

Robert Alan Gurval

UCLA Department of Classics
100 Dodd Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1417
(310) 825-6744 Office
gurval@humnet.ucla.edu

Education

University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Santa Barbara
Brown University
Washington & Lee University

Ph.D. Classics (1988)
M.A. Classics (1982)
A.B. Classics (1980) *magna cum laude*

Academic Positions

University of California, Los Angeles
Beijing Normal University, Beijing
Shanghai Normal University, Shanghai
Fudan University, Shanghai
University of California, Los Angeles
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Office of General Education
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Oregon at Eugene
University of California, Los Angeles

Associate Professor, 1996-
Visiting Professor, Spring 2016
Visiting Professor, Spring 2016
Visiting Professor, Spring 2014
Department Chair, 2000-05; 2013-14
Visiting Professor, 2010-11

Assistant Professor, 1990-96
Assistant Professor, 1989-90
Lecturer, 1988-89

Honors, Awards & Fellowships

Fulbright Scholarship
American Philological Association
University of California, Los Angeles

University of California, San Diego
University of California, Los Angeles

University of California, Los Angeles
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
American Academy in Rome
Golden Key National Honor Society
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Santa Barbara
American Numismatic Society

Hong Kong General Education, 2010-11
Excellence in Teaching Award, 2006
Distinguished Teaching Award, 2006
Eby Award for the Art of Teaching
Distinguished Undergraduate Mentor, 2005
Distinguished Advisor,
Regents Scholars Society, 1999-02
Teaching Award, Honors Program, 2000
Outstanding Reader's Report Award, 2000
Rome Prize, School of Classical Studies, 1996-97
Honorary Member, 1993
Chancellor's Fellowship, 1987-88
Regents Scholarship, 1982-83
Regents Scholarship, 1980-81
Graduate Seminar Fellowship, 1986

Principal Investigator/Director

UCLA and HKUST Research Consortium, co-Principal Investigator
Project: Religion and Politics in Comparison. The Ancient Graeco-Roman World
and Early China, 4th Century BCE-5th Century CE
*three-year grant jointly supported by The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and
Asian Institute UCLA, workshops for graduate students and junior scholars, 2014-2017 (\$60,000)*

UCLA Mellon Post-Classical Latin Program, Director
*three-year grant funded by The Mellon Foundation supporting graduate students and post-baccalaureate
students interested in the study of post-classical Latin, 2014-17 (\$700,00)*

Publications and Papers

Actium and Augustus: The Politics and Emotions of Civil War.

University of Michigan Press, 1996, 360 pages, 60 black & white photographs.

“Dying Like a Queen: The Story of Cleopatra and the Asp(s) in Antiquity.”

In *Cleopatra. A Sphinx Revisited*, ed. M.M. Miles. University of California Press, 2011.

“No, Virgil, No: The Battle of Actium on the Shield of Aeneas.” In *Why Vergil: A Collection of Interpretations*, ed. S. Quinn. Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers: Wauconda, IL, 1998.

“Caesar’s Comet: The Politics and Poetics of an Augustan Myth.”

Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome, vol. 42 (1997): 39-71.

“Actium.” In *The Virgil Encyclopedia*, edd. Richard F. Thomas and Jan M. Ziolkowski. Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.

Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome “Actium” (Oxford University Press, 2010).

Review of Sally-Ann Ashton, *Cleopatra and Egypt* (Blackwell, 2008).

Classical Bulletin 85.1 (2009): 60-62.

Review of V.G. Kiernan, *Horace: Poetics and Politics* (St. Martin’s Press, 1999).

American Historical Review (April 2001).

“How to Make a Hollywood Film on Ancient Rome in Ten Easy Steps”

SCRAM, Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences, Santa Monica (November 2016)

“Teaching Classics in China”

California Classical Association–Southern Section Meeting, Los Angeles (November 2016)

“Becoming a God: Horace and the Divinity of Augustus”

The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing (May 2016)

“Titus Pomponius Atticus: The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Man”

Beijing Normal University, Beijing (May 2014)

“Teaching Gender in Ancient Greek and Roman Thought” (with Ann Bergren)

Fudan University, Shanghai (May 2014)

Shanghai Normal University, Shanghai (May 2014)

Shanghai University (May 2014)

“CSI Alexandria: The Last Days and Death of Cleopatra”

California Classical Association–Southern Section Meeting, Los Angeles (November 2013)

Conference on Ptolemaic Egypt, UCLA (December 2012)

“A Tribute to Evelyn Venable Mohr: From Hollywood to Westwood”

California Classical Association–Southern Section Meeting, Los Angeles (November 2013)

“Playing Caesar: Rex Harrison, Thornton Wilder, and Julius Caesar
in Joseph L. Mankiewicz’ *Cleopatra* (1963)”

American Philological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle (January 2013)

“Harmony and Homer on the Pearl River Delta: The Foundations of a new Liberal Arts
Education in China”

Association for Core Texts and Courses, Annual Meeting, Milwaukee (March 2012)

General Education and University Curriculum Reform: An International Conference

in Hong Kong at The City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR (June 2012)

“Agrippina: Empress of Rome”

Symposium on Famous Women in History: Hatshepsut, Agrippina, Cixi

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR (February 2012)

“Seducing Caesar: Sex and Politics in Ancient Rome”

Boya College, Sun-Yat Sen University, Guangzhou (February 2012)

University of Saint Joseph, Macau (April 2011)

Fudan University, Shanghai (April 2011)

Beijing Normal University, Beijing (December 2010)

“An Overview of General Education at Eight HK UGC-funded Universities”

multiple venues in Hong Kong universities, Hong Kong SAR (April-June 2011)

“Engaging Students in General Education Humanities Tutorials”

Conference at The City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR (May 2011)

“Death Becomes Her: The Suicide of Cleopatra in Literature and Art”

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR (February 2011)

- “The Americanization of Cleopatra: Elizabeth Taylor and the Making of a Hollywood Epic”
 Guandong University of Foreign Studies, Guangzhou (October 2010)
 Beijing Capital University, Beijing (December 2010)
 Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong SAR (March 2013)
- “Dido and Cleopatra”
 American Classical League Annual Meeting, Los Angeles (June 2009)
- “Ovid and the Art of Love”
 UCLA Women’s Faculty Club (November 2008)
- “The Romans on the Danube”
 California Classical Association-Southern Section Meeting, Los Angeles (October 2008)
- “The Affairs of Caesar: Sex and Politics in Ancient Rome”
 UCLA Friends of Classics (April 2008); The UCLA Affiliates (October 2007)
- “Cast(igat)ing Cleopatra: HBO *Rome* and an Egyptian Queen for the 21st Century”
 American Philological Association Annual Meeting, San Diego (January 2007)
- “Casting Cleo: The Women who played Cleopatra in Film and Television”
 California Classical Association-Northern Section Meeting, San Francisco (April 2006)
- “Representing Cleopatra: Literature, Drama and Film”
 Ashland University (March 2005)
 University of Mississippi (March 2004)
 College of Charleston (March 2003)
 California Palace of Legion of Honor (September 2002)
 UCLA Parents Weekend (October 2002)
 UCLA Foundation Retreat (November 2002)
- “Heaven Can Wait: Horace, Augustus, and the Ambitions of Immortality”
 California Classical Association-Northern Section, Palo Alto (April 2004)
 College of Charleston (March 2003)
 New York Classical Club (February 2000)
- “Teaching Classics in the Southland: The Early Years at UCLA”
 California Classical Association-Southern Section Meeting, Los Angeles (October 2003)
- “The Secret of the Etruscans”
 Conference: University of California, Los Angeles Extension (December 2001)
- “All in the Family: Augustus and the Makings of a Dynasty”
 Conference: “Rome in the Year One” Humanities West, San Francisco (February 2001)
- “The Bad and the Beautiful: Roman Emperors and their Wives in Hollywood”
 Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University (September 2000)
- “Ancient Lives: The People and Professions of Pompeii”
 Los Angeles County Museum of Art (November 1999)
 UCLA Parents Weekend (October 2003)
- “Dying Like a Queen: Cleopatra and the Story of the Asp(s) in Antiquity”
 Conference: Cleopatra and Egyptomania, University of California at Irvine (March 1999)
- “Captive Images: An Ideology of Empire and Subjugation on the Coinage of Augustus”
 American Philological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago (December 1997)
- “The Other Nicopolis: The Foundation of an Augustan Victory City at Alexandria”
 CAPNW Annual Meeting at Eugene (April 1994)
- “In Search of Spartacus: Reflections of a Classicist at UCLA”
 Keynote Speech, UCLA Golden Key Society (April 1993)
- “Horace’s Advice to Lollius: The *Actia pugna* and *Epistle 1.18*”
 CAPNW Annual Meeting at Vancouver (April 1992)
- “The Politics of Roman Coinage: Octavian and Antony”
 Fresno State University, Ancient World Lecture Series (October 1991)
- “*Subita Felicitas*”: Seneca and the Invective of Suillius in the *Annals* of Tacitus
 CAPNW Annual Meeting at Spokane (April 1991)
- “The Art of Imitation or the Imitation of Art: Vergil and the Laocoön Group”
 American Philological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco (December 1990)
- “*Posterī Negabitīs*: Actium and Horace”
 American Philological Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore (December 1989)

Academic Conference

Empire and the Media of Religion. A Workshop on Comparative Approaches to the Study of Religion in the Greco-Roman Imperial Era and Early China.
Chief co-organizer. 24 participants. UCLA Charles E. Young Research Library, 21-22 May, 2015.

UCLA Teaching

Undergraduate Courses

Classical Civilization

Discovering the Romans, Classics 20 *General Education Lecture course*
Reading Latin Literature, Classics 41 *General Education Lecture course*
Cinema and the Ancient World, Classics 42 *General Education Lecture course*
The Hollywood Myth of the Gladiator, Classics 42 (six-week summer course)
HBO *Rome*, Classics 89 *Honors Seminar*
Ancient Empires: Rome and China, Classics 89 *Honors seminar*
Ancient Epic, Classics 142 *Lecture course*
Ancient Lives: The Art of Biography, Classics 137 (formerly 144) *Lecture course*
The Female in Roman Thought and Culture, Classics 150B *Lecture course*
Hadrian: The Enigmatic Emperor, Classics 191 *Capstone Seminar*
The Age of Nero: Politics, Literature, and Society, Classics 197 *Departmental Seminar*
Re-Discovering Pompeii, Classics 19, Classics 87GE, Classics 197
Fiat Lux (freshman) Seminar, Honors Seminar, Departmental Seminar
Representing Cleopatra: History, Literature, and Film, Classics 19, Honors 5
Fiat Lux (freshman) Seminar, Honors Seminar
UCLA 1919: The First Professors, Classics 19
Fiat Lux (freshman) Seminar
Ancient Rome and the Monuments of Washington, D.C., Classics 19
Fiat Lux (freshman) Seminar
The Affairs of Caesar: Sex and Politics in Ancient Rome, Classics 19
Fiat Lux (freshman) Seminar
Exploring Ancient Rome, Classics 19
Fiat Lux (freshman) Seminar
Film and Society: The Hollywood Myth of Ancient Rome, Honors 34
Honors Seminar
Male Identity and Sexuality in Ancient Rome, Honors 43
Honors Seminar

Travel Study Abroad

The History and Monuments of Rome, Classics M114A-B/History M112C-E
four-week summer field study and lecture course taught in Rome

Latin and Greek

Latin, Latin 1-3 *Elementary Latin first-year sequence*
Hybrid-Online Elementary Latin *creator, supervisor and instructor*
Faculty Supervisor of Elementary Latin program
Readings in Latin Prose & Poetry, Latin 100 *Intermediate Latin course*
Latin Prose Composition, Latin 110
Ovid, Latin 104 *Advanced Latin Reading course*
Vergil, Latin 105A, 105B *Advanced Latin Reading course*
Roman Elegy, Latin 108 *Advanced Latin Reading course*
Horace, Latin 109 *Advanced Latin Reading course*
Livy, Latin 111 *Advanced Latin Reading course*
Tacitus, Latin 112 *Advanced Latin Reading course*
Apuleius, Latin 116 *Advanced Latin Reading course*
Suetonius, Latin 119A *Advanced Latin Reading course*
Sallust, Latin 117 *Advanced Latin Reading course*
Plutarch, Greek 131 *Advanced Greek Reading course*

Graduate Courses

Vergil's Italy and the Coming of Rome: Reading *Aeneid* Books 5-8, *Graduate Seminar*
Topics in Ancient History: The Roman World, Classics 201B *Graduate Seminar*
Reflections of Augustus, Classics 201B *Graduate Seminar*
Reading Horace: Poetry, Politics, and Augustus, Latin 206 *Graduate Seminar*
Tacitus and Nero, Latin 211C *Graduate Seminar*
Biography, Latin 214 *Graduate Seminar*
History of Republican Literature, Latin 200A *Graduate Latin Literature Survey*
History of Augustan Literature, Latin 200B *Graduate Latin Literature Survey*

Teaching in China

East China University of Science and Technology, Shanghai
In Search of Cleopatra
one-week intensive graduate seminar in Department of Foreign Languages (December 2016)
Beijing Normal University, Beijing
Caesar Augustus: The First Emperor of Rome
two-week intensive graduate seminar in Department of World History (May 2016)
Shanghai Normal University, Shanghai
Caesar Augustus: The First Emperor of Rome
two-week intensive graduate seminar in Department of World History (May 2016)
Fudan University, Shanghai
four-week intensive graduate seminar in Department of World History (April-May 2014)
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
"In Dialogue with Humanity": first-year General Education foundational course (Spring 2011)
(authors/texts include Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Confucius, Zhuangzi, Old Testament, Qur'an, Buddhist Heart Sutra, Huang Zongxi, Rousseau, Adam Smith, and Karl Marx)

UCLA Service

Department of Classics

Chair (2000-05; 2013-14)
Undergraduate Affairs Faculty Advisor or Co-Advisor
(1991-96; 2003-05; 2006-08; 2011-13; 2014-)
Undergraduate Affairs Committee (1991-96; 1997-2005; 2006-10; 2011-13; 2014-)
UCLA Classical Society, Founder and Faculty Advisor
(1992-93; 1995-96; 2000-05; 2006-08; 2011-13; 2014-)
Post-Baccalaureate Program in Post-Classical Latin, Faculty Advisor (2014-)
Post-Baccalaureate Program in Classics, Faculty Advisor (1997-98; 1999-2000; 2003-04; 2008)
Graduate Affairs & Recruitment Committee (2000-05; 2013-14 *ex officio*)
Lecture Committee, Chair (1998-99; 2000-05; 2013-14)
Summer Sessions Committee, Member or Supervisor (1992-93; 1998-2007; 2012-15)

University

Academic Senate, Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools
Vice Chair (2012-13); Member (2011-13; 2014-15)
College Honors, Faculty Advisory Committee
Chair (2009-10; 2011-13); Member (1992-94; 2009-10; 2011-13)
International Education Office (IEO) Faculty Advisory Committee (2015-)
University Studies Faculty Advisory Committee (2015-)
Chancellor's Search Committee for Dean and Vice-Provost for Undergraduate
Education (2011-12)
Departmental Faculty Representative, Humanities Residence College (2011-13)
Academic Senate, Committee on General Education Governance
Chair (2007-10); Member (2006-10)
Academic Senate, Committee on Undergraduate Student Support, Honors & Prizes
Chair (1999-2002); Member (1992-96; 1997-2002; 2004-05)

Founder & Organizer of Regents Scholars Welcome Reception (1999-2002)
Academic Senate, Undergraduate Council (1997-2001; 2008-10 *ex officio*)
Chancellor's Search Committee(s) for Dean of Humanities (2003-04; 2004-05)
Joint Administrative/Senate Taskforce on Undergraduate Education
in a Research Context (2003)
General Education Faculty Advisory Re-Certification Committee, (2002-03)
General Education Faculty Advisory Committee (1994-95; 1995-96)
Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest, faculty judge (2000)
Dean's Advisory Committee on Technology (1999-2002)
Academic Senate, Legislative Assembly Representative (1991-92; 1992-93)
Faculty Fellow, Saxon Suites H Building (1991-92; 1992-93)

Lifetime Memberships

American Classical League *since 2002*
American Numismatic Society *since 1995*
California Classical Association/Southern Section *since 2000*
Fulbright Association *since 2014*
Society for Classical Studies (formerly American Philological Association) *since 2000*
U.S. Tennis Association *since 2007*
Vergilian Society *since 2003*
Women's Classical Caucus *since 2015*

Professional Consulting & Lecturing

College Board AP Latin Exam consultant for curriculum reform, normative grading, 2013
Cleopatra, Lifetime Network proposed television mini-series, script consultant, 2013
Empire ABC television series, script consultant, 2005
Discovery Channel's Moments in Time: Antony & Cleopatra. Battle at Actium
on-camera scholar, 2004
A&E Biography: Destiny's Queen on-camera scholar, 1997
UCLA Alumni Travel Tours Faculty Lecturer
Sorrento 2005; Sorrento & Orvieto 2006; Black Sea 2007; Danube 2008;
The Journey of Aeneas 2010; Black Sea 2012; Sketches of Spain 2013; Provence 2015.

Local Associations and Volunteer Activities

Academy Museum *former May Company Building, Wilshire Blvd., planned opening 2018*
Founding Supporter (2014-)
Hollywood Heritage
Individual /Artcraft Member (2017-)
AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA)
Assistant to Publications Manager (1994-95)
Editorial assistant for HIV/LA (1995) resource directory of AIDS organizations & services
Heart of AIDS Project Los Angeles, Volunteer Recognition Award (1994)
Brown University Alumni Relations
Interviewer for Early and Regular Admissions (2001-09)
The Gamble House *Greene & Greene, architects, Pasadena*
Docent (1991-2001); Associate Docent (2001-)
Los Angeles Conservancy
Individual Member (2014-)
Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Individual or Patron Member (1993-)
Los Angeles Tennis Open *UCLA Tennis Complex*
Captain of ushers (2006-09, 2011)
U.S. Tennis Association
Lifetime Member (2007-)