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 Comparative Literature and Translation Studies. The Cavafy case becomes an experimental ground for different kinds of comparative 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?

No knowledge of Greek necessary, though those wanting to read Cavafy in the original are encouraged to take the one hour bilingual directed reading.