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. It can be taken with an extra-credit tutorial for students reading materials in the original.

This seminar 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. It can be taken with an extra-credit tutorial for students reading materials in the original.

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.
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.

Spring 2015 Directed Readings

GRKM V3997 1-4pts & GRKM W4997 1-3pts  
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 1-4pts  
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.

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.
GRKM V1102 Introduction to Modern Greek Language and Culture II
4 pts  TR 9:00am-10:50am
Maria Hadjipolycarpou

This second semester course is designed for students who have taken the first semester course V 1101 or the equivalent. It focuses again on Greek as it is written and spoken in Greece today. As well as learning the skills necessary to read texts of moderate difficulty and converse on a wide range of topics, students continue to explore Modern Greece's cultural landscape.

GRKM W1212 Intermediate Modern Greek Conversation 1pt F 11:00am-11:50am
Maria Hadjipolycarpou

For students in GRKM V1202; but also open to students not enrolled in V1201 above, who wish to improve their spoken modern Greek.
For more information, contact Maria Hadjipolycarpou at mh3505@columbia

GRKM V1202 Intermediate Modern Greek Language and Culture II
4 pts TR 12:10pm-2:00pm
Maria Hadjipolycarpou

This second semester course is designed for students who have taken the first semester course V1201 or the equivalent. In the spring term students complete their knowledge of the fundamentals of Greek grammar and syntax while continuing to enrich their vocabulary. The aim is to be able to read simple Greek newspaper articles, essays and short stories and to discuss and summarize them in Greek. **Prerequisites:** GRKM V1101-V1102 or the equivalent. **Corequisites:** Students are also required to take the conversation class, GRKM W1211.