

Course Number

CLA 101-6

Course Title

Freshman Seminar: Ancient Greece and Rome in Modern Film and Culture

Quarter/Year

Fall 2021

Day/Time

TR 11-12:20

Instructor

Platte

Degree/Distro Fulfillment

Freshman Seminar



Required Textbooks

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Assessments

Course Description:

In this course we will examine, and learn how to write about, the role of Ancient Greece and Rome in American film and culture. Preliminary steps in this study will involve introductions to various historic eras of the ancient Greco-Roman world as well as important elements of ancient culture. Our emphasis will, however, not be analysis of antiquity itself but rather of American engagement with that antiquity, particularly in film. From reflections of ancient Rome in *Star Wars* to the adaptation of Greek comedy in Spike Lee's *Chiraq*, we will examine not just how antiquity permeates American culture, but how popular art creatively and critically engages with Classical traditions. We will also consider engagement with Classical antiquity in some non-cinematic media as well, such as the graphic novel and even the architecture of the city of Chicago. Through writing and research assignments students will hone their ability to interpret and explain the role of Classical traditions in the modern world.