Week 6
F Oct 12: The Article
Scholarly journals, good and bad
Two steps back (W)

Week 7
F Oct 19
NO CLASS (Fall Break)

Week 8
F Oct 26: Research Papers
Putting it all together
Mini-research project (W)

Week 9
F Nov 2: Textual Criticism
The apparatus criticus
Assigned cruces (W)
West 1973; Turner 1987; Reynolds 1983; Reynolds and Wilson 2013

Week 10
F Nov 9: History and Philosophy
Texts and resources
Historical chestnuts (W)
for history see Finley 1985; Morley 1999 and 2004
for philosophy see Guthrie 1962-81; Algra et al. 1999
Week 11

F Nov 16: The Specialty Fields
Archaeology
Art History
Epigraphy
Papyrology
Numismatics

Week 12

F Nov 23
NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

Week 13

F Nov 30: Presentations

Week 14

F Dec 7: Presentations

Introductory Bibliography: Here are some important reference works, some of which have been referred to in the course schedule.

NOTE there are also many resources to be found in the various “companion” series published by Cambridge, Brill, and Blackwell, as well as the Oxford Handbook series.


