

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

Basil J. Dufallo, assistant professor of classical studies, and assistant professor of comparative literature, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of classical studies, with tenure, and associate professor of comparative literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

1999	Ph.D.	University of California at Los Angeles
1999	M.A.	University of California at Los Angeles
1992	B.A.	Yale University

Professional Record:

2005 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Classical Studies and Department of Comparative Literature, University of Michigan
2001 – 2005	Visiting Assistant Professor of Greek and Latin, and Lecturer II, Department of Classical Studies, University of Michigan
1999 – 2001	Visiting Assistant Professor, Classical Studies, The College of Wooster

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Dufallo is an excellent teacher who offers courses in the languages and literatures of the Greco-Roman world that are critical to the core mission of the Department of Classical Studies and provide an important bridge to the Department of Comparative Literature. His teaching dossier is distinguished by an impressive range of courses (from ancient Greek grammar to the drama of classical Greece and the poetry of the Roman Empire and to Latin literature of medieval Europe) at every level from introductory surveys to graduate seminars. He has developed imaginative topics for courses in comparative literature, where he has been actively involved in undergraduate teaching and concentration advising.

Research – Professor Dufallo maintains high standards of traditional learning while introducing new approaches to a very wide range of texts, finding new and valuable things to say about authors as familiar as Virgil and Cicero, and promoting interdisciplinary exchange. He undertakes particular readings of classical texts that are designed to dramatize theoretical issues in the contemporary critical formulation of reception studies. His current work enhances not only our grasp of the ways ancient authors were haunted by their models and ancestors but indicates that contemporary critical concerns are rooted in longstanding traditions of “receptivity” and that ancient authors therefore have much to contribute to current theoretical debates over the meaning of “reception” in literary criticism.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Reception and receptivity in Catullus 64,” *Cultural Critique*, special volume on “Classical Reception and the Political,” M. Leonard and Y. Prins, (eds.), 74, 2010, pp. 98-113  
*The Captor’s Image: Greek Culture in Roman Ecphrasis*, Oxford University Press, under contract.

*The Ghosts of the Past: Latin Literature, the Dead, and Rome's Transition to a Principate*, The Ohio State University Press, 2007.

*Dead Lovers: Erotic Bonds and the Study of Premodern Europe*, co-edited with P. McCracken, University of Michigan Press, 2006.

Service – Professor Dufallo has shown himself an exceptionally helpful and energetic colleague in both departments. He has provided extensive support to the graduate studies programs, serving repeatedly on the Graduate Admissions and Fellowship committees. He has served on the chair's Advisory Committee in classical studies and played a useful role in planning the future of that department, composing documents for its long range plan, producing a report for its external review, and contributing to the restructuring of its graduate program. He has also contributed to the interdepartmental consortium entitled Contexts for Classics. For the discipline at large he has reviewed books and articles for major presses and journals.

Summary of External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"...D.[ufallo] succeeds in establishing new contexts for very familiar texts, and the book is full of fascinating new readings."

Reviewer (B)

"Dufallo is a perfect choice for this kind of job because he combines the competence typical of specialists of the ancient world (the textual, philological 'groundedness') with an open mind and a keen eye for problems of method and interpretive theories... He has acquired visibility and his research is at the same level as some of the established scholars of Latin letters and cultural history..."

Reviewer (C)

"...my evaluation of Basil Dufallo is positive...because he sees things others have not. Furthermore, he goes about his scholarship in the way I at any rate think it needs to be done these days, with a judicious mixture of close reading, sensitivity to broader political concerns, a healthy interdisciplinarity, and a distinct theoretical angle. Another appealing feature is that he conveys his ideas concisely. This combination is unfortunately rare."

Reviewer (D)

"Basil's major field is a central one in...Classics, the Latin literature of the Republic and early Empire, but in explorings its interaction with Roman culture more generally, its eschews the formalism which is the default mode of much scholarship in the field. ... Basil's work, particularly the forthcoming book on ecphrasis...displays a greater range and intellectual curiosity."

Reviewer (E)

"...Dufallo's range of explorative interpretation in Latin Literature spans both chronology and genre. Because the focus of his discussions is upon rhetorical *topoi* and *figurae*, his examples are drawn from, and show an insightful command of comedy, lyric, all varieties of hexameter, oratory, narrative fiction and epigram and always with an attention to political and cultural context that views literary expression as an index of societal change."

Reviewer (F)

"...while his work is certainly focused on the classical world, and as such may not be readily discovered by people in other disciplines, it is of a texture that should be read in other disciplines, especially those dealing with the classical heritage in later European culture; for it has the potential to be as transformative for them as it looks likely to be in the world of Classics."

Reviewer (G)

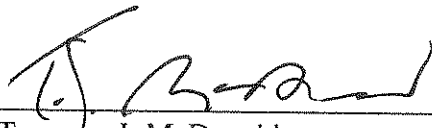
"I was particularly struck by the way that he allows for complexity and nuance at both ends of the poles he is working with. He brings out extremely well how ecphrasis does not use 'Greek objects' in order to complicate the audience's sense of Roman identity, but rather plays upon the way the audience are anyways [sic] already used to Hellenism as a complicating factor in their identity."

Reviewer (H)

"Basil's work is remarkable for his easy familiarity with ongoing theoretical debates about performance, visual artifacts, identity, appropriation, and a broad set of related issues in cultural practice. It is no less remarkable for the depth, breadth, and soundness of his erudite control of the Greco-Roman classical archive and its historical and cultural contexts."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Dufallo is an innovative Latinist, and a dedicated teacher who has contributed at all levels. He is also a good citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Basil J. Dufallo be promoted to the rank of associate professor of classical studies, with tenure, and associate professor of comparative literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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

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