

Course Number

Classics 101

Course Title

What makes a Classic?

Quarter/Year

Spring 2021

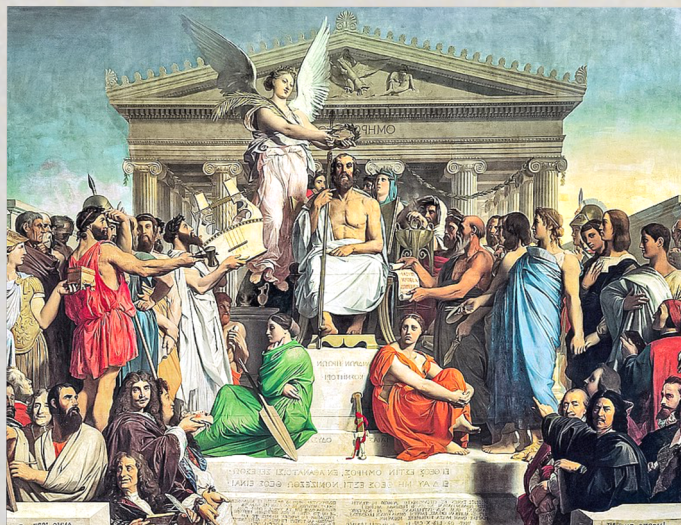
Day/Time

TTh 11-12:20pm

Instructor

Weinritt

Degree/Distro Fulfillment



Required Textbooks

None

Assessments

Short writing assignments and final project

Course Description:

How does a work of literature become a “Classic?” What defines the “classical” style in art, music, and architecture? What belongs in the canon or educational curriculum, and who decides? Most importantly, what do a society’s answers to these questions tell us about their values and their cultural identity?

Combining the development of Western classicism with case studies from other cultures, this course examines how a society’s idea of the “Classic” tells a story about where it sees itself as coming from through the art, architecture, and literature it prizes. To answer “What Makes a Classic?,” we’ll divide our attention between the literature and art that constitute the canon and the critical apparatus that maintains this special status for certain works while excluding others. Towards the end of the quarter, we will turn a critical eye towards appropriations of Greco-Roman culture by hate groups.

Image: Ingres, Jean Auguste Dominique. 1827. “Homer Deified, or the Apotheosis of Homer.” Paris: Louvre.