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**“Benefits of a Classical Education”:
The Dynamics of Classical Allusion in ABC’s *Revenge***

© *Dan Curley, Skidmore College (USA)*

ABSTRACT

This essay explores the social dynamics of classical allusions on the American television series, *Revenge* (ABC Television Studios, 2011–2015), a prime-time soap opera conceived in the wake of the Great Recession of 2007 and beyond. These allusions take various forms, from visual cues to long diatribes. Furthermore, they shore up the identities of the show’s characters by promoting Greco-Roman antiquity as the domain of wealthy, conservative, white, male villains.