PROGRAM IN HELLENIC STUDIES, CLASSICS DEPARTMENT, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

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List of Courses in Modern Greek Language and Literature

Fall 1997

V1101x. Introduction to Modern Greek language and culture/ part I. 4 pts. Instructor: Marina Kotzamani. This course is designed for students who wish to acquire basic skills in speaking and writing modern Greek. Besides learning the fundamentals of grammar and syntax, students are also be introduced to the culture that uses and enriches this language. Discussion is focused on a variety of topics, chosen to give a sense of the distinctive character of the modern Greek culture. Our exploration draws on very diverse material, such as popular songs, paintings, newspaper headlines, publicity ads, cartoons and children’s stories. Cultural events related to Greece, happening in New York this fall, will also be incorporated into class discussion. (Dimitra and Papahimona, eds. Greek Now 1+1, Van Dyck, ed. Insight Guide: Greece)

V1201x. Intermediate course in Modern Greek language and culture/ part I. 4 pts. Instructor: Marina Kotzamani. 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. (Babiniotis, Greek Language)

V1401y. Modern Greek for the Bilingual Speaker. 3 pts. Instructor: Vassiliki Yiakoumaki. For students who have grown up speaking Greek but have difficulties reading and writing at an intermediate-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. (Panagopoulou and Chatzipanagiotides, Advanced Modern Greek)

V3150 Modern Greek Theater: Karaghiozis and the Folk Tradition. 3pts. Instructor: Marina Kotzamani. This course introduces students to the rich popular tradition of the Greek shadow puppet theater, Karaghiozis. 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. Another concern will be to explore how Karaghiozis is related to other forms of shadow puppet and popular theater, such as the Turkish Karagoz and Aristophanes. Plays will be approached as oral texts or scenarios, primarily intended for the stage. Discussion will draw on other performance related material such as set and puppet designs, as well as auditory and visual documents from actual productions.

Spring 1998

V1102y. Introduction to Modern Greek language and culture/ part II. 4 pts. Instructor: Marina Kotzamani. 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, we continue to explore Modern Greece’s cultural landscape. This semester, students will be expected to establish contact with native speakers and Greek-Americans, so as to be able to use the language in real life situations. Cultural events related to Greece, happening in New York this spring, will also be incorporated into class discussion. (Dimitra and Papahimona, Greek Now 1+1, Van Dyck, ed. Insight Guide: Greece)

V1202y. Intermediate course in Modern Greek language and culture/ part II. 4 pts. Instructor: Vassiliki Yiakoumaki. 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. Textual discussion is supplemented by audio-visual material (films, music, etc.) and cultural events. (Babiniotis, Greek Language)

V 3315 Women, Sex and Politics in Turn-of-the-Century Greece: Literary and Theatrical Perspectives. 3 pts. Instructor: Marina Kotzamani. This seminar explores how women are portrayed in the early modern Greek literature. In Greece, as in the rest of Europe, the women’s emergence in the public sphere at the end of the nineteenth century, inspired a keen literary and theatrical interest that has only recently begun to be appreciated. We will investigate how traditional and especially non traditional female roles are presented, focusing particularly on the themes of sexuality and politics. Our subject will be studied from a variety of perspectives. We will explore the impact of Ibsen on the dramatic writing of the period, in Greece. Furthermore, we will identify the distinctive features in the approach of pro-feminine and feminist works. Another concern will be to investigate how the gender of the author affects the presentation of the material. Readings are drawn from both the well known, canonized work by major authors of the period, as well as from hitherto neglected material that deserves closer attention. Selections include Palamas, Parren, Xenopoulos, Theotokis and Kazantzakis.

V3997x and y. Independent Study. 1-4 pts. Instructor: Marina Kotzamani. This option is designed for students who want to do directed reading in a period or on a topic not covered in the curriculum.

V3998y. Senior Research Seminar. 1-4 pts. Instructor: Marina Kotzamani. 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.

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Other Academic Projects and Undergraduate Opportunities

The Library Project. Co-ordinator: Vassiliki Yiakoumaki. This semester, the Hellenic Studies Program is launching a systematic effort to enrich the Library’s holdings in the areas of Modern Greek literature and the social sciences. The aim is to build a solid foundation of resources that will be adequate for the needs of our undergraduate classes in Modern Greek culture and literature. This spring, Ms. Yiakoumaki has undertaken to prepare a report, supplying detailed information about the project, including objectives, as well as organizational and budgetary requirements.

Internships 1997-98

Hellenic Public Radio (WNYE 91.5 FM). 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 two shows on topics of their own choosing.
Greek Office of Press and Information. Students learn the practical side of disseminating information about Greece in the USA. They are expected to read and consolidate what the American Press has to say about the Greek foreign and domestic affairs as well as prepare an essay on some aspect related to their field of study.

List of events for 1997-1998

organized by Professor Marina Kotzamani

Fall 1997

Costa-Gavras, Classic and Contemporary

October 20th
Screening of Costa-Gavras’ film Z
in a new, 35mm. print. New York Premiere

November 24th
Screening of Costa-Gavras’ Mad City
Preview, which preceded the official opening of this film

Costa-Gavras in Interview
A public discussion between the director and Professor Annette Insdorf, of Columbia University

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November 17th
Screening of Jules Dassin’s film Rehearsal

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December 6th
Traditional Greek Christmas Songs
Choral singing by the children’s choir of the School of the Transfiguration

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Spring 1998

April 14th
Poetry Reading
A reading by acclaimed poet Maria Laina
of her new work

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Puppets in Performance: Avant-Garde and Popular Perspectives
(Co-organized with the Deutsches Haus, Columbia University)

April 20 and 21st
a series of three lectures on the shadow puppet theater
and its impact on the avant-garde

Lecturers included
New York based theater artist Theodora Skipitares,
Anna Stavrakopoulou, Assistant Professor in Hellenic Studies, Harvard University and
Harold Segel, Professor of Slavic and Comparative Literature, Columbia University

Lectures were followed by the screening of
Lotte Reiniger’s 1920s animation film, The Adventures of Prince Achmed