Summer Session I, May 22 thru June 28, 2020

ARCH 0026 A Ancient Egypt
Cross listed with CLS 0026 A & HIST 0076 A
4 SHU
Taught On Line - This course is an exploration of the civilizations of Ancient Egypt and the Near East, examining their art, architecture, and history. We will examine the close interplay between the religion of the Egyptians and their funerary practices, including the development of the pyramid tombs and the practice of mummification. The pharaoh served as an incarnate link between the eternal gods and the world of mortals; the pharaoh's victories and virtues filled the temples, but the tombs of ordinary Egyptians were filled with images of their own aspirations for eternal life. Hieroglyphic texts recorded diplomacy and sacred ritual, as well as literature and science while dynasties rose and fell, just as cuneiforms did in Mesopotamia and beyond. We will examine the internal and external relations of Egypt in the context of a world system that included the kingdoms and empires of the Near East and the Mediterranean: from the Sumerians, Assyrians, Hittites, and Babylonians, to the Persian Empire, Alexander the Great, and the Imperium Romanum. In each of these cultures, individuals competed to assert their identities within a shared system of meaning embedded in their art and architecture as well as their texts and social hierarchies.

CLS 0077 A Sport Entertainment in Greece and Rome
3 SHU
Taught On Line
Sport was inseparable from the civic and religious life of the ancient world; at the same time, the spectacle of the competition comprised a major element of public entertainment and daily life. This course will introduce students to the complex systems of local, regional, and "international" sports and entertainment in the ancient world, and it will explore the radically different ideas of the Greeks and Romans concerning sport and entertainment. At the same time as they served to train citizen children for the rigors of competition and war, gymnasia like the Academe of Plato or the Lyceum of Aristotle were centers of political life and philosophical discussion. Greek athletic competition linked the local gymnasia with the great Panhellenic games at Olympia, Delphi, Isthmia, and Nemea, where victory brought glory to the individual and to their city. Chariots raced in the Circus Maximus, gladiators fought in the amphitheatra, and actors performed on the many stages to honor the Roman gods - and to gain votes for the sponsors of the games. Like NASCAR or ultimate fighting, Roman sport could be deadly, but gladiators and charioteers were skilled athletes with wide popularity among the people. Since sport and entertainment were viewed as crucial political, religious, and moral issues by the ancient Greeks and Romans, they reveal much about how these ancient cultures viewed themselves and the question of what made a good citizen. Fulfills the Humanities Distribution Requirement. Fulfills Classical Culture Area.
Summer Session II, July 2 thru August 9, 2020

CLS 0075 B Classical Mythology  J. Matthew Harrington
Taught On Line 3 SHU

We will explore the world ancient mythology and its intersections with art, ideology, and ritual, from the creation of the universe to the foundation of Rome and the mytho-historical divinization’s of Julius Caesar and Augustus. Stories of the gods and heroes were more than simply entertainment; they were cognitive tools for interrogating the essential questions of being human: justice and morality, fate and identity, humor and heroism, suffering and triumph - the meaning of life. For this reason, ancient myth has remained a powerful source of inspiration for millennia, informing the art and narratives of the Renaissance to the present. In their constant retelling and re-adaptation, these stories serve as a template for the concerns of every age: humor and heroism, suffering and triumph. This course will closely examine the nature of Greco-Roman myth, its essential human meaning, and its intersections with ancient art and ritual.