

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Joseph D. Reed, assistant professor of Greek and Latin, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of Greek and Latin, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1993	Stanford University
M.A.	1991	Stanford University
B.A.	1987	Yale College

Professional Record:

2001 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Classical Studies, University of Michigan
1998 – 2001	Hutton Assistant Professor of Classics, Department of Classics, Cornell University
1997 – 1998	Mellon Postdoctoral Teaching Research Fellow, Cornell University
1996 – 1997	Friedrich Solmsen Fellow, University of Wisconsin - Madison
1993 – 1996	Instructor, Department of Greek and Latin, The Ohio State University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Reed’s intellectual brilliance is matched by his personality as an instructor. He loves working with students at all levels. His teaching ranges from large introductory courses on Roman civilization to graduate surveys of Roman literature and more narrowly focused graduate seminars. He has had great success at all levels -- students give him high scores and praise his innovative and lively style. He has been much in demand for advising undergraduate and graduate theses.

Research – Professor Reed is an energetic and innovative scholar. He is a major player in the growing field that examines Augustan poetry and its complex relations to its Greek predecessors. He is, moreover, particularly well positioned to do this work; his research is marked by a remarkable ability to move with equal facility between Greek and Latin scholarship. As a testament to his growing international reputation, Professor Reed is one of the participants in the new Italian commentary on Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*. In addition to seventeen articles in well-respected journals, he has written two books -- one on Vergil and another on Bion of Smyrna. The book on Bion demonstrates remarkable philological erudition, while the forthcoming study of Virgil demonstrates an ability to engage in a more culturally oriented approach to classical texts.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Virgil’s Gaze: Nation and Poetry in the Aeneid, Princeton University Press, in press.
“Wilfred Owen’s Adonis,” in *Dead Lovers: Erotic Bonds and the Study of Premodern Europe*, B. Dufallo and P. McCracken (eds.), University of Michigan Press, 2006, pp. 39-56.

“Continuity and change in Greek bucolic between Theocritus and Virgil,” in *A Companion to Greek and Latin Pastoral*, M. Fantuzzi and T. Papanghelis (eds.), Leiden: Brill, 2006, pp. 209-234.

Bion of Smyrna: The Fragments and the Adonis, Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Service – Professor Reed has served successfully for several years as Undergraduate Concentration Advisor and on several other departmental committees, including time schedule and four search committees in Latin literature as Classical Studies endeavored to rebuild its strength in this field. He was also twice elected to serve on the Advisory Committee to the Chair. This is a fine record of service for a junior faculty member.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Reed has a combination of competences in Greek and Latin, philology, textual criticism and cultural history, as well as literary criticism and cultural theory, which is almost impossible to find in one single individual at his career stage.”

Reviewer (B)

“The Bion edition is a work of high quality, published in a very prestigious series, and it was immediately recognized as the standard edition of this poet... ..Reed’s output is relatively rich, and above all seems to have grown in recent years, to judge by the quantity and quality of the writings in course of publication and underway.”

Reviewer (C)

“Both in terms of published work and in terms of future promise, he seems to me more than ready for tenure at the University of Michigan. ...I would expect him to be on the national radar for full professor approaches almost as soon as he is tenured.”

Reviewer (D)

“I have served as an external assessor for ten tenure files in the last four years... Dr. Reed’s publications are the most impressive in their mastery of the ancient evidence, variety of scholarly genre, and sophistication of argument that I have had the pleasure of reading.”

Reviewer (E)

“My criticisms are a drop in the bucket compared to the wealth of imagination and solid grounding offered by Jay Reed’s scholarship. Most of those in the field who have stronger credentials in literary theory could only envy Reed’s philological acumen... The University of Michigan is lucky to have him.”

Reviewer (F)

“Reed is, in short, the sort of reader of whom Virgil must have dreamed. His intense, learned, subtle, appreciative engagement with the text is just what is called for by Virgil’s epic—the most densely patterned text I know. If philology is the love of language, Reed is a philologist in the very best sense of the word.”

Reviewer (G)


“My summary [of *Virgil's Gaze*] does scant justice to the many detailed insights that dot Reed's critique which I consider a very important addition to the Virgilian bibliography. He is deeply sympathetic to the brilliant richness of his chosen text... All Virgilians will take pride in it. Reed is already a recognized authority on Hellenistic poetry. His selection...to write the commentary for Ovid's *Metamorphoses* 10-12 in the Valla edition, is a splendid accolade. ...his many interests will add both strength and depth to the quality of your own outstanding faculty.”

Reviewer (H)

“I would rank R[eed] very highly among his coevals working in the same speciality. Indeed I am at pains to think of many such scholars who have equal philological skills in Greek and Latin, as well as the literary competence to put those skills into fruitful analysis. All of those with whom I would compare R[eed] have tenure...”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Reed is an outstanding scholar working in a field of central importance to the Department of Classical Studies. He has an excellent record of research, teaching, and service. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Joseph D. Reed be promoted to the rank of associate professor of Greek and Latin, with tenure, Department of Classical Studies, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History, and Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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