UGLINESS IN ANTIQUITY

Tom Hawkins, associate professor, is writing a book, The Beautiful Ugly, exploring the role of ugliness in the earliest surviving Greek literature and how that role changed over the centuries. Homer’s few un-beautiful characters are marked out for scorn or ridicule, but images of Socrates and Aesop, the teller of fables, expect that we will contrast their ugly exteriors with their beautiful minds.

“Such earthy material counterbalances the grandiloquent loftiness of so much classical discourse and reveals an ongoing ethical debate about the literary and social role of aesthetic evaluation,” said Hawkins.
TEACHING AND RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

The Department of Greek and Latin collaborates with many areas at the university. For example, it’s master’s degree with certification for teaching Latin is offered in cooperation with the College of Education and Human Ecology. It’s doctoral program in ancient philosophy is administered jointly with the Department of Philosophy.

The department also has strong teaching and research ties with the Department of History, Center for Folklore Studies, and the Department of Comparative Studies, which offers courses in Comparative Literature, Folklore, Ethnography, Religious Studies, and Cultural Studies.

PARTNERSHIPS

Ohio State’s Greek and Latin program benefits from many resources across the university, including:

- One of the largest research libraries in the country, with a sizable, expanding Modern Greek collection; the Hilander Research Collection of medieval Byzantine Cyrillic manuscripts; and direct access to the Modern Greek collection at the University of Cincinnati, one of the most comprehensive in the world
- The Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies
- Isthmia Excavations in Ancient Corinth
- The Center for International Studies, Middle East Studies Center, and Center for Slavic and East European Studies
- The National Foreign Language Resource Center
- Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
- Mershon Center for Studies in International Security and Public Policy
- Melton Center for Jewish Studies

“The Modern Greek Program is very active in Central Ohio’s Greek community and helps organize the annual Greek Festival at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral.”

(Benjamin Acosta-Hughes, Professor, Department of Classics)