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A message to current or prospective VU Classics students:

Studying the Classics is addictive: even if you leave it behind officially, it keeps popping up. Even aside from any particular author, I'd advise that knowledge of the Greek and/or Latin languages is a great help to studying any of the humanistic disciplines; it's metaphorically a prerequisite (and for centuries, was literally a prerequisite) to studying any other literature, philosophy, theology, history, political science, and the like. Not infrequently, my colleagues have expressed envy that I've got the languages under my belt already. Just try reading Heidegger, even in English translation, if you can't read Greek, for instance. Same goes for, say, reading Augustine. Or the bible.

But the scholarly things are probably only interesting to a very few of you, who are interested in humanities research, so let's take this away from the theoretical benefits of being able to think in Greek, and think about more practical benefits of classical scholarship; after all, liberal arts educations are at least a little bit about pursuing knowledge just because it's fun. A VU Classics education changes you: you can't read Thucydides or Plato, for instance, without shifting your perspective on politics; you can't read Euripides without looking differently at sex; you can't read Ovid without his poetry changing the way you look at a tree, or, for that matter, the way you look at other people. So in this respect, the Classics are dangerous, dangerous and addictive. But getting to know them will make you into a better cook, a better citizen, and a better lover (in the broad sense, a lover of the world, as well as the narrow sense).