



Classical Studies and Ancient History

BA



Bachelor of Arts major

Who was Cleopatra? How were the pyramids built? Why are we still so fascinated with Greek mythology?

The cultures and histories of the ancient Mediterranean world are yours to explore. Discover the literature, art, and archaeology of Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Investigate their politics, religion, gender, and sexuality, as well as our modern reception of them. The ancient world is still with us; how will it influence your future?

Career possibilities

With a focus on teaching research skills, critical analysis, interpretation of evidence, argument construction, persuasive writing, oral communication, and independent thought, our graduates are valuable assets in any field. Former students now work in media and television, politics, government, technology, fraud detection, teaching, conservation, museums, art, academia, historical preservation and advertising.

“I have enjoyed working with the Curators and Collection Managers who have kaitiaki responsibility for the amazing encyclopaedic collections in the museum's care, as well as meeting and working with the communities who have an association with those collections.

“Never underestimate the value of a good research degree, those are skills you can't learn anywhere else.”



ELIZABETH COTTON
Director, Museum and Arts, Waikato Museum

Graduate: Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Ancient History*
Master of Arts in Ancient History



“The history and cultures of ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome have inspired countless generations and continue to do so. They have served as cross-cultural touchstones and examples for some, and legacies to be critiqued and reckoned with by others.”

LISA BAILEY
Associate Professor

*Classical Studies and Ancient History has replaced Ancient History as a major in the BA.



You have the chance to study genres like epic, tragedy, comedy, and love poetry, to explore Egyptian art and religion from a non-Western perspective, engage with the archaeology of the ancient Mediterranean world, or to meet famous figures such as Alexander the Great or Cleopatra. You can also discover the Latin, Greek and Hieroglyphic languages.

STAGE 1 COURSE*

ANCIENT 110 –

Classical Mythology

A study of ancient mythology – its gods, heroes and monsters – through the works of major writers and artists from Greece and either Rome or Egypt.

STAGE 2 COURSE*

ANCIENT 260 –

Roman Revolutions

Covers the history, politics, society and culture of Rome during the late Republic and early Imperial periods. Topics include the army, religion, family, sexuality, literature, art and the life of the provinces, set against the dramatic breakdown of old systems of government and their replacement with a new model of rule.

STAGE 3 COURSE*

ANCIENT 352 –

Egyptian Religion

A study of ancient Egyptian religion from the Early Dynastic period through to the end of the Late Period. Examines religious practice as well as religious thought and considers the patterns of belief throughout the ancient period of Egypt's history.



Get excited about your course options:



- Ancient Greek Language 1
- Roman Revolutions
- The World of Cleopatra
- The Later Roman Empire



Complementary majors include:

Classical Studies and Ancient History
+
Anthropology
English
European Languages and Cultures
History

*Course availability may be subject to change. For a full list of courses and up-to-date information visit our website. Published June 2025.

“An Arts degree appealed to me because of the diverse range of courses, particularly for Classical Studies and Ancient History. It allowed me to focus on my passion, ancient Egyptian history, and also delve into other interesting areas and meet like-minded people.”

BLAKE WALKER

Student: Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Classical Studies and Ancient History
/ Bachelor of Commerce conjoint

