

**Robert Alan Gurval**  
UCLA Department of Classics  
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**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*  
attended 1976-78

**Academic Positions**

University of California, Los Angeles  
Shanghai Normal University, Shanghai  
Beijing Normal University, Beijing  
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 Emeritus, since 2019  
Visiting Professor, Fall 2023, Spring 2016  
Visiting Professor, Spring 2016  
Visiting Professor, Spring 2014  
Department Chair, 2000-05; 2013-14  
Visiting Professor, 2010-11  
  
Associate Professor, 1996-2019  
Assistant Professor, 1990-96  
Assistant Professor, 1989-90  
Lecturer, 1988-89

**Honors, Awards & Fellowships**

University of California, Los Angeles  
Institute of International Education  
University of California, Los Angeles  
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

Carole E. Goldberg Emeriti Service Award, 2025  
China-U.S. Scholars Fellowship, 2023 (awarded 2020)  
Eugen Weber Honors Collegium Faculty Award, 2019  
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 (\$700,000).*

## **Publications and Papers**

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

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

“Playing Caesar: Thornton Wilder, Julius Caesar, and Rex Harrison in Joseph L. Mankiewicz's *Cleopatra* (1963).” In Jackson R. Bryer, Judith P. Hallett, and Edyta K. Okzkwicz, eds. *Thornton Wilder in Collaboration: Collected Essays on His Drama and Fiction*. Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2018: 137-48.

“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).

“Discovering Pompeii: The Daily Life of a Roman Town.”

Museum of Wu Culture, Suzhou (December 2023)

“‘This Lesson in Bronze’: Moses J. Ezekiel and Jefferson on the Liberty Bell.”

University of Virginia Zoom Lecture (September 2020)

“Building a University: Architecture and the Early Origins of UCLA”

UCLA Emeriti Association Winter Lecture (February 2020)

“An American Julius Caesar?: President Donald Trump and the Politics of Ancient Rome.”

Boya College, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou (May 2018)

Yunnan University, Kunming (May 2018)

“Death Becomes Her: The Suicide of Cleopatra in Western Culture”

Conference: “Cleopatra: The Last Pharaoh” Humanities West, San Francisco (May 2017)

“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) and 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”

General Education and University Curriculum Reform: An International Conference in Hong Kong at The City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR (June 2012)

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

- “Agrippina: Empress of Rome”  
Symposium on Famous Women in History: Hathshepsut, 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”  
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong SAR (March 2013)  
Beijing Capital University, Beijing (December 2010)  
Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, Guangzhou (October 2010)
- “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)  
UCLA Parents Weekend (October 2002) / UCLA Foundation Retreat (November 2002)  
College of Charleston (March 2003) / California Palace of Legion of Honor (September 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*
- America and Rome: Politics / Culture / Art, Classics 191 *Capstone Seminar*
- 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, Honors 5 *Honors Collegium Seminar*
- The Architecture of Westwood, Classics 19 *Fiat Lux (freshman) 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, Honors Collegium Seminar*
- The Affairs of Caesar: Sex & 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*

##### **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*
- Horace, Latin 107 *Advanced Latin Reading course*
- Roman Elegy, Latin 108 *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 Italy**

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

### **Teaching in China**

Shanghai Normal University, Shanghai  
Vespasian and the Creation of a Dynasty  
*ten-week intensive graduate seminar in Department of World History (October-December 2023)*  
Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou  
Caesar Augustus: The First Emperor of Rome  
*four-week intensive undergraduate seminar, Boya College (May-June 2018)*  
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, Jean-Jacques 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; 2014-19)  
Undergraduate Affairs Committee (1991-96; 1997-2005; 2006-10; 2011-13; 2014-19)  
UCLA Classical Society, Founder and Faculty Advisor  
(1992-93; 1995-96; 2000-05; 2006-08; 2011-13; 2014-17)  
Post-Baccalaureate Program in Post-Classical Latin, Faculty Advisor (2014-17)  
Post-Baccalaureate Program in Classics, Faculty Advisor (1997-98; 1999-2000; 2003-04; 2008)  
Post-Baccalaureate Program in Classics, Committee (1997-2000; 2003-04; 2008; 2016-19)  
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**

UCLA Centennial Celebration, Alumni Day, May 21, 2019  
Organizer and Docent Trainer, five student-led tours of original campus buildings  
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; 2011-15)  
UCLA Global Classroom, Faculty Advisory Committee (2015-)  
University Studies Faculty Advisory Committee (2015-19)  
Chancellor's Faculty Committee for renewal of Dean of Humanities (2017)  
Chancellor's Faculty 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)

## ***Academic Associations - Lifetime Memberships***

American Academy in Rome, Fellow (*since* 1997)  
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)  
Vergilian Society (*since* 2003)  
Women's Classical Caucus (*since* 2015)  
Friends of Vindolanda, archaeological site UK (*since* 2018)

## ***Professional Consulting & Lecturing***

*Stories in Stone: UCLA College of Letters & Science Magazine*, video, December 2023  
*Tuding Mentoring*, 2020-22  
*Countdown* studio film script consultant on Latin texts and medieval books, 2019  
*College Board AP Latin Exam* consultant for curriculum reform, normative grading, 2013  
*Cleopatra*, Lifetime Network proposed television mini-series, script consultant, 2013  
*National Treasure Book of Secrets* studio film script consultant on Latin texts, 2007  
Joyce Moss Publishing, *Classical Literature and Its Times*, 2006-08  
*Empire* ABC television series (originally *Taranus*), 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; Spain 2013; Provence 2015; Morocco 2017;  
Israel and Jordan 2018; Croatia 2019; Italy 2021; Portugal and Spain (southern) 2022);  
Egypt 2023; Australia and New Zealand 2023; Portugal and Spain (northern) 2023;  
Emperors, Conquerors & Saints, 2024; Casablanca to Lisbon, 2025;  
Charm of the Amalfi Coast, 2025; Apulia 2025.

***Local Associations and Volunteer Activities***

Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, *planned opening Los Angeles, September 2021*

Founding Contributor, Member (*since 2014*)

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)

Architectural Heritage Center, Portland, Oregon

Individual Member (*since 2025*)

Brown University

Interviewer for Early and Regular Admissions (2001-09)

The Gamble House *Greene & Greene, architects, Pasadena CA*

Docent (1991-2001); Associate Docent (*since 2001*)

Friends of the Gamble House

Lifetime Member (*since 2018*)

Hollywood Heritage

Individual Member (*since 2017*)

Los Angeles Conservancy

Individual Member (*since 2014*)

Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Individual, Friend, and Patron Member (*since 1993*)

Los Angeles Tennis Open *UCLA Tennis Complex*

Captain of ushers (2006-09, 2011)

Mak Center for Art and Architecture at the Schindler House (West Hollywood, CA)

Individual Member (*since 2017*)

M+ Museum, West Kowloon, Hong Kong

Individual Member (*since 2023*)

New York Historical Society

Individual Member (*since 2021*)

Thomas Jefferson's Monticello (Charlottesville VA)

Individual Member (*since 2020*)

Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest (Lynchburg VA)

Burgess's Society (*since 2020*)

U.S. Capitol Hill Historical Society

Individual Member (*since 2020*)

U.S. Tennis Association

Lifetime Member (*since 2007*)

Washington Historical Society

Individual Member (*since 2020*)

Washington & Lee University

Friend of the Library (*since 2014*)