Classics teaches us to read carefully and write elegantly and persuasively. Classics majors excel in logical and linguistic analysis as well as ethical reasoning, and they bring deep historical awareness to culturally complex issues. Our alumni have pursued careers as:

- Attorneys
- Museum conservators
- Nonprofit directors
- Physicians
- Political strategists
- Professors and teachers

“Studying classics opens our eyes to the reality that our everyday activities—our laws, our speech, and even our worldviews—are derived from foundational concepts. It was through classics that I started to wonder about the basis of everything around me.”

Jon Madorsky, ’14
Law student, New York University

“Classics forced me to develop my critical writing and communication skills, which inform my interactions with clients and presentations to my case team. I would not have traded my experience in classics for any other major.”

Sibel Sayiner, ’15, MS, ’16
Bioengineering associate, Boston Consulting Group

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HUMAN? HOW SHOULD WE LIVE OUR LIVES?

CAN THE PAST BE A SOURCE OF NEW IDEAS?

WHAT ARE THE ORIGINS OF WESTERN LANGUAGES, LITERATURE, POLITICS, AND PHILOSOPHY?
The ancient Mediterranean world has had a profound influence on our modern times, influencing the arts, sciences, medicine, geopolitics, law, entertainment, and religion. Classics sheds light on the foundations of many fields: students regularly pair classics with subjects ranging from biology and electrical engineering to English and political science.

In the sixth century AD, a ship carrying prefabricated parts for building a Byzantine church sank off the coast of Sicily. The Marzamemi Maritime Heritage Project, directed by Stanford faculty, studies the vessel and its cargo to gain insight into patterns of trade and cultural exchange between east and west in the Mediterranean world. Each summer, students excavate artifacts from the underwater wreck and learn about heritage management and sustainable archaeological practices.

Stanford’s highly interdisciplinary classics program, one of the nation’s largest, offers courses in all aspects of the ancient Mediterranean world and its legacy. Students may concentrate in one or more of the following:

- Ancient History
- Classical Studies
- Greek
- Latin

Build on your foundation and pursue your interests with compelling courses like:

- To Die For: Antigone and Political Dissent
- Ten Things: An Archaeology of Design
- Gender and Power in Ancient Rome
- Ancient Athletics
- Sappho: Erotic Poetess of Lesbos