V1101 Introduction to Modern Greek language and culture/ part I. Andreas Kalyvas. 4 pts. This course is 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 political graffiti. Special attention is paid to general problems of foreign language study and translation. How do “our,” “American,” “Greek-American” definitions of language and culture differ from “their,” “Greek” ones? (Dimitra and Papahimona, eds. Greek Now I+1, Van Dyck, ed. Insight Guide: Greece).

V1102 Introduction to Modern Greek language and culture/ part II. Andreas Kalyvas. 4 pts. This second semester course is designed for students who have taken the first semester course V1101 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. Highlights this semester include performing a shadow puppet play and compiling oral histories in Astoria. (Dimitra and Papahimona, Greek Now I+1, Van Dyck, ed. Insight Guide: Greece).

V1201 Intermediate course in Modern Greek language and culture/ part I. Marina Kotzamani. 4 pts. 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 the textbook (Dimitra and Papahimona, Greek Now 2+2 and assorted other materials).

V1202 Intermediate course in Modern Greek language and culture/ part II. Marina Kotzamani. 4 pts. 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 Greek newspaper articles, essays and short stories and to discuss and summarize them in Greek (Dimitra and Papahimona, Greek Now 2+2 and assorted other materials).

V1310 Modern Greek for the Bilingual Speaker. Andreas Kalyvas. 3 pts. For students who have grown up speaking Greek but have difficulties reading and writing at a more advanced level. Emphasis is placed on bringing reading and writing skills up to the level of students’ conversational fluency. Comprehensive grammar review; attention to individual needs through analysis of newspapers, films and literature. Subject focus changes from year to year (Mavroulia and Georgantzi, Greek for Foreign Speakers, III).

V3997 Directed Readings. Faculty. 1-4 pts. This option is designed for students who want to do directed reading in a period or on a topic not covered in the curriculum. It is also used by students who wish to read some relevant texts in Greek for seminars on Greek topics that are taught in English.

V3998 Senior Research Seminar. Faculty. 1-4 pts. This seminar is designed for students writing a senior thesis or doing advanced research on Greek or Greek-American topics. The course of study and amount of credits will be determined by instructor in consultation with student/s.

V3135 Topics in Greek Film. 3 pts. M. Kotzamani. This course introduces students to major works of the Greek film canon, through discussion of a selected topic. Discussion of films is placed within the context of Modern Greek culture and society, with special regard to questions of sexual difference. The influence of Western mainstream cinematic traditions on Greek film is also considered. Directors to be discussed include Angelopoulos, Cacoyannis, Voulgaris, Marketaki, Costa-Gavras, and Dassin.
V3150 Modern Greek Theater: Karaghiozis and the Folk Tradition. 3pts. M. Kotzamani. This course introduces students to the rich popular tradition of the Greek shadow puppet theater. Focus falls on exploring the theatricality of this genre. Questions to be considered include the relation between convention and innovation in this form, the role of the Karaghiozis player as a performer and the contribution of the audience to the creation of the spectacle. The course also explores how Karaghiozis is related to other forms of shadow puppet and popular theater, such as the Turkish Karagoz and Aristophanes. Discussion will draw on performance related material such as set and puppet designs, as well as auditory and visual documents from actual productions.

Related Courses

Balkan Literature W4025y. 3 pts. V. Izmirlieva. A survey of the 20th-century literature of Greece, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia, Albania and Romania, with a focus upon the role of literature in modern Balkan politics. Explores the Balkans as a cultural entity, political phenomenon, and ideological construct from the vantage point of the region’s best modernist and postmodernist texts.

V3280 History of the Byzantine Empire. 3 pts. A. Alexakis. A survey of the history of the Byzantine empire from the inauguration of Constantinople as the capital of the Empire (324-330) until its fall to the Ottomans (1453). Examines the political, social, religious, and cultural developments that took place in this period among the peoples of the Empire.

G4250 Carnal Subjectives. 3 pts. N. Panourgia. This course examines how constructions of the body are informed by historical and metaphysical structure, bear on the understanding of modernity and create a dialectic space upon which the experience of the body can be read.

OTHER PROJECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Concentration in Modern Greek Studies. As of this academic year, the Program in Hellenic Studies is proud to be offering a concentration in Modern Greek Studies. The concentration, which was officially approved by the College last December marks the growth of the Program to institutional maturity and provides impetus for further growth. The requirements for our Concentration are in line with those offered by the other modern language concentrations offered by the college.

The Weaver and the Web: Fabricating an Alternative Museum. This is an interdisciplinary art project that aims at reinventing the museum as an institution, challenging central ideological tenets associated with the great museums. The alternative museum is inspired by the work of Eva and Angelos Sikelianos on the Delphi Festivals and will be body and performance centered. During the initial phase, the museum will be housed in virtual space and will eventually develop into a live performance within two years. The project is directed by Marina Kotzamani, who has been working on it with an interdisciplinary team of Columbia University students, as well as with professional artists.

Hellenic Public Radio (WNYE 91.5 FM) Internship. Students learn all aspects of preparing and airing the Foundation Hour, Hellenic Public Radio’s Monday night program on Greek culture. As well as researching and assisting with shows already in preparation, students have the chance to design shows on topics of their own choosing.

The Senior Thesis. Four students have been working on senior theses on Modern Greek topics this year. Sophia Valiotis (Barnard ’01) completed her thesis on representations of immigration in Greek film. Marilena Mantas (Columbia College ’01) and Mache Mouzakis (Barnard College ’01) have both been working on the relationship between the church and the state in contemporary Greece, while Demetra Kassimis (Columbia College ’01) is exploring the rembetica tradition. Kassimis has been awarded a Fulbright to do research in Greece next year, on Albanian immigration.
Summer Course. The Program is happy to be introducing an Intensive Elementary course in Modern Greek this summer, that will be taught by Andreas Kalyvas.

Artist in Residence. Nikos Alexiou, a highly reputed artist from Greece has spent the spring semester at Columbia, on a grant provided by the J. F. Costopoulos Foundation. Alexiou has been collaborating on the Weaver and the Web: Fabricating an Alternative Museum project.

Scholar in Residence. Polymeris Voglis spent the entire academic year at Columbia University, revising the manuscript of his book Becoming a Subject: Political Prisoners in the Greek Civil War, 1945-1950 which is going to be published next year by Berghahn Books.

NEWS OF OUR FACULTY

Karen Van Dyck has been spending her sabbatical in Italy and Greece this year, doing research on 19th and 20th century Greek literature of immigration. Her book, Kassandra and the Censors: Greek Poetry since 1967 is due out shortly, in a revised edition in Greek from Agra Publications. Her recent publications include "Avant-garde Translation: A Conversation with Diamanda Galas" in the journal CONNECT (Fall 2000) and "Greek Poetry Elsewhere," a study of the function of Greek poetry in Diaspora women’s writing in the United States, in Gramma (Spring 2001).

Marina Kotzamani will be on leave next year. She is currently working on a book on the production history of Aristophanes’s plays in the 20th century. Moreover, she is directing two projects at Columbia, bridging theater theory and practice: Women Stage Women: Aristophanes as Feminist Performance and The Weaver and the Web: Fabricating an alternative Museum. She recently published an article on contemporary theater in Greece in a special issue of Western European Stages on Western European theater at the Millennium (Winter 2001). Other recent publications include book and production reviews for The Journal of Modern Greek Studies (October 2000), Theater Journal (December 2000) and Western European Stages (Spring 2000).

Andreas Kalyvas will join the department of Political Science at Michigan University next September.
PROGRAM OF EVENTS, 2000-2001

October 23, 2000

Greece and the Olympics of 2004

A discussion over lunch between Theodoros Pangalos, Minister of Culture of Greece and Columbia University faculty and administration

December 5 and 8, 2000

Turkish-Greek Relations and the Problem of Cyprus
De-Balkanizing the Balkans
The Current State of Greco-Turkish Relations: The View from Athens

A series of three lectures by Theodore A. Couloumbis, Director General, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy

December 1-3, 2000

Cornelius Castoriadis: Rethinking Autonomy

An international conference on the impact of Castoriadis’s legacy.


February 1st, 2001

Dissenting Journalism: Greece, The CIA and the USA

A panel discussion to celebrate Anti’s three decades in journalism, featuring Victor Navasky, Professor of Magazine Journalism, Columbia University, Christopher Hitchens, Columnist, Vanity Fair and The Nation, Frances Stonor Saunders, Arts Editor of The New Statesman, Warren Hinckle, Managing Editor, The San Francisco Examiner and Manos Stephanidis, Art critic and Columnist, Anti magazine.

Organized in collaboration with the Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University

March 8, 2000

Saint John Chrysostom: Anthropological Insights for our Times

Thirty-third Bampton lecture, Columbia University, given by Archbishop Demetrios
March 22, 2001

Alexander the Great and the Accursed Snake

A Karaghiozis Performance by Aris Diakovasilis, followed by discussion with the audience on the art of the shadow puppet theater.

April 27, 2001

New Developments in the Balkans: The Role of Greece in Achieving Peace

A lecture by Dimitris Platis, Consul General of Greece

Organized in collaboration with: The Harriman Institute, SIPA, the Center for Historical and Social Science and the East-Central European Center of Columbia University

April 30, 2001

The Weaver and the Web: Fabricating an Alternative Museum

A presentation-performance of work-in-progress by Marina Kotzamani, Assistant Professor, Classics Department, a Columbia University team of students and the artists Alex Melamid, Anna Lascari, Nikos Alexiou and Eleni Sikelianos

May 7, 2001

Aspects of the Greek Foreign Policy

A discussion between George Papandreou, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece and Columbia University faculty and students

Organized in collaboration with: The Harriman Institute, SIPA, the Center for Historical and Social Science and the East-Central European Center of Columbia University