

Marissa Swan, Ph.D.

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Lactantius; the literature and history of Late Antiquity; early Christianity; history of medicine; theories of the body at the intersection of philosophy, medicine, and religion; Neoplatonism

EDUCATION

Columbia University in the City of New York New York, New York

Doctor of Philosophy in Classics February 2026

- Dissertation: *Body Language: Lactantius and the Corporeal*
- Committee: Gareth Williams (advisor), Carmela Franklin, Joseph Howley, Alan Ross, Elizabeth DePalma Digeser

Master of Philosophy in Classics

May 2023

- Thesis: *Body Language: Reading the Late Antique Body in Cyprian's 'De mortalitate' and Lactantius' 'De opificio Dei'*

Master of Arts in Classics

May 2021

University of Maryland, College Park

College Park, Maryland

Master of Arts in Classics

May 2019

Purdue University

West Lafayette, Indiana

Bachelor of Arts in Classical Studies

May 2017

- Phi Beta Kappa

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

Columbia University in the City of New York

Instructor of Record

- LATNS1221: *Intensive Intermediate Latin* Summer 2025
- Latin UN2101: *Intermediate Latin I* Spring 2025
- Latin UN1101: *Elementary Latin I* Fall 2024
- CLLT S3310: *Classical Mythology* Summer 2024
- CLLT S3310: *Classical Mythology* Summer 2023
- Latin UN2102: *Intermediate Latin II* Spring 2023
- Greek UN1121: *Intensive Elementary Greek* Fall 2022
- Latin UN1121: *Intensive Elementary Latin* Spring 2022
- Latin UN2102: *Intermediate Latin II* Fall 2021

Teaching Assistant

- Latin UN3013: *Introduction to Classical Latin Prose* Spring 2021

- Latin UN1121: *Intensive Elementary Latin* Fall 2020

University of Maryland, College Park

Teaching Assistant

- Classics 289A: *Are We Rome?* Spring 2019
- Classics 308G: *Ancient Greek and Roman Culture in Context* Winter 2019
 - **Location:** Italy
- Classics 171: *Classical Myths in Paris* Spring 2018
 - **Location:** Paris, France
- Classics 170: *Greek and Roman Mythology* Spring 2018
- Classics 170: *Greek and Roman Mythology* Fall 2017

CONFERENCES

- “The Animalization of Imperial Bodies: Lactantius and the Tetrarchic Emperors,” 2025
AIA/SCS Joint Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 2-5, 2025.
- “Pestilence and Perception: Observations of the Self During the Cyprian Plague,” University of Colorado – Boulder Annual Graduate Student Conference, Boulder, Colorado. January 2024.
- “Healing through Words: Lactantius as *medicus* in the *De opificio Dei* and the *De mortibus persecutorum*.” European Academy of Religion Sixth Annual Conference, St. Andrews, Scotland. June 19-23, 2023.
- “Pain, Disease, and Torture: The Materiality of the Body in the Writings of Lactantius.” CANE Annual Meeting, Needham, Massachusetts. March 2023.
- “Reading Bodies, (Re)reading Lactantius’ *De opificio Dei*.” Inaugural Graduate Conference on Early Christian Studies, University of Notre Dame. May 2022.
- “Dissecting Bodies: A Reading of Lactantius’ *De opificio Dei* and Cyprian’s *De Mortalitate*.” CANE Annual Meeting, Amherst, Massachusetts. April 2022.
- “Roman Female Suicide: Emotional Catalysts and Self-Understanding.” 2019 CANE Annual Meeting, Worcester, Massachusetts. March 2019.
- “The $\mu\alpha\nu\acute{\alpha}$ of Dionysus in Euripides’ *Bacchae*.” 2018 CAMWS Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico. April 2018.

PEDAGOGY TALKS AND INITIATIVES

- “Bridging the Divide: Interdisciplinary Teaching and Its Pedagogical Effects.” Two-Part Workshop for Center for Teaching and Learning, Columbia University. October 2024.
- “‘It’s just the way it is’: Critiquing Graduate Student Pedagogy in the Field of Classics.” Classics Departments’ Team Teaching Pedagogy Colloquium, Columbia University. April 2021.
- “Crafting a Genuine Classroom: Breaking Down Barriers In-Person and Online.” Classics Department’s Team Teaching Pedagogy Colloquium, Columbia University. October 2020.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Hicks, Marissa and Mielczarski, Sabrina (2016) "Out of the Box: Meddling With Medieval Manuscripts," *The Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research*: Vol. 6, Article 36.

PUBLIC FACING WRITING

Swan, Marissa. "Bacchae." *World History Encyclopedia*. World History Encyclopedia, 03 Jul 2018.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Columbia University in the City of New York

Fellowship in Academic Administration, *Graduate School of Arts and Sciences* May-Dec. 2025

- Center for Veteran Transition and Integration, Community Engagement Fellow
- Wrote and published a teaching guide for faculty in Columbia's Core Curriculum titled "Faculty Guide to Engaging Veteran and Military-Connected Students in the Classroom." Published [here](#).
- Wrote and published an advising guide for academic advisors in the School of General Studies titled "Advising the Whole Student: An Academic Advisor's Guide to Advising Veteran & Military-Connected Students." Published [here](#).

Senior Lead Teaching Fellow, *Center for Teaching and Learning* 2024-2025

- Mentored an interdisciplinary cohort of 5 PhD candidates from across the university.
- Co-designed and co-facilitated a two-part workshop on interdisciplinary pedagogy.

Fellowship in Academic Administration, *Graduate School of Arts and Sciences* Spring 2024

- Office of Research Initiatives and Development, Research Initiatives Fellow
- Wrote guides for early career faculty in STEM on best practices when applying for high-profile, limited submission grants from the NSF, NIH, Pew Biomedical Scholars, Packard Fellows for Science and Engineering, and more.

Teaching Assessment Fellow, *Center for Teaching and Learning* 2022-2023

- Collaborated with the CTL's Media Team to develop research-backed rubrics to assess the effectiveness of video-based pedagogy in higher education.

Lead Teaching Fellow, *Center for Teaching and Learning* 2020-2021

- Designed and facilitated two interdisciplinary pedagogy workshops.

University of Maryland, College Park

National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) Ernest Pellegrini Scholar 2018-2019

- Funding for the research and writing of my research project titled “The Suicides of Lucretia, Dido, and Phyllis: Emotional Catalysts and Self-Understanding”

NIAF Pellegrini Digital Latin Pedagogy Initiatives Fund Summer 2018

- Grant used for research, writing, and publication of my project titled “Ancient America: Influences of Greece and Rome on the Political and Ideological Development of the United States.” Published [here](#).

AWARDS AND HONORS

University of Maryland, College Park

- The Graduate School’s Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award Spring 2018
- Eta Sigma Phi, Zeta Nu Chapter Spring 2018

Purdue University

- Phi Beta Kappa Spring 2017

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Columbia University in the City of New York

- Teaching Consultant, *Center for Teaching and Learning* 2023-2025
- Co-Organizer for the Department of Classics’ Graduate Research Colloquium 2022-2023
- Co-Organizer of a workshop entitled *Writing, Enslavement, Power* Fall 2022
- Chair of panel entitled, “Representing the Feminine” at Annual Meeting for Postgraduates in the Reception of the Ancient World Fall 2021
- Co-Organizer of the Department of Classics’ Team Teaching Pedagogy Colloquium 2020-2021
- Volunteer at Columbia Food Pantry 2020-2021
- Panelist on panel organized by Cat Lambert entitled “On Not Knowing (X): Teaching Without Expertise” Spring 2020

University of Maryland, College Park

- Interim Graduate Student Representative for the College of Arts and Humanities Collegiate Council 2017-2018

REFERENCES

Gareth Williams, Anthon, Professor of Latin Language and Literature

- Department of Classics, Columbia University
- gdw5@columbia.edu

Alan Ross, Associate Professor

- Department of Classics, The Ohio State University
- ross.2005@osu.edu

Elizabeth DePalma Digeser, Professor

- Department of History, University of California - Santa Barbara
- edigeser@ucsb.edu

Lillian Doherty, Professor Emerita Classics

- Department of Classics, University of Maryland, College Park
- ldoherty@umd.edu