

## Fall 2023 Courses



### Elementary Modern Greek I, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa

### Language Courses

#### GRKM UN1101

**M/W 12:10-2:00 PM**

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 "parea" 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, Chrysanthe Filippardos

#### GRKM UN2102

**M/W 6:10-8:00 PM**

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.

### Greece Today: Language, Literature, and Culture (in Greek), Nikolas P. Kakkoufa

#### GRKM UN3003

**M/W 4:10-5:25 PM**

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 multi-layered aspects of the crisis.

## Hellenism and the Topographical Imagination, Dimitris Antoniou

GRKM UN3935 *This course fulfills the global core requirement.*

Th 12:10-2:00 PM

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, site specific? 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?

## Multilingual Worlds: Translation, Gender and the Greek Diaspora, Karen Van Dyck

CLGM GU4600 *This course fulfills the global core requirement.*

T 2:10-4:00 PM

This course introduces students to the rich tradition of literature about and by Greeks in America over the past two centuries exploring questions of multilingualism, translation, migration and gender with particular attention to the look and sound of different alphabets and foreign accents – “It’s all Greek to me!” To what extent can migration be understood as translation and vice versa? How might debates in Diaspora and Translation Studies inform each other and how might both, in turn, elucidate the writing of and about Greeks and other ethnic minorities, especially women? Authors include Olga Broumas, Elia Kazan, Alexandros Papadiamantis, Ellery Queen, Eleni Sikelianos, Irini Spanidou, and Thanasis Valtinos as well as performance artists such as Diamanda Galás. Theoretical and comparative texts include works by Walter Benjamin, Rey Chow, Jacques Derrida, Franz Kafka, Toni Morrison, and Lawrence Venuti, as well as films such as Charlie Chaplin’s *The Immigrant* and *The Wizard of Oz*. No knowledge of Greek is necessary, although an extra-credit directed reading is open to those wishing to read texts in Greek.

## Topics in Contemporary Critical Theory, Stathis Gourgouris

CPLS GU4700 *This course is cross-listed with the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society.*

M 1:10-3:40 PM

This seminar uses an open rubric of “topics in contemporary critical theory” to engage a wide range of current concepts, approaches, strands, and debates residing at the crux of social and cultural critique in the intersections of social and political theory, anthropology, literary and cultural studies. Located on these crossroads of the humanities and the social sciences, contemporary critical theory—in the broad sense used here—draws on several traditions of intellectual thought, including (post-)Marxism, ideology critique, critical ethnography, psychoanalytic theory, critical race theory, feminist and postcolonial/decolonial critique. The seminar traces such lines of inquiry in order to explore the links between knowledge, power, subjectivity, and the political. Special attention is given to the relationship between thought and praxis in various contemporary sociopolitical contexts.

Specific focus this time is the broader problem of democracy in contemporary societies, both in their national and their global dimensions. This is especially trenchant with the migration/refugee crisis in Europe, the problem of open/closed borders worldwide, and the security crisis in the aftermath of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine. The volume and intensity of human mobility from the Middle East and North Africa to Europe remains dramatically steady, despite the overall restrictions in mobility following the pandemic conditions worldwide and the resurgence of extreme nationalism. During the last decade refugee statelessness has evolved into a quasi-permanent liminal condition of being within the political body of ‘Western’ societies, especially in so called border countries of the European periphery.

The continuous expansion and multiplication of internment camps in countries such as Turkey, Greece, Italy, Spain, etc. has created different states of existence within national territories, raising a wide range of issues that concern statehood, political rights, the right to equal treatment and access to public goods (i.e., health, education, safety, representation etc.).

This cascade of interior frontiers has precipitated a huge debate on questions of citizenship and democratic institutions in the broadest sense. Moreover, dissent has grown across societies, regardless of identity parameters (class, race, gender, ethnicity, religion) and across the ideological spectrum. What now seems to be a permanent crisis of democracy is paradoxically what reveals democracy's strength, in the midst of its vulnerability, and its necessity despite its many constitutive problems. The course will address these matters theoretically, but with extensive reference to real social and historical problems on the ground as they're unfolding. This is indeed the key pedagogical purpose: to explore self-reflection and even conceptual abstraction, while never losing sight of the concrete and the mutable—the real life of humans in all its adversity.

**Directed Readings, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa**  
GRKM UN3997 01

**Supervised Independent Research, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa**  
GRKM GU4460 01

**Directed Readings, Dimitris Antoniou**  
GRKM UN3997 02

**Supervised Independent Research, Dimitris Antoniou**  
GRKM GU4460 02

**Directed Readings, Karen Van Dyck**  
GRKM UN3997 03

**Supervised Independent Research, Karen Van Dyck**  
GRKM GU4460 03

**Directed Readings, Stathis Gourgouris**  
GRKM UN3997 04

**Supervised Independent Research, Stathis Gourgouris**  
GRKM GU4460 04

**Directed Readings, Paraskevi Martzavou**  
GRKM UN3997 05

**Supervised Independent Research, Paraskevi Martzavou**  
GRKM GU4460 05

**Senior Research Seminar, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa**  
GRKM UN3998

## **Directed Readings, Independent and Senior Research Seminars**

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