

# New York University

## PhD Program in Classics

### Curriculum, entry 2014 onwards

(Current version: September 2018)

#### A PRELIMINARIES

##### 1 ADVISING

Upon arrival, every student will be assigned an **Advisory Committee** consisting of the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) and two further faculty. The Advisory Committee will meet the student at the beginning and at the end of each semester. Prior to each semester, students are required to discuss their course load and distribution with their committee. A **translation diagnostics** will be held before arrival (normally administered by a prospective student's current institution), which may serve as a basis on which the committee recommends course choices.

##### 2 TEACHING

It is highly recommended that students take up the teaching opportunities offered from their second year onwards. Typically, a student will teach four semesters over the course of their degree program. Teaching is assigned by the Chair in consultation with the DGS and Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS).

##### 3 SUMMER PROGRAMS, TRAVEL AND CONFERENCES

###### Travel and research abroad

The department strongly encourages students to seek opportunities for travel and research both within the US and abroad over the summer. Each year, the department aims to offer 2-3 summer travel awards, of up to 5000 USD each, towards participation in academic summer programs, such as that of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens or the Academy in Rome; the programs of DAAD and Goethe Institute in Germany and similar language programs in France, Italy, Greece; participation in archaeological excavations is also a possibility. Travel for individual research purposes in the Mediterranean on presentation of a travel and research plan is especially supported. Pre-doctoral students may apply for the Graduate Dean's pre-doctoral summer

scholarship in order to conduct their research and fieldwork in the Mediterranean. Students also apply for study at any of NYU's foreign research centers, such as NYU London, Paris, Florence, or Berlin, for example to work with a specialist abroad, to use foreign libraries and to attend language courses. Students should note the many funding opportunities that NYU offers each year. See Appendix 3 for details.

### Conferences

GSAS offers each PhD student two conference grants of 500 USD over the course of their graduate career. The department may add to the Dean's funds when necessary, and also support students for additional conferences, if these are deemed appropriate to a student's research progress.

## **B DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

The PhD program consists of three elements: 1) Coursework and seminar papers; 2) Qualifying exams; and 3) a dissertation.

### **1) Coursework and seminar papers**

Students accumulate 72 points of coursework, of which 36 points must be completed in residence. A graduate course typically carries 4 points.

The following courses (or equivalent substitutes) must be passed: Greek and Latin prose composition; both the Latin and Greek year-long surveys; one graduate course from each of the following areas: (1) Greek or Roman history and (2) archaeology or ancient art history. Students must further complete a minimum of 2 courses in fields outside Classics to broaden their methodological and interdisciplinary horizon (see below). Each student will complete at least 8 research papers (min. 5000 words), including in courses where research papers may not be required.

### Course distribution (18 courses total)

**Year 1:** 4 courses/semester (of which 1 per semester must be Greek or Latin survey)

**Year 2:** 3 or 4 courses/semester (of which 1 per semester must be Greek or Latin survey)

**Year 3:** 1 or 2 courses/semester

### Deadlines for seminar papers

**1 February** – papers due for the fall semester

## 1 July – papers due for the spring semester

Individual professors may set earlier deadlines for seminar papers; the deadlines apply independently of possible later deadlines set by courses taken in the consortium or elsewhere.

### Students coming in with an MA

Students coming in with an MA in Classics may be credited up to 24 points towards the PhD Program. They will have to abide by the distribution requirements outlined above but individual adjustments to these requirements may be made in consultation with the students' Advisory Committee. **For further detail, a suggested course distribution, and differing exam schedule in Appendix 2.**

### Course choices within Consortia and in other NYU departments

The graduate program at NYU operates as part of a consortium consisting of NYU, Fordham and CUNY, offering a large number of courses every semester. The graduate programs at ISAW and the IFA also offer a broad variety of seminars of immediate interest to NYU classics graduates. From Year 2 onwards, students are invited to attend courses from within the inter-university doctoral consortium, including, for example, Columbia, Rutgers, and Princeton.

### Interdisciplinary requirement

Students are encouraged to complete more than the mandatory two courses outside the field of Greco-Roman antiquity, and take advantage of the broad variety of graduate seminars in other NYU departments, such as History, Anthropology, Philosophy, Comparative Literature, Religious Studies, Political Science, Economics etc. Course choices will be discussed and have to be approved by the student's committee; the committee will also determine whether a particular course – e.g. at ISAW or the IFA – counts towards the interdisciplinary or the regular course requirement. If a student wishes to learn or continue a further ancient language (e.g. Hebrew, Aramaic, Akkadian), this will fulfill the interdisciplinary requirement as long as the language is learned for a minimum of two semesters. Modern languages do not count towards the interdisciplinary requirement.

### Language courses

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the many resources available at NYU for the learning of further ancient and modern languages. Graduates are entitled to take courses in any language in addition to their coursework. Ancient

language courses may, but need not, count towards coursework credits. Modern language courses at NYU cannot be credited towards the coursework requirements, but do provide an excellent opportunity to acquire such language skills in a systematic way. Students should also note the possibility of applying for fellowships at NYU's global sites, which would cover tuition costs for a six-week language program, at e.g. NYU Berlin, NYU Paris, NYU Florence, NYU Madrid.

## **2) Qualifying exams**

The following exams must be completed to satisfy requirements to admission to PhD status (ABD).

- a. Translation exams in Greek and Latin
- b. two modern language exams (compulsory German; Italian, French or a language specifically required for a student's research field)
- c. four field exams
- d. oral exam in a special field
- e. defense of dissertation proposal

### Exam sessions:

**Fall session** – first two weeks of the fall semester (early September) (field exams; repeat translation; modern language exams)

**Winter session** – first two weeks of spring semester (last week of January/first week of February week of February)  
(repeat field exams, field exams for 4-year program)

**Spring session** – last two weeks of the spring semester (normally second and third week of May) (translation exams; modern language exams)

**Except for Greek and Latin translation, all exams may be retaken once, normally at the session following the one in which the exam has been first attempted.**

### Exam schedule

Year 1 – **translation exam** in Greek or Latin (spring session); one **modern language exam** (usually spring session)

Year 2 – **translation exam** in Greek or Latin (spring session); **second modern language exam** (usually spring session)

Year 3 – **four field exams** (2 in fall session; 2 in spring session)

**oral exam**, in preparation of the dissertation proposal (any time during Year 3)

**Dissertation proposal defense** (Year 3 spring session, or Year 4, fall session)

### Exam descriptions

#### **a. Greek and Latin translation**

These are based on the reading lists of Greek and Latin texts published on the department's website. Students normally take the translation exams at the end of the year in which the Survey in the given language is offered. In consultation with their committee they may opt to defer the exam to any examination period until the end of the second year (spring session). Translation exams may be attempted three times.

#### **b. Modern languages**

One language must be German; the other one of French or Italian. If the student's proposed field requires research in a different language (e.g. modern Greek, Spanish, Russian), this language may be chosen instead of French or Italian, but it cannot substitute the German language requirement.

#### **c. Field exams**

Four general field exams, to be taken during Year 3, normally 2 in the fall and 2 in the spring. Students failing any exam may retake it during the following exam session. **Each field exam** is offered **once a year** unless otherwise agreed. Greek Literature and Greek history are offered in the fall session; Roman Literature and Roman History are offered in the spring session. Greek and Roman Archaeology and Greek and Roman Thought may be offered in either session.

The student chooses four of the following six fields. No field is required.

Greek Literature

Roman Literature

Greek History

Roman History

Greek and Roman Archaeology

Greek and Roman Thought (Religion, Philosophy, Science)

The Field exams are based on specific reading lists, which include primary and secondary literature. The examiners will write questions, which may include

supporting passages in Greek and Latin drawn from the translation exam or the field exam reading list.

**By the end of the spring semester of Year 2 at the latest**, students must discuss their exam choices with their Advisory Committee, after which they need to consult with the individual examiners about the preparation, contents, and date of the exams, and will receive a reading list. Samples of reading lists can be found on the departmental website.

**d. Oral exam (special field exam)**

**To be taken at any time during Year 3.** This exam should lead to the dissertation proposal defense and examines the broader general field in which the student intends to conduct his or her dissertation research. It will be based on a reading list that includes both primary and secondary reading developed by the student in consultation with the future dissertation advisor (who should also be the examiner).

**e. Dissertation Proposal and proposal defense**

**The proposal defense is to be held by the end of the spring semester of Year 3**, or earlier during that academic year. The student submits a dissertation proposal to a Dissertation Committee consisting of the dissertation advisor and at least two other members of the Classics Department faculty. After review, the student circulates the proposal to the departmental faculty as a whole. An oral presentation is scheduled before the committee and any interested member of the graduate faculty. The proposal will be approved by the committee in consultation with the graduate faculty by the end of the spring semester in year 3 at the latest. This will allow the student to use the summer of their third year to undertake fieldwork and/or make significant progress towards their dissertation over the summer. If a student needs to retake more than one field exam in the winter session of Year 3, the students' Advisory Committee may agree to postpone the dissertation proposal defense to the beginning of the fall semester.

The dissertation proposal has the following components:

1. Abstract (100-200 words)
2. Prose proposal (25-35 pages, ca. 10 000 excluding abstract and bibliography)
  - a. Definition of problem
  - b. Review of earlier scholarship  
(including methodological approaches)

- c. Contribution of the dissertation to field
  - d. Work plan (including special requirements, such as archival research or travel)
3. Chapter outline (one page)
  4. Bibliography (at least two pages)

### 3) The Dissertation

The dissertation must demonstrate a sound methodology and must provide a scholarly study of a special field, making an original contribution to that field. When the dissertation is completed and has been approved by the dissertation advisor and one other reader, who is selected (usually) from the faculty of the Classics Department by the candidate and his or her dissertation advisor, an oral defense is scheduled. The defense takes place before a committee of at least five faculty members; the dissertation advisor and the reader chosen by the advisor and the candidate must be among these five. One person chosen from the faculty of another university may read the dissertation and serve as the fifth person on the defense committee. A successful defense requires the approval of four of the five members of the committee.

#### APPENDIX 1: DETAILED YEAR-BY-YEAR DISTRIBUTION OF REQUIREMENTS:

The following chart sets out the program timetable and relevant exams in tabular form. See below Appendix 2 for students coming in with an MA.

Year	no. of seminars	Exams taken		
		Fall session	Winter session	Spring session
1, fall	4			
1, spring	4			transl.1, mod.lang.1
2, fall	3-4			
2, spring	3-4			transl.2, mod.lang.2
3, fall	1-2	4 field exams		
3, spring	1-2		orals	dissertation defense
4-5			dissertation writing	

#### YEAR 1 Coursework

- Students coming in with a BA will take four courses per semester, i.e. eight total during the first year. Students coming in with an MA may

choose to distribute their course load differently in consultation with their Advisory Committee.

- Courses chosen will include one Literature survey in Greek and Latin, lasting over two semesters. The survey is offered in alternate years (see above).
- It is recommended to do at least one course in prose composition in the first year.

*Weekly sight reading* (required for all, no credit)

*Reading list*

Students are strongly encouraged to begin reading Greek and Latin texts from the reading lists immediately upon arrival and to maintain a regular rhythm throughout the year.

*Exams*

- *Modern language examinations.* At least one chosen from German, French, or Italian.
- *Greek and Latin translation examinations* in the ancient language of that year's survey course, based on the 2010 reading list (last week of the spring semester). Students may opt to take the translation exam in the other language, too, but passing this does not exempt them from taking the second year of the Literature survey. Students failing the exam may retake it the following September, in the first week of the fall semester, and in the following January, in the first week of the spring semester.

## **YEAR 2** *Course work*

- Three or four courses per semester, i.e. 6-8 total. Students coming in with an MA may choose to distribute their course load differently in consultation with their Advisory Committee.
- One course must be the second Literature survey.

*Exams*

- *Second modern language examination.* German (mandatory if not taken in year 1) or French or Italian.
- *Greek or Latin translation examinations* in the ancient language of that year's survey course, based on the 2010 reading list (last week of the spring semester). Students failing the exam retake it the following September, in the first week of the fall semester, and in the following January, in the first week of the spring semester.

**YEAR 3** *Field exams* (week 1 of fall semester)*Coursework*

One or two courses per semester.

*Oral exam* in preparation of the dissertation proposal

*Dissertation proposal defense* (no later than last teaching week of spring semester)

**YEAR 4**

- *Dissertation workshop*, meeting monthly throughout the semester, to be taken as long as in residence.
- *Dissertation writing and research*

- YEAR 5**
- *Dissertation writing and research*
  - *Dissertation defense*

**Appendix 2: students with an MA degree from another institution**

Students who have already obtained an MA degree at another institution are eligible to have credited up to 24 points towards their coursework requirements. If taking the full 24 points, students will be eligible for only four years of funding. The number of required research papers will be adjusted accordingly; typically, a student taking the full 24 credits would write 4 research papers at NYU. Incoming students will discuss their choices of curriculum, funding package and course load distribution with their Advisory Committee upon arrival.

**Assuming a 4-year funding package**, students take 12 graduate courses. Students may opt to take both translation exams at the end of Year 1, and are required to do the translation exam for the second ancient language by the end of Year 2. Field exams are taken in the winter session of Year 2 (late January). The dissertation proposal defense must be scheduled for the beginning of Year 3 at the very latest. Oral special field exams may be taken any time between the field exams and the proposal defense.

The following chart sets out a **possible** distribution of course load on a 4-year fellowship, and the **mandatory** exam timetable.

Year	no. of seminars	Exams taken		
		Fall session	Winter session	Spring session
1, fall	4			
1, spring	4			transl.1, mod.lang.1 transl. 2, mod. lang.2
2, fall	2		4 field exams	
2, spring	2		orals	[transl.2, mod.lang.2]
3, fall		dissertation proposal defense		
3, spring		dissertation writing		
4, fall		dissertation writing		
4, spring		dissertation writing		

### Appendix 3: Quick guide to funding possibilities for research and travel

Please note that this guide is not complete; there are many more opportunities for research funding for graduate students within the US and abroad. One-year dissertation writing fellowships are not included in this list, though some one-year research fellowships to conduct dissertation research abroad are.

#### **1 Overseas travel funding**

**Departmental summer grants**, 2-3 a year, up to 5000 USD each

**Ranieri Grants** – Center for Ancient Studies, up to 2000 USD

<http://ancientstudies.fas.nyu.edu/page/travelgrants>

**New York Classical Club** (up to 6000 USD), for study in the summer programs at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, the American Academy in Rome, or the Paideia Institute for study in Greece and/or Rome. All graduate students are automatically signed up for membership in the Club and eligibility begins after their second year. See further

<http://www.nyclassicalclub.org/awards.htm>.

The **Graduate School of Arts and Science (GSAS)** has a number of funding possibilities for students at various stages of their graduate career:

<http://gsas.nyu.edu/page/grad.life.fellowships.html>

Note especially the large number of **GSAS Pre-doctoral Summer Fellowships**, with grants between 2000 and 6000 USD

<http://gsas.nyu.edu/object/grad.acadlife.springawards>

See also their continuously updated list of funding from outside sources

<http://gsas.nyu.edu/object/grad.ots.funding>

**NYU global sites** offer long-term and short-term research fellowships to graduate students – worth considering especially if students would like to work with scholars in places such as London, Paris, Florence or Berlin, or use library facilities elsewhere. <http://www.nyu.edu/research/provosts-global-research-initiatives/research-centers-faculty-graduate-students.html>

**DAAD** – The German Academic Exchange service offers short-term and long-term scholarships to study in Germany, including scholarships both for one-month language courses and 6-12 months graduate research fellowships

## 2 Summer programs

There is a wealth of **summer programs** of interest to Classicists, and every student should consider attending at least one of these courses. These programs often include fellowship awards contributing towards the overall cost.

American School of Classical Studies (6-week summer program, list of available scholarship together with program information)

Athenian Agora Excavations Summer Volunteer Program (ASCS)

American Academy in Rome (6-week summer program, list of available scholarships together with program information)

American Academy in Rome (summer skills courses in archaeology)

American Numismatic Society summer school (in NYC)

Various epigraphy and papyrology summer schools in Europe (e.g. at Oxford, Bologna, Athens)

### **3 Fellowships covering a full year abroad**

Many institutions and funding bodies offer one-year research fellowships for graduate students who wish to conduct their research abroad, and it is impossible to give a fuller list here. Depending on your nationality, you may also be eligible for your national funding agencies' fellowship programs. Some known funding agencies are Fulbright scholarships; DAAD, as above.

**Students are especially encouraged to attempt the fellowship competition for a year-long study at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and the American Academy in Rome.**

#### **Fellowships offered outside these programs include:**

Rome Prize (AAR)

Mediterranean regional research fellowship program of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (AAR)

**Koc University in Istanbul** offers attractive pre-doctoral fellowships for graduates if your research specializes in Turkey: <http://rcac.ku.edu.tr/fellowships>

### **4 Conference funding:**

PhD students during the course of their program are eligible for two grants of 500 USD to give papers at conferences: <http://gsas.nyu.edu/page/grad.travelgrant>  
The department may offer additional support for students' participation in academic conferences.