

CLAS 406

Special Topic: Classics Down Under

TRIMESTER 1 2016



SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS & RELIGIOUS STUDIES
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

CLASSICS PROGRAMME

CLAS 406

Special Topic: Classics Down Under

30 POINTS

Full Year 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 29 June 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 5 June 2016

Easter break: 24–30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Class times and locations

Thursdays 1:10 – 3pm in OK 526 (Classics Museum)

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr. Simon Perris

Email: simon.perris@vuw.ac.nz

Phone: 463-5478

Office Hours: by email appointment between 9am and 4pm weekdays.

Communication of additional information

An additional information will be posted on the Noticeboards in the Classics Programme Foyer (Level 5, Old Kirk Building) and on the course's Blackboard page.

Prescription

A special topic on the ancient world for presentation, discussion and contextual analysis.

Course content

This course investigates classical reception and the classical tradition, primarily focusing on New Zealand but also taking into account overseas material. We will cover the basics of reception theory, read some major overseas examples of classical reception, and, most importantly, survey the range and scope of classical reception in New Zealand and analyse selected examples.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- 1) demonstrate detailed knowledge of classical reception in New Zealand across a number of texts and artworks, including their ancient sources and their socio-cultural contexts;
- 2) describe and evaluate major theories of classical reception;
- 3) conduct analytical close readings, informed by reception theory, of individual texts and artworks;
- 4) research a topic in classical reception and synthesize that research into a formal argument.

Teaching format

CLAS 406 is taught via weekly two-hour seminars. The first half of a given class consists of a 40 to 50-minute presentation by the lecturer or a student on the set topic for that week. The second half consists of guided discussion or other activities related to the set topic. Students must each lead one session during the year (though volunteers for more will not be turned away!).

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- 1) attend at least 80% of seminars throughout the year;
- 2) lead or co-lead one or two seminars (TBA, depending on class size);
- 3) sit the mid-term test;
- 4) submit a research essay;
- 5) sit the final examination.

Workload

Students should expect to spend, on average, twelve hours per week on this course: two hours in class, four hours reading, four hours preparing assignments, and two hours on revision.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Seminar presentations (40–50 minutes each)	10	1, 3, 4	TBC
2	Mid-term test (in class; one hour)	15	1, 2	2 June
3	Research essay (topic TBA; 3000 words)	25	1, 3, 4	23 September
4	Final examination (3 hours)	50	1, 2, 3	TBC

Marking, Extensions, & Penalties:

Formal written work will be assessed according to the mechanics of formal writing (presentation, referencing, style, paragraphs, etc); clarity of expression; appropriate and effective use of evidence (primary and secondary); and quality of analysis. Written work will also be assessed with respect to proper treatment of primary and secondary evidence, and proper understanding of the relative merits of primary and secondary evidence. Essays in particular will also be assessed according to use of essay form and clarity of argument. The mid-term test, which will consist of short answers to straightforward factual questions about theoretical approaches, sources, and texts, will be marked accordingly. The final examination will assess knowledge of the entire course (across all CLOs). Seminar leadership will be assessed on clarity of presentation, coverage of relevant material, and quality of analysis and interpretation.

In the event that you require an extension, you must apply **in advance**. All reasonable consideration will be taken; you may be required to provide a medical certificate or other documentation. In particular, please tick the box denoting the granting of an extension on the Classics coversheet. In the absence of a formal extension, late work will be penalised 5% per working day up to a maximum penalty of 50%, and may be awarded a grade only, with no comments. Work that exceeds the word limits may also receive a penalty, or may only be read and graded up to the set word limit. Students who fail to deliver an in-class presentation on the agreed date may be penalised the entire grade (10%) for that presentation.

Submission and return of work

All work should be submitted in the Assignment Box outside OK508 before 5pm on the due date. We will endeavour to have all work returned 2 weeks later.

Set texts

There are no set texts for CLAS 406 in 2016.

Recommended texts

Classical reception in New Zealand

J. K. Baxter, *Selected or even Collected Poems*

Witi Ihimaera, *The Dream Swimmer* (Penguin, 1997) and the second edition of *The Matriarch* (Penguin, 2009)

Anna Jackson, *Catullus for Children and I, Clodia* (AUP)

Geoff Miles, John Davidson, and Paul Millar, *The Snake-Haired Muse: James K. Baxter and Classical Myth* (VUP, 2011)

Robert Sullivan, *Captain Cook in the Underworld* (AUP, 2002)

Classical reception in general

R. DeMaria, Jr., and R. D. Brown (eds), *Classical Literature and its Reception: an Anthology* (Blackwell, 2007)

L. Hardwick, *Reception Studies* (OUP, 2003)

Robert Holub, *Reception Theory: A Critical Introduction* (Methuen, 1984)

Charles Martindale, *Redeeming the Text: Latin Poetry and the Hermeneutics of Reception* (CUP, 1993)

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course.

Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz