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The Classical Tradition in Washington, D.C.:
An Introduction to the Greco-Roman World

This presentation demonstrates how the teaching of the Greco-Roman tradition at the collegiate and advanced high school levels can be accomplished by becoming a curator of your own educational website exhibit, drawing from modern local or regional classically influenced resources. Greco-Roman “texts” of classical culture are readily available on the streets of towns and cities and within the halls of public buildings and museums of many urban centers, such as Washington, D.C., Chicago, IL, and San Francisco, CA. American cities and towns to varying degrees provide excellent Greco-Roman material for website education that can enhance or substitute for the guided classical walk and classroom experience.

Classical study in Washington, D.C. provides a unique challenge, for there is no major museum that offers a generous cross section of exhibits on Greek and Roman civilization, as you can often find elsewhere. However, from its 18th century beginnings as the nation’s new capital and its development during the 19th and 20th centuries, Washington, D.C. serves as an outdoor and indoor virtual “textbook” for Greek and Roman culture. You just have to know where, and how, to look. **The Classical Tradition in Washington, D.C.: An Introduction to the Greco-Roman World** website is organized chronologically, as the buildings and monuments, etc. became part of the capital city’s landscape. Beginning with “‘Rome’ on Tiber Creek,” and including such structures as the Capitol and the Library of Congress, as well as Union Station and the Zero Milestone, I will give an illustrated power point presentation using selective photographs, educational text, questions, and links to other websites, which will help students to explore the ancient Mediterranean world through a study of Washington D.C. I will also discuss how this project can serve as a model for similar classical websites in other localities.

The inspiration for this project began with *Classical Washington: A Guided Tour* (1987) by John E. Ziolkowski, who provides an enjoyable and informative classical walk around downtown Washington, D.C. Also important to the preparation of this project are Christopher Weeks, *AIA Guide to the Architecture of Washington, D.C.* (1994), James B. Goode, *The Outdoor Sculpture of Washington, D.C.* (1979), Candyce H. Stapen, *Washington, D.C.: Blue Guide* (2000), Jeffrey F. Meyer, *Myths in Stone: Religious Dimensions of Washington, D.C.* (2001), and H.M. Hoover, *The Whole Truth...and Other Myths: Retelling Ancient Tales* (1996), among other sources.