
**RECOMMENDATION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL AND ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN STUDIES (CANES)**

The transfer of the continuing commitments of two faculty members from the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies to the Department of Classics has broadened the intellectual scope of Classics to include scholarly expertise on literary and cultural traditions that surround the Hebrew Bible, such as Hebrew language and Israelite culture and the related languages of Aramaic, Ugaritic, and Syriac and the cultures of the people who spoke them. The newly combined faculty is energized by these changes and believes that the department's name should accurately reflect this new expertise and the broader range of programs it makes possible. They also note the addition of "Ancient Near Eastern Studies" to the department name will make the department's mission clear to scholars of ancient Hebrew and its related disciplines and will better align the department name with other, similarly configured departments at peer institutions.

In addition to increasing the faculty and changing its name, the department has also begun the process of merging the graduate program from Hebrew and Semitic Studies with the graduate program in Classics. They intend to create a single program (CANES) with two named options, Classics and Hebrew Bible, doubling the number of graduate students in the department and creating efficiencies in admissions, advising, and other administrative functions. At the undergraduate level, they intend to create a program in Ancient Archaeology, with a focus on Greek, Roman, and Israelite cultures. Moreover, they will add undergraduate courses in Hebrew literature to the list of courses that count towards the major and certificate in Classical Studies. They expect, therefore, that the study of the Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East will become a fully integrated part of the expanded department's scholarly output and its graduate and undergraduate programs.

Because Classics is already a freestanding department, this renaming will not create any overlap with other departments. The name "Classical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies" will not conflict with other department names on campus. They have included "Ancient" before "Near Eastern Studies" to ensure that there is no confusion with the Middle East Studies program on campus and to make clear to those outside the university that the department does not teach Arabic, which is taught in some Near Eastern Studies departments at other universities. Faculty in other departments who are currently affiliated with Classics will remain affiliated with CANES when the name change takes effect, unless they choose not to. Other faculty who wish to be affiliated with CANES may submit a request to the CANES executive committee.

There are currently three subject listings managed by the Classics Department: "Greek," "Latin," and "Classics." These will remain unchanged under CANES. The subject listing "Hebrew" includes courses in both Modern and Biblical Hebrew language and literature. Together with the Center for Jewish Studies (CJS), the department will propose moving courses in this listing to two new listings: "Hebrew – Modern" will be the listing for courses in Modern Hebrew language and literature, to be managed by CJS; courses in Biblical Hebrew language and literature will be taught under the listing "Hebrew – Biblical," which will be managed by CANES.

The Classics Department has three undergraduate majors (Classics, Latin, and Classical Humanities) and one certificate (Classical Studies). These will remain unchanged under CANES, with one exception: three undergraduate courses taught by the Hebrew Bible faculty ("Introduction to Biblical Literature," "Prophets of the Bible," and "Jewish Literature of the Greco--Roman Period") will be added under the "Classics" listing and will count towards the Classical Humanities major and the Certificate in Classical Studies.

This name change was approved by a vote of the Classics executive committee on April 10, 2014. The vote was 2 for, 0 against, and 1 abstaining, with one member on family leave who wrote to the chair in full support of the new name. The abstention was over the use of the word "Ancient" in the name, which one faculty member felt was overly specific but the rest felt necessary for clarity. The proposal was subsequently approved by the Letters & Science Academic Planning Council on May 06, 2014, and the University Academic Planning Council on September 18, 2014.