**CLAS 1930 Introduction to Greek and Latin Meters**

Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30–3:50

Haynes

Office: Marston Hall, Room 101

Office hours: Tuesday 12–1, Thursday 1–2

We will survey the major metrical systems of Greek and Roman verse by reading a wide range of short poems and brief extracts. The main concerns will be, first, how to scan poems correctly, and second, how to evaluate metrical and rhythmic choices.

**Class requirements:**

Active participation in class: 20% of final grade.

Two short papers (focused on practical criticism): 50% of final grade.

Midterm (focused on scanning): 30% of final grade.

(Note: students may elect to emphasize Greek over Latin or Latin over Greek in the papers and exams.)

**Recommended texts**

D. S. Raven, *Greek Metre*

D. S. Raven, *Latin Metre*

M. L. West, *Greek Metre*

January 23 Introduction to the class

January 28 Prosody; dactylic hexameter

January 30 Homer and Virgil (passages for comparison)

February 4 Homer and Virgil (continued)

February 6 Hexameter traditions (Apollonius of Rhodes, Statius)

February 11 Elegiac couplets: from the *Greek Anthology*

February 13 From the *Greek Anthology* and Martial 5.34

February 20 Latin elegiacs. Propertius 4.7

February 25 Archilochus fr. 196A (West) and Horace, *Epodes* 3 and 8

February 27 Iambic trimeter: Euripides, *Medea* 1021–80 and Seneca, *Medea* 893–977

March 4 Iambic trimeter: Greek comedy

March 6 Other stichic meters of Greek tragedy and comedy

March 11 Choliambs and iambic distichs (‘epodes’) in Greek and Latin verse

March 13 Iambic senarius: Roman comedy. **First paper due**.

March 18 **Midterm**: dactylic hexameter, elegiac couplet, and iambic trimeter

March 20 Hendecasyllabics

April 1 Greek lyric meter: Sappho and Alcaeus

April 3 Greek lyric meter: Sappho and Alcaeus

April 8 Latin lyric meter: Horace

April 10 Latin lyric meter: Horace and Catullus

April 15 Dactylo-epitrites: Pindar, Olympian 6

April 17 Choral odes of Greek tragedy

April 22 Choral odes of Greek tragedy

April 24 Choral odes of Greek tragedy. **Second paper due.**

May 8 **Final**