

Mark F. McClay
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Research Interests

Greek poetry and religion; Homer; mystery cult, initiation; anthropology, ritual, performance theory; aesthetics; intellectual history

Education

Ph.D.	University of California, Berkeley, Classics, 2018
M.A.	University of California, Berkeley, Classics, 2013
Post-Bac.	University of California, Los Angeles, Classical Studies, 2009-10
B.A.	St. John's College, Annapolis, Liberal Arts, 2009

Other:

American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Summer Session 2015 (T. Winters)
Berkeley-Oxford Papyrology Seminar (Christ Church, Oxford; Trinity Term 2013)

Academic Employment

Hillsdale College Hillsdale, MI	Department of Classics	Assistant Professor, 2021-present
University of Miami Coral Gables, FL	Department of Classics	Visiting Asst. Professor, 2019-21

Publications

Books	<i>The Bacchic Gold Tablets and Poetic Tradition: Memory and Performance</i> (Cambridge UP, 2023) [REVIEWS: <i>Kernos</i> 36: 262-3 (H. Eisenfeld), <i>BMCR</i> 2024.11.18 (M.A. Santamaría)]
Journal Articles	“Hera’s Hexameters in Aeschylus frr. 168-168b Radt: Rhapsodic Hymn or Ritual Disguise?” <i>Mnemosyne</i> (in press) “‘You Fell into Milk’: Symbols and Narratives of Kinship in Bacchic Mysteries.” <i>Classical Antiquity</i> (2023) 42.1: 121-58. “Becoming ΚΑΕΙΝΟΣ in Crete and Magna Graecia: Dionysiac Mysteries and Maturation Rituals Revisited.” <i>The Classical Quarterly</i> (2021) 71.1: 108-18. “Rethinking Orphic ‘Bookishness’: Text and Performance in Classical Mystery Religion.” <i>Archiv für Religionsgeschichte</i> (2020) 22: 203-19.
Book Chapters	“Gold Leaves.” In H. Bowden and A.-I. Rassaia, eds., <i>The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Mystery Cults</i> (Oxford UP, in press) “Religious Emotions and Mnemonic Discourses: The Gold Tablets of Memory.” In D. Spatharas and G. Kazantzidis, eds., <i>Memory and Emotions in Antiquity. Trends in</i>

Classics Suppl. 158 (De Gruyter, 2024): 69-84.

- Book Reviews
- Review of W. Furley, *Myths, Muses and Mortals: The Way of Life in Ancient Greece* (Reaktion Books, 2024). *Classical Journal Online* 2025.12.1.
- Review of E. Gee, *Mapping the Afterlife: From Homer to Dante* (Oxford UP, 2020). *ARYS* (2022) 20: 475-80.
- Review of W. Wians, ed. *Logoi and Muthoi: Further Essays in Greek Philosophy and Literature* (SUNY Press, 2019). *BMCR* 2020.09.04.
- Review of J. Harrison, ed., *Imagining the Afterlife in the Ancient World* (Routledge, 2018). *BMCR* 2019.08.36.

Lectures & Presentations

- Invited Lectures
- “Hera: Wife, Sister, and ... Rebel?” Course Guest Lecture (CLAS 10210: Rebels in Myth). Univ. of Notre Dame (South Bend, IN; 24 Feb 2025)
- “Milk of Immortality: Dionysiac Mysteries and Poetic Tradition.” Dept. of Classics, Hillsdale College (8 Apr. 2021)
- Conference Papers (selected)
- “Art as a Sign of Religion: Aesthetic Complications in Pliny the Elder and Clement of Alexandria.” Conference: “Graphic Signs of Religion, Identity, and Authority in Antiquity.” Boston College (Chestnut Hill, MA; 4-5 Apr 2025)
- “Most Terrible and Most Gentle: Disguised Gods in Tragic Theater.” SCS/AIA, SAMR Panel: “The Gods Are Watching: The Ocular and the Oracular in Ancient Mediterranean Religions.” (Philadelphia, PA; 3 Jan 2025)
- “Persephone’s Visitors: *Hiketeia* of Bodies and Souls.” Eighth Fonte Aretusa Interdisciplinary Symposium: “*Soma Kai Psyche* – Mind and Body.” (Siracusa, Sicily; 2 June 2023)
- “Choose Your Relatives: Human-Divine Kinship in Orphic Tradition.” Conference: “Orphic Writings, Ideas and Rituals: New Perspectives in Old Questions.” Univ. of Ioannina, Greece (3 Apr 2021; remote)
- “Lovely Ephesian Letters’: Late Classical Amulets and the Aesthetics of Little Things.” SCS/AIA, SAMR Panel: “The Religion of Little Things: Small Finds and Big Ideas” (remote; 7 Jan 2021)
- “The Dirt on Hector: Homicide Pollution in the *Iliad*.” CAMWS (remote; 26 May 2020)
- “Who is *Mnēmosynē* in the Orphic Lamellae?” Crete/Patras Ancient Emotions Conference III: “Memory and Emotions in Antiquity.” (Rethymno, Greece; 8 Dec 2019)
- “Orphic ‘Bookishness’ and Material Religion in Classical Greece.” SBL/AAR, SAMR Panel: “Ritual Matters: Materiality in Ancient Religion.” (Denver, CO; 19 Nov 2018)
- “Performing Immortality: Epigram and the Orphic Lamellae.” SCS/AIA (Toronto, Canada; 8 Jan 2017)
- “The Music of Orphic Poetry?” Conference: “Poetic Philosophers and Philosophical Poets: The Relationship between Philosophy and Poetry in the Ancient World,” Univ. of Notre Dame (South Bend, IN; 8 Oct 2016)
- “A Herodotus Papyrus (ii.132-134).” Berkeley-Oxford Papyrology Conference, Center for the Tebtunis Papyri, UC Berkeley (Berkeley, CA; 16 Sept 2014)

Panel “The Legacy of Roman Law: A Conference in Honor of Louis A. Mangone.”
Respondent Univ. of Miami (Coral Gables, FL; 23-4 Jan 2020)

Teaching Experience

HILLSDALE COLLEGE 2021-

Greek and Latin

Beginning Greek I-III (Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Fall 2026)

Beginning Latin I-III (Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2025)

Intermediate Greek: Hesiod (Spring 2023), *Iliad* (Spring 2024), *Odyssey* (Spring 2025), Euripides' *Medea* (Fall 2025)

Intermediate Latin: Vergil's *Aeneid* (Fall 2021), Horace and Livy (Spring 2022), Caesar's *Civil War* (Fall 2023); Intro to Latin Lit. (Spring 2023, Fall 2024)

Advanced Greek: Greek Lyric (Spring 2022, Fall 2026), Plato's *Phaedrus* (Fall 2024), Sappho (Spring 2024)

Advanced Latin: Vergil and the Pastoral (Seminar, Fall 2022); Apuleius, *Metamorphoses* (Fall 2023); Vergil's *Aeneid* 6 (Fall 2025)

Courses in Translation

Greco-Roman Lit and Culture (Fall 2021, Spring 2025, Spring 2026, Fall 2026)

Greek Mythology (Spring 2024)

Classics Capstone: Plutarch's *Lives* (Fall 2023), Future of the Classical (Fall 2024)

UNIV. OF MIAMI 2019-21

Greek and Latin

Elementary Latin I (Spring 2021)

Intensive Greek (Attic/Koine; Spring 2021)

Plato, *Phaedrus* (Fall 2019)

Euripides, *Bacchae* (Fall 2020)

Homer, *Iliad* (Spring 2020)

Horace, *Odes* (Fall 2020)

Courses in Translation

Greek & Latin Roots of English (Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020)

Medical Terminology (Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021)

The Roman Republic (Spring 2019)

History of the Soul (Fall 2019)

UC BERKELEY 2013-18

Greek and Latin

Elementary Latin (Fall 2013)

Intensive Elementary Latin (Fall 2014)

Greek Workshop (Intensive; Summer 2015)

Intensive Elementary Greek (Spring 2016)

Courses in Translation (as teaching assistant)

Greek Myth (Spring 2014; for S. Schein)

Greek Civilization (Fall 2016; for M. Griffith)

Greek Philosophy (Fall 2017; for S. Magrin)

Roots of Western Civilization (Fall 2018; writing intensive; for G. Ferrari and T. Murphy)

Academic Service

HILLSDALE COLLEGE (2021-)

College-Wide: Library Committee (2025-27); Honors Committee (i.e. Collegiate Scholars Program; 2024-27)

Departmental: Student Research Coordinator (2023-present), Classics Search Committee (2022-3, 2025-6), Undergraduate Advisor (2022-present)

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI (2019-21)

Greek/Latin Table (sight-translation) (2019-21)

UC BERKELEY (2011-18)

Aleshire Center for the Study of Greek Epigraphy, advisory committee (2016-17)

Classics/AHMA Graduate Colloquium, co-organizer (2015-17)

READER/REFeree

Presses: Cambridge University Press

Journals: *Classical Antiquity*, *American Journal of Philology*

Memberships (selected)

Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS)

Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions (SAMR)

Society for Classical Studies (SCS; formerly the American Philological Association)

Languages

Ancient: Greek, Latin

Modern (reading only): German, French, Italian

References

Dr. Mark Griffith (Ph.D. advisor)	UC Berkeley	510-642-3147/markg@berkeley.edu
Dr. Gavin Weaire	Hillsdale College	517-607-2396/gweaire@hillsdale.edu
Dr. Radcliffe G. Edmonds III	Bryn Mawr College	610-526-5046/redmonds@brynmawr.edu

Further references are available upon request.