MODERN GREEK COURSES

INTRODUCTION TO MODERN GREEK LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
INTERMEDIATE MODERN GREEK LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
INTERMEDIATE MODERN GREEK CONVERSATION
WORLDING C. P. CAVAFY: TRANSLATION, DESIRE, MEDIA
ADVANCED MODERN GREEK
TOPICS THROUGH GREEK FILM
SENIOR RESEARCH SEMINAR
DIRECTED READINGS

Image credit: Sophia Datseri, “Cavafy and Odysseus”, 2013
INTRODUCTION TO MODERN GREEK LANGUAGE AND CULTURE I
GRKM V1101. 4 pts. Maria Hadjipolycarpou
TR 10:10am-12:00pm 613 Hamilton Hall (Cultural Dictionary/Conversation F 10:10am-11:00am 613 Hamilton Hall).
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. Friday class is a separate conversation hour.

INTERMEDIATE MODERN GREEK LANGUAGE AND CULTURE I
GRKM V1201. 4 pts. Maria Hadjipolycarpou TR 12:10pm-2:00pm 613 Hamilton Hall
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. Prerequisites: GRKM V1101-V1102 or the equivalent. Corequisites: Students are also required to take the conversation class, GRKM W1211.

INTERMEDIATE MODERN GREEK CONVERSATION
GRKM W1211. 1pt. Karen Van Dyck F 11:10am-12:00am 613 Hamilton Hall
For students in GRKM V1201, but also open to students not enrolled in GRKM V1201 who wish to improve their spoken Modern Greek. The conversation class, GRKM W1211.

ADVANCED MODERN GREEK
GRKM V3001. 3pts. Maria Hadjipolycarpou MW 4:10pm-5:25pm 613 Hamilton Hall
This semester we will continue to build language skills but with particular attention to speaking and writing Greek at the university level. We will focus on such topics as diaspora, history, politics, and identity. We will use materials from literature, critical essays, historiography, film, and mass media as a way to advance knowledge in Modern Greek literature and culture. In addition we will explore the diversity of Greek language as it is spoken in different regions and gain understanding of its evolution through time. Materials include: essays (Seferis, Theotokas); newspaper articles; television interviews (Flessa and Papanikolaou); advertisement; stand-up-comedy (Lazopoulos); music (art-song, rebetika, hip-hop); theatre (Demetriades); literature (Roides, Papadimitris, Kazantzakis, Lymberaki, Karapanou, Galanaki, Charalambides, Chatzopoulos, Choularias). Prerequisites: GRKM V1201 or the equivalent.
WORLDING C. P. CAVAFY: TRANSLATION, DESIRE, MEDIA
GRKMG4300. 4pts. Karen Van Dyck R 4:10pm-6:00pm 613 Hamilton Hall
By examining Cavafy’s work in all its permutations (as criticism, translation, adaptation), this course introduces students to a wide range of critical approaches used in World Literature, Gender Studies, and Translation Studies. The Cavafy case becomes an experimental ground for different kinds of comparative literature methods, those that engage social-historical issues such as sexuality, diaspora, postcoloniality as well as linguistic issues such as multilingualism, media and translation. How does this poet “at a slight angle to the universe” challenge contemporary theories of gender and literature as national institution? How can studying a canonical author open up our theories and practices of translation? Among the materials considered are translations by Edmund Keeley and Philip Sherrard, James Merrill, and Marguerite Yourcenar, commentary by E.M. Forster, C.M. Bowra, and Roman Jakobson, poems by W.H. Auden, Lawrence Durrell, and Joseph Brodsky, and visual art by David Hockney and Duane Michals. Though this course presupposes no knowledge of Greek, students wanting to read Cavafy in the original are encouraged to take the 1-credit directed reading tutorial offered simultaneously.

TOPICS THROUGH GREEK FILM
GRKMG4135. 3-4pts. Dimitris Antoniou M 6:10-8:00pm
This course explores the history and culture of modern Greece through film. It brings the Greek cinema canon (Angelopoulos, Ferris, Gavras, Cacoyiannis, Koundouros, et al.) into conversation with the work of contemporary artists, documentary filmmakers, and the recent “weird wave.” In doing so, the course addresses issues of memory and trauma, public history and testimony, colonialism and biopolitics, neoliberalism and governmentality, and crisis and kinship, and it asks: what kind of lens does film offer onto the study of a society’s history and contemporary predicament? The viewing and discussion of films is facilitated through a consideration of a wide range of materials, including novels, criticism, archival footage, and interviews with directors. The course does not assume any background knowledge and all films will have English subtitles. An additional 1-credit bilingual option (meeting once per week at a time TBD) is offered for students who wish to read, view, and discuss materials in Greek.
SENIOR RESEARCH SEMINAR
GRKMV3998. 1-4 pts
Designed for students writing a senior thesis or doing advanced research on Greek or Greek Diaspora topics.

DIRECTED READINGS
GRKMV3997. 1-4 pts
Designed for undergraduates who want to do directed reading in a period or on a topic not covered in the curriculum.

DIRECTED READINGS
GRKMW4997. 3pts
Designed for graduates who want to do directed reading in a period or on a topic not covered in the curriculum.

Fall 2015 Modern Greek Seminars

Friday, September 18
Artist talk and brunch with Greek writer-director Athina Rachel Tsangari, with discussant Toby Lee (Assistant Professor, Cinema Studies, Tisch, NYU)

Thursday, October 15
“Contesting Conceptual Boundaries: Byzantine Literature and Its History.”
Panagiotis Agapitos (Professor of Byzantine Literature, University of Cyprus).

Thursday, November 19
“Cavafy, the Hellenistic age, and us.”
John Ma (Professor of Classics, Columbia).

Illustration by: Bill Bragg, The Guardian

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