

**George W.M. Harrison, PhD**  
**Greek and Roman Studies**

**FYSM 1106: Life and Death in Greece and Rome**

**Course Description:**

The Fall term will examine seminal texts, mainly Greek and Latin, but Egyptian and Near Eastern as well exploring what 'love' (in its broadest sense, including its antithesis) meant to the ancients. The Winter term considers death and burial among the ancient Mediterranean peoples, by a number of topics, some of which deliberately provoke modern comparison. Texts in translation are read and an equal amount of art some of which, both sex and death can be explicit. Each week has one oral student report on topics agreed in advance with the professor such as Divorce by death (Octavia), a wife's revenge on an unfaithful spouse (Hercules Oetaeus), refusal of the right to mourn (Trojan Women), *schadenfreude* (unseemly gloating) at the death of a rival (Apocolocyntosis), groveling for forgiveness (consolations – both genuine and disingenuous), what men say when women aren't around (dinner parties in literature), what mimes claim women say when men are not around. There is, in addition, responses to the world around (natural history and natural disasters, advice on loving well, eating well, living long, open letters to rulers, and unsought and unwanted (and almost certainly unfollowed) advice to the coming generation.

**Goals and Objectives:**

Freshman Year Seminar was designed in part to give advanced preparation (which is why in the Ivy League it is known as a 'proseminar') in multiple types of research and communication of results. This class thus mixes written group research, short oral presentations at a high level of competency, and a major research paper, plus a in depth written essay question (mid-term). This class has been and will remain cutting edge in technologies available at Carleton.

Because class also introduces students (which is why in Europe it is known as a 'proseminar') to several important services that Carleton provides, the first semester will have several guest speakers, and one guest speaker in the second semester. As it is also anticipated that students may wish to submit their work to undergraduate conferences or publications (such as Carleton's *Corvus*), time will be spent discussing the peer review process and how to prepare oral work for written publication.