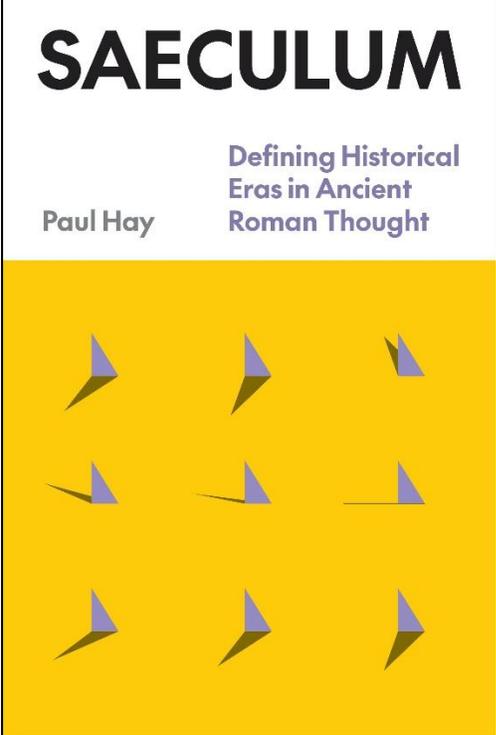


# H-SC CLASSICS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER    FALL 2023

## August 2023

Dr. Paul Hay published his first monograph – *Saeculum: Defining Historical Thought Eras in Ancient Roman Thought* – with The University of Texas Press! Congratulations to Dr. Hay on this monumental achievement!

	<p>Dr. Hay explains how his book is a scholarly analysis of Roman social and intellectual history at the end of the Republic: "I examine Rome in the first century BCE to glimpse the rhetoric of periodization, exploring how the ancient Romans developed a novel sense of time to construct their views of the past and future. The Roman general Sulla first sought to portray himself as the inaugurator of a new age of prosperity, and through him Romans adopted the term <i>saeculum</i> to refer to a unique era of history. Romans went on to deepen their investment in periodization by linking notions of time to moments of catastrophe, allowing them to conceptualize their own epoch and its conclusion. Periodization further introduced the idea of specific agents of change that were foundational to narratives of progress and decline. <i>Saeculum</i> describes an intellectual revolution that reorganized the meaning of history."</p> <p>Click <a href="#">[here]</a> for an interview Dr. Hay did with UT Press and <a href="#">[here]</a> for a shortlist of recommended books he compiled for aspiring Roman history buffs. Go <a href="#">here</a> (<a href="https://utpress.utexas.edu/9781477327395">https://utpress.utexas.edu/9781477327395</a>) for more information and how to get your own copy!</p>
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## October 2023

On Sunday October 8, the Hampden-Sydney College Classics Department continued a long-standing tradition when over thirty (> 30!) H-SC Classics students, classical culture enthusiasts, and faculty members traveled to Lynchburg, VA to attend Randolph College's biennial production of an ancient Greek play. This year's play was Euripides' *Ion*. As usual, Prof. Amy Cohen directed the production performed in English translation, in accordance with ancient theatrical practices using the same three actors for all the main roles, specially made theatrical masks (constructed with a 3D printer), ancient costumes and set design, and a singing and dancing chorus with live musical accompaniment. We watched this performance in an outdoor theater with seats terraced into a curved hillside overlooking the performance area, not unlike how Euripides' audience watched the debut performance of his play in Athens' Theater of Dionysus in about 412 B.C.E:



**Row 5:** Matt Miscikowski, Nathan Cabrera  
**Row 4:** Elian Steve Toapanta Sanchez, Ansen Lackner, Remi Traftalet, Josh McCoy, Rhett Hartley, Briggs Randall  
**Row 3:** Cooper Wendley, Will Bealmear, David Jerzak, Jeremy Brenner, Copeland Spearman, Anvei Brown, Grant Ewing  
**Row 2:** Andrew Betson, Jackson Lott, Robert Morris, Xay Lang, Marc Moroz, Sydney Tapscott  
**Row 1:** RC Prof. Randall Speer (Director of Music), RC Prof. Amy Cohen (Director), H-SC Prof. Janice Siegel, H-SC Prof. Paul Hay  
**Not pictured:** Roger Adams, Joe Carbone, Sam Davis, Patrick Duffy, George Holman, Matt Kendrick, Finlay Lee, Carson Mann

Our H-SC contingent applauded the effort and achievement of the crew and cast, one of whom Dr. Hay recognized as having taken his Classical Mythology class in Spring 2021 as a high school student! The H-SC gang enjoyed spirited conversation about the play over dinner at Rivermont Pizza and then on the bus ride home. We are all looking forward to the Special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary production of Sophocles *Antigone* in 2025. Visit <https://www.randolphcollege.edu/greekplay/> for more information about Randolph College’s contribution to keeping classical culture alive in Southside Virginia!

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## November 2023

Dr. Janice Siegel published an article entitled “Guillermo del Toro’s *Hellboy*: A Kinder, Gentler, More Modern Heracles” in the peer-reviewed scholarly journal *Thersites: Journal for Transcultural Presences and Diachronic Identities From Antiquity to Date* (click on the image below left or go to <https://thersites-journal.de/index.php/thr/article/view/253> to access/download the article):

<p>JOURNAL FOR TRANSCULTURAL PRESENCES &amp; DIACHRONIC IDENTITIES FROM ANTIQUITY TO DATE</p> <h1>thersites</h1> <p>Current Archives Submissions About ▾</p> <p>Home / Archives / Vol. 17 (2023): Classics and the Supernatural (eds. A. Potter &amp; Hunter Gardner) / Articles</p> <h2>Guillermo del Toro’s <i>Hellboy</i>: A Kinder, Gentler, More Modern Heracles</h2> <p>Janice Siegel Hampden-Sydney College</p> <p>DOI: <a href="https://doi.org/10.34679/thersites.vol17.253">https://doi.org/10.34679/thersites.vol17.253</a></p> <p>Keywords: Hellboy, Heracles/Heraclēs/Hercules, Classical Reception, Reception of Mythology, Mythic Hero</p> <p><b>Abstract</b></p> <p>In <i>Hellboy</i> (2004, Sony Pictures), Guillermo del Toro presents a mythic hero</p>	<p><b>Abstract</b></p> <p>In <i>Hellboy</i> (2004, Sony Pictures), Guillermo del Toro presents a mythic hero (half human/half demon) seemingly made from the same mold as the classical hero Heracles (Hercules). Hellboy’s modern world is shaped by a cosmology not unlike that of Greek mythology, and as is true for Heracles, his unique pedigree and superior physicality empower him to mediate between the forces of supernaturality and humanity. Hellboy’s experiences evoke comparison with most characters and exploits in the Heracleian mythological corpus; his good character precludes comparison with others. Hellboy must contend with his own versions of Hera, Eurystheus, and a Nemean Lion/Hydra-like monster. He, too, relies on his own superhuman strength, innate cunning and an Athena-like protector to be successful at his job. Both heroes navigate a difficult path to their very different destinies. But in the end, Hellboy’s compassion, humility, unerring moral compass, and genuinely altruistic motivations make him both a better man and a better mythic hero, one worthy even of being loved.</p>
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## NOVEMBER 2-4, 2023

Dr. Hay traveled to Greensboro, North Carolina to regale a live audience at the Meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle, West, and South (CAMWS), Southern Section, with his paper entitled “Greek Intellectuals at Rome: Caecilius Calactinus and Roman Poetry.” His panel was entitled “Keep the Meter Running: Latin Poetry.”

For the full Conference program, go to <https://camws.org/node/2139>. For the complete abstract of Dr. Hay’s research presentation, go to [Greek Intellectuals at Rome: Caecilius Calactinus and Roman Poetry \(https://camws.org/sites/default/files/26182%20Greek%20Intellectuals%20at%20Rome.pdf\)](https://camws.org/sites/default/files/26182%20Greek%20Intellectuals%20at%20Rome.pdf)

**Dr. Hay’s Abbreviated Abstract:** This paper examines a fragment of the works of Caecilius Calactinus and argues that Greek intellectuals living in Rome in the first century BCE influenced contemporary Roman poets to a greater degree than previously understood. Little attention has been paid by scholars to the figure of Caecilius Calactinus, a Jewish Sicilian literary critic and rhetorician who was a significant writer in the Augustan Age. In a surviving fragment, Caecilius gives an anecdote about the Sicilian tyrant Agathocles: sitting among partygoers drinking from golden cups, Agathocles reminds them that his success is due to his earlier practice of making clay cups (as he had grown up as the son of a potter). Thus the juxtaposition of golden and earthenware cups serves as a metaphor for a larger moralizing point about humble origins. This fragment’s focus on the moral symbolism of golden versus clay cups appears frequently in Roman poetry (Tibullus 1.1, 2.3; Horace, Odes 1.20, 1.31, 2.7, Epistles 1.2; Ovid, Fasti 5.515-22) contemporaneous with Caecilius’s career at Rome. An analysis of the career of Caecilius Calactinus which situates him among the Roman intelligentsia can better understand the possibility of mutual influence among all participants.

## NOVEMBER 11, 2023

Dr. Siegel participated in a virtual conference panel sponsored by Antiquity in Media Studies (AIMS) called “*From Mirror of Antiquity to Antiquities on Screens: Shaping self, persona, society through media/ted encounters with imagined pasts.*”

For the full Conference program, go to

<https://antiquityinmediastudies.wordpress.com/aims-conference-2023/>

For the complete abstract of Dr. Siegel’s research presentation, go to

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Q6EAW\\_DhZmRyIPfDEPEIfulzpO6CKmwAf\\_epDfXwEkk/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Q6EAW_DhZmRyIPfDEPEIfulzpO6CKmwAf_epDfXwEkk/edit)

To watch Dr. Siegel’s pre-recorded 30-minute presentation, click on the image below or go to

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tnYmstx8JV\\_3N3jSUDGf6hJSAenHTBBs/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tnYmstx8JV_3N3jSUDGf6hJSAenHTBBs/view?usp=sharing)



**Dr. Siegel’s Abbreviated Abstract:** In this presentation, I consider how this particular *Star Trek* episode evokes and adapts to the *Star Trek* universe the tropes, themes, and imagery of the Sirens scene from Homer’s *Odyssey* Book 12. Just as Homer’s Sirens lure Odysseus and his men to their deaths with an unearthly song, in *The Lorelei Signal* the Enterprise crew is imperiled when they seek the source of an equally mysterious and compelling signal. Of course, in the *Star Trek* episode, science

and advanced technology replace supernaturality as both cause and cure of the threat posed to humanity. This *Star Trek* episode (like so many others) uses the details from Homer’s text that are so integral to classical mythology to explore What It Means to be Human. And true to the spirit of Classical Reception studies, mine shows how the modern adaptation is both influenced by and illuminates its ancient model.

## December 2023: Classics Club Sponsors a Study Break!



mythology, going on field trips to see ancient art or to listen to scholarly lectures or to read the Latin labels on plants at the Lewis Botanical Gardens, or just have a night of bowling with like-minded individuals!) to join in. (Dr. Siegel remains on the lookout for anyone who wants to play Latin Scrabble!).

A Classics Department-sponsored Study Break during Finals Weeks attracted a big crowd! The party was catered by the Fishin' Pig and featured a cake made in the image of Dr. Hay's book jacket! Congratulations again, Dr. Hay! Freshmen Stanley Johnson and Landon May collected over 30 signatures from students interested in re-establishing the College's Classics Club. Regular meetings and events will begin in the Spring, and Stanley and Landon encourage all students with an interest in any aspect of Classics (reading great literature, learning about ancient Greek music, watching television shows and films with classical motifs, building models of ancient buildings, playing video games steeped in Ancient Rome or Greek



## Classics Department Bulletin Board in Morton Hall

The Classics Department's bulletin board in Morton has a fresh new look, and now features advertisements for spring 2024 courses, promotional materials about the value of a classics major, and world news stories about classical culture. Have you come across some interesting reference to Classics In The News? Let Dr. Siegel ([jsiegel@hsc.edu](mailto:jsiegel@hsc.edu)) or Dr. Hay ([phay@hsc.edu](mailto:phay@hsc.edu)) know and we will post it on the board!

## Fall 2023 Classics Department Class Review

This Fall 2023, Dr. Hay's Greek 102 students mastered advanced grammatical concepts including participles and the subjunctive mood. His Greek 202 students read Books 6, 7, and 8 of Homer's *Odyssey* in the original Greek (!) and the entire epic poem in English translation. His Latin 201 students followed Julius Caesar through Gaul while reading the *Bellum Gallicum* and then dug into Caesar's ethnographic study of the Gauls and Germans, all in the original Latin (!). And in his Western Culture 101 class, Dr. Hay's students had lively discussions about Homer's *Iliad*, Thucydides' *Peloponnesian War*, Sophocles' *Philoctetes*, and Plato's *Symposium*, and then contemplated the Roman cultural values on display in Sallust's *Catiline's War*.

Students in Dr. Siegel's Screened Odysseys course (CLAS 185) explored how Homer's *Odyssey* has been dramatized, adapted, and even satirized in a variety of television and film productions. In her Greek Literature in Translation class (CLAS 203), students read seminal works including selected *Homeric Hymns*, Homer's *Odyssey*, Euripides' *Hecuba*, Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*, and Apollonius' *Argonautica: Jason and the Golden Fleece* (and got to see an ancient tragedy like the one they read performed in Lynchburg!); in Dr. Siegel's Global Cultures course, students explored similarities between the life and works of Confucius, Socrates, and Jesus and studied the Roman Empire and China's Han Dynasty side by side, all of which helped them see both the universality of human experience and the richness of cultural diversity. Latin 101 students gloried in the details of Latin grammar and syntax in preparation for reading some of the best stuff on earth in the original Latin. Green Cell Drills rock!

## Department of Classics SPRING '24 COURSES

### **CLAS 204 – Latin Literature in Translation** – MWF 11:30am-12:20pm

Instructor: *Janice Siegel*

Reading and discussion of major works of classical Latin literature. Literary themes and techniques are considered as well as the influence of Latin writings on later literature. No knowledge of Latin is required. Prerequisite: none. **This course fulfills the Core Curriculum Literature Requirement.**

### **CLAS 285 – Jews and Christians in the Classical World** – TR 2:00pm-3:20pm

Instructor: *Paul Hay*

A study of the lives and writings of Jews and Christians living in the Greco-Roman world of classical antiquity, from the death of Alexander the Great to the rise of Constantine. Readings will be drawn from both Biblical (e.g., Maccabees, Acts) and Classical (e.g., Philo, Josephus) sources and will be complemented with modern scholarship. We will examine how ancient Jews and Christians created and adapted their identities both in opposition to, and alongside, the dominant Greco-Roman cultures that surrounded them. **This course counts as an elective for majors/minors in Classics and in Religion.**

### **GREK 101 – Elementary Greek** – MWF 9:30am-10:20am

Instructor: *Paul Hay*

A foundation course in the vocabulary, forms, and grammar of classical Greek, preparing the student to read standard authors. Emphasis is given to the development of the student's command of English by comparative and contrastive exercises and to the appreciation of Greek cultural values by close study of significant vocabulary. Prerequisite: none.

### **GREK 201 – Intermediate Greek** – TR 12:30pm-1:50pm

Instructor: *Paul Hay*

A continuing study of grammar and vocabulary is integrated with the reading and analysis of unadapted prose and verse. Prerequisites: Greek 101-102. **Greek 201 and 202 together fulfill the Core Curriculum Language Requirement.**

### **LATN 102 – Elementary Latin** – MWF 10:30am-11:30am

Instructor: *Janice Siegel*

This course is a continuation of Latin 101. The text is written for adults; the sentences and drill exercises in forms and syntax are based on classical authors. Considerable emphasis is placed on expanding the student's vocabulary and grasp of language structure. Prerequisite: Latin 101 or placement by the department.

### **LATN 202 – Intermediate Latin** – MWF 9:30am-1:20am

Instructor: *Janice Siegel*

Reading and analysis of selections from Latin prose and verse, and a continuing study of grammar and vocabulary. Prerequisite: Latin 201. **Latin 201 and 202 together fulfill the Core Curriculum Language Requirement.**

### **LATN 302 – Advanced Readings in Latin** – Time and place TBD

Instructor: *Janice Siegel*

Course Description: Prerequisite: Latin 202 or placement by the department. This course **fulfills both the Core Curriculum Language Requirement and the Core Curriculum Literature Requirement.**