

Program in Hellenic Studies



Fall 2018

Elementary Modern Greek I, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa

GRKM UN1101

This is the first semester of a year-long course designed for students wishing to learn 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 explore Modern Greece's cultural landscape from "para" to poetry to politics. Special attention will be paid to Greek New York. How do "our", "American", "Greek-American" definitions of language and culture differ from "their", "Greek" ones?

Intermediate Modern Greek I, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa

GRKM UN2101

This 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. Using films, newspapers, and popular songs, students engage the finer points of Greek grammar and syntax and enrich their vocabulary. Emphasis is given to writing, whether in the form of film and book reviews or essays on particular topics taken from a selection of second year textbooks.

Hellenism and the Topographical Imagination, Dimitrios Antoniou

GRKM UN3935

This course examines the way particular spaces—cultural, urban, literary—serve as sites for the production and reproduction of cultural and political imaginaries. It places particular emphasis on the themes of the polis, the city, and the nation-state as well as on spatial representations of and responses to notions of the Hellenic across time. Students will consider a wide range of texts as spaces—complex sites constituted and complicated by a multiplicity of languages—and ask: To what extent is meaning and cultural identity, sitespecific? How central is the classical past in Western imagination? How have great metropolises such as Paris, Istanbul, and New York fashioned themselves in response to the allure of the classical and the advent of modern Greece? How has Greece as a specific site shaped the study of the Cold War, dictatorships, and crisis?

Greece today: language, literature, and culture (in Greek), Nikolas P. Kakkoufa

GRKM UN3003

This course builds on the elements of the language acquired in GRKM1101 through 2102, but new students may place into it, after special arrangement with the instructor. It introduces the students to a number of authentic multimodal materials drawn from a range of sources which include films, literary texts, media, music etc. in order to better understand Greece's current cultural, socioeconomic, and political landscape. In doing so, it aims to foster transcultural understanding and intercultural competence, while further developing the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Topics of discussion include language, gender equality, youth unemployment, education, queer identities, refugees, and the multilayered aspects of the crisis.

Topics through Greek Film, Dimitrios Antoniou

GRKM GU4135

This course explores issues of memory and trauma, public history and testimony, colonialism and biopolitics, neoliberalism and governmentality, and crisis and kinship, all through the medium of Greek film. It brings the Greek cinema canon (Angelopoulos, Gavras, Cacoyiannis, Koundouros, et al.) into conversation with the work of contemporary artists, documentary filmmakers, and the recent "weird wave" and 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.

Language Courses

Literature, Culture & History

Readings in Modern Greek, Dimitrios Antoniou

GRKM UN3996

The course allows students in Topics through Greek Film (G4135) with an intermediate to advanced level of Greek to supplement their study of that course's theme through materials in Greek. Each week we will be reading short texts (excerpts from novels and essays, blogs, newspaper articles) on a theme discussed that week in G4135.

Senior Research Seminar, Karen Van Dyck

GRKM UN3996

Designed for students writing a senior thesis or doing advanced research on Greek or Greek Diaspora topics.

Supervised Independent Research, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa

GRKM GU4460

Designed for graduate students who want to conduct independent research in Hellenic Studies.

Diasporas in Italian and Transnational History, Konstantina Zanou

CLIA GU(W)4022

Some years ago the word Diaspora referred to Jews and was spelled with a capital D. Today, almost every ethnic group, country, or separatist movement has its diaspora. Usually, these diasporas are presented as pieces of national life scattered here and there, in places far away from the national core. In this seminar, however, we will treat diasporas not as an emblem of national unity but as an expression of diversity, of a multiplicity of loyalties and belongings. By combining history, literature, film, and cultural studies, and by approaching the topic through the lens of transnationalism, we will study topics such as Mobility and Nationalism, Diasporas in Intellectual History, The Mediterranean in Motion, Italian Migration, Mobile Italy and its Colonies, Displacements in the Eastern Mediterranean, Lost Cosmopolitanisms in the Middle East, Emigration from Eastern Europe, and Mediterranean Refugees and Memory. The aim is to turn our gaze away from the territorially defined countries, towards a view of the world in which countries are ship-like territories.

Comparative Diasporas and Translation, Karen Van Dyck and Brent Edwards

CPLS G6111

This seminar will focus on the theory and practice of translation from the perspective of comparative diaspora studies. We will read some of the key scholarship on diaspora that has emerged over the past two decades focusing on the central issue of language in relation to migration, uprooting, and imagined community. Rather than foregrounding a single case study, the syllabus is organized around the proposition that any consideration of diaspora requires a consideration of comparative and overlapping diasporas, and as a consequence a confrontation with multilingualism, creolization and the problem of translation. We are co-teaching the seminar first of all to foreground this proposition (since we ourselves both work on comparative diasporas and translation in different locations and across different languages), although the comparative purview of the course will not be limited to our own areas of expertise, the African diaspora and the Greek diaspora, respectively. In the second section of the course, we will look at a range of literary representations of language-crossing and -mixing in diaspora, especially in terms of their lessons for the theory and practice of translation. The final weeks of the course will be devoted to a practicum, in which we will conduct an intensive workshop around the translation projects of the student participants.

Related Courses

Columbia Summer in Greece: Art, Environment, and Curation

This program examines aspects of Greek history and culture through the organization of an art exhibition under the general theme of the environment. The project is structured around classroom seminars, museum and site visits, walking tours, and workshop sessions in which students will learn about and gain experience in all stages of curating an exhibition. As part of this program students will create field recordings in various media, visit artists' studios, conduct archival and ethnographic research, and visit some of Greece's most iconic locations.

More information about Columbia Summer in Greece can be found at <https://ogp.columbia.edu/program/columbia-summer-greece>



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