Humans have always been mythmakers. Myths are universal and timeless stories that reflect and shape our lives—they explore our desires, our fears, our longings, and provide narratives that remind us what it means to be human. History is comprised of another set of narratives that establish our knowledge of the world as part of an organized temporal consciousness of past, present and future. In this class we will explore the meaning of myth and history and their function in mythistorima, the Greek word for fiction, in novels from Greece and Cyprus. Students will acquire the theoretical and scholarly skills in reading and interpreting forms of mythic and historical thinking and expression. Authors include: R. Galanaki, L. Ellina, C. Montis, E. Fakinou, G. Eugenides. Students will read selections from: Barthes, Baudrillard, Chakrabarty, Guha, Eagleton, Eliade, Nietzsche, and Hunt.

This course will investigate the experience of diaspora, exile and migration through the lens of the Modern Greek case. Students will explore the major movements of populations from and towards the territory of the Greek state from the late 19th century to the present day, and study the anthropology of forced migration and political exile. Materials considered include ethnographic works, published and unpublished memoirs, literature, films, documentaries and oral histories.

Email: hellenic@columbia.edu Website: www.hellenic.columbia.edu Twitter: @hellenicCU
CLGM V3306 The Making of Modern Greek Poetry: From Solomos to Hip-hop
Maria Hadjipolycarpou

Hip-hop, a form of oral poetry and simultaneously a performative practice, presents literary scholars and cultural critics with particular challenges, especially when emerging in a country like Greece, where poetry and performance have been the two major forms of artistic expression. The class will study the history of hip-hop globally and comparatively, engage with the study of Modern Greek poetry of the last decades and compare its themes and meaning with those of hip-hop. Students will engage with issues of postcolonialism, postmodernism, ethnicity, gender and race.

CLGM V3305 Writing & Censorship: Dictatorships and their Afterlives
Dimitris Antoniou

This course examines the afterlives of dictatorships and the ways they are remembered, discussed, examined, and give rise to conflicting narratives in post-dictatorial environments. It takes as a point of departure the case of the Greek military regime of 1967-1974, and draws on materials ranging from graphic novels to films, performance art, poetry, and architecture to consider issues such as resistance, complicity, censorship, witnessing, ghosts, and public history.

CLGM V3920 The World Responds to the Greeks: Modernity, Postcoloniality, Globality
Stathis Gourgouris

This course examines various literary, artistic, and cultural traditions that respond to some of the most recognizable Greek motifs in myth, theater, and politics, with the aim of understanding both what these motifs might be offering specifically to these traditions in particular social-historical contexts and, at the same time, what these traditions in turn bring to our conventional understanding of these motifs, how they reconceptualize them and how they alter them.

The overall impetus is framed by a prismatic inquiry of how conditions of modernity, postcoloniality, and globality fashion themselves in engagement with certain persistent imaginaries of antiquity. Texts include various renditions of Antigone in African, Caribbean, Asian or Latin American traditions, poetry by Walcott, Cavafy, and Césaire, essays by Fanon, Soyinka, Senghor, and CL.R. James. This course fulfills the global core requirement.
This course examines western Europeans’ encounters with Constantinople and Byzantine culture, concentrating on the period after the separation of the “Latin” from the “Greek” and ending in the sixteenth century, after the Ottoman takeover of Constantinople. We will follow merchants, pilgrims and warriors as they visit, trade with, or march into Constantinople, study the sources they have left recording their impressions and their encounters, and consider what westerners took from Byzantium in the way of art forms, learning, sociopolitical practices, and material culture.

Directed Readings
Fall 2014 and Spring 2015

GRKM V3997 & GRKM W4997
Designed for undergraduate and graduate students who want to do directed reading in a period or on a topic not covered in the curriculum.

GRKM V3998 Senior Research Seminar
This course is primarily designed for students writing a senior thesis or undertaking advanced research on modern Greece or Greek Diaspora topics in all disciplines. The course of study and reading material will be determined by the instructor in consultation with the students; and it will be made relevant to the theoretical and practical requirements of their research topic.

HIS4152 Byzantine Encounters: Western Europeans in Constantinople
Martha Howell
This course examines western Europeans’ encounters with Constantinople and Byzantine culture, concentrating on the period after the separation of the “Latin” from the “Greek” and ending in the sixteenth century, after the Ottoman takeover of Constantinople. We will follow merchants, pilgrims and warriors as they visit, trade with, or march into Constantinople, study the sources they have left recording their impressions and their encounters, and consider what westerners took from Byzantium in the way of art forms, learning, sociopolitical practices, and material culture.

CLGM V3920 The World Responds to the Greeks: Interdisciplinarity and Area Studies
Karen Van Dyck
This course introduces students to interdisciplinary study by examining the kind of analytical frame a particular area (Greece, the Mediterranean, the Balkans, Europe, Greek-America) provides for different disciplines. Focusing on Modern Greece it examines how literature as a discipline works comparatively and how it borrows and differs from other disciplines in its forms of comparativism. Readings foreground moments when Greece's position at the crossroads (between East and West, Byzantine and Ottoman, Ancient and Modern, the Balkans and Europe, Greece and America, Greece and Turkey) become comparatively productive to particular fields (Literature, History, Sociology, Architecture, Anthropology, Gender, Translation, and Postcolonial Studies). This course fulfills the global core requirement.

Affiliated Courses Fall 2014

HISTG9702 The Ottoman Empire and Its Rivals & HISTW4732 The Post-Ottoman World by Christine Philliou
AHIS G8214 Violence & Gore in Greek Art & AHIS V3248 Greek Art and Architecture by Ioannis Mylonopoulos
CPLS G6760 Radical Democracy (November 3-19) by Dimitris Vardoulakis
GRKM V1201 Intermediate Modern Greek Language and Culture
4 pts TR 12:10-2:00pm
Maria Hadjipolycarpou

This year-long course is designed for students who are already familiar with the basic grammar and syntax of Modern Greek language and can communicate at an elementary level. It aims to develop the students’ proficiency in understanding, speaking, writing, and reading Modern Greek. In addition to these skills, students will be exposed to contemporary cultural material (websites, newspapers, documentary film, literature, music) that will allow them to get a grasp of the vibrant life, language, and culture of Greece today.

GRKM V1101 Introduction to Modern Greek Language and Culture
4 pts TR 9-10:50am & F 10-10:50am
(Cultural Dictionary/Conversation)
Maria Hadjipolycarpou

This is a year-long course for students who wish to learn Greek as it is written and spoken in Greece today. As part of the learning process students will acquire the necessary skills to read texts of moderate difficulty and converse on a wide range of topics. The class will explore Modern Greece’s cultural landscape from political graffiti to the poetry of the Cypriot poet Costas Montis to *parea*.

GRKM W1211 Intermediate Modern Greek Conversation 1pt F 11-11:50am
Maria Hadjipolycarpou

For students in GRKM V1201, but also open to students not enrolled in GRKM V1201, who wish to improve their spoken Modern Greek.