

Program in Hellenic Studies

Fall 2020



Elementary Modern Greek I, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa
GRKM UN1101
M/W, 12:10pm-2:00pm
Method of Instruction: On-Line Only

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
M/W, 6:10pm-8:00pm
Method of Instruction: On-Line Only

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.

Class times flexible. For more information please contact the instructor.

Greece today: language, literature, and culture (in Greek), Nikolas P. Kakkoufa
GRKM UN3003
M/W, 4:10-5:25pm
Method of Instruction: On-Line Only

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.

Class times flexible. For more information please contact the instructor.

Hellenism and the Topographical Imagination, Dimitrios Antoniou
GRKM UN3935
T, 2:10-4:00pm
Method of Instruction: On-Line Only

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?

Language Courses

**Literature, Culture
& History**

Retranslation: Worlding C.P. Cavafy, Karen Van Dyck
CLGM GU4300
T, 6:10pm-8:00pm
Method of Instruction: Hybrid

By examining the poetry of the Greek Diaspora poet Cavafy in all its permutations, the case of a canonical author becomes experimental ground for opening up theories and practices of translation and world literature. Students will choose a group of poems by Cavafy or a work by another author with a considerable body of critical work and translations and, following the example of Cavafy and his translators, come up with their own retranslations (whether queer, visual, archival, theatrical). Works read include commentary by E. M. Forster, C. M. Bowra, and Roman Jakobson, translations by James Merrill, Marguerite Yourcenar, and Daniel Mendelsohn, poems by W. H. Auden, Lawrence Durrell, and Joseph Brodsky, and visual art by David Hockney and Duane Michals.

Cross-listed Courses

Travel Literature in and from the Mediterranean, 18th-19th centuries, Konstantina Zanou
CLIA GU4023
TR, 6:10pm-8:00pm
Method of Instruction: On-Line Only

This course will study various forms of travel writing within, from, and to the Mediterranean in the long nineteenth century. Throughout the semester, you will read a number of travel accounts to develop your understanding of these particular sources and reflect on the theoretical discussions and the themes framing them, namely orientalism, postcolonial studies, imaginative geographies, literature between fiction and reality, Romantic and autobiographical writing, gender, sexuality and the body, the rise of archeology, adventurism, mass migration and tourism. We will focus on Italian travel writers visiting the Ottoman Empire and the Americas (Cristina di Belgioioso, Gaetano Osculati, Edmondo de Amicis) and others visiting the Italian peninsula (Grand Tourists, Madame De Staël), and we will study the real or imaginary travels of French, British and American writers to the Eastern Mediterranean and to antique and holy land (Jean-Jacques Barthélemy, Count Marcellus, Austen Henry Layard, Lord Byron, Mark Twain), as well as Arabic travel writers to the West (Rifā'ah Rāfi' al-Tahtāwī).

Related Courses

The Acropolis of Athens in the 6th and 5th Centuries BCE, Ioannis Mylonopoulos
AHIS UN2101
M/W, 8:40am-9:55am

Method of Instruction: On-Line Only

The Athenian Acropolis represents one of the most important sites of the ancient world. The impact of its architecture and sculpture on artistic and intellectual expressions of later periods goes beyond the limits of antiquity. The course takes into consideration the importance of the Parthenon in Columbia University's core curriculum but aims also at the contextualisation of the monument within the broader context of the Athenian Acropolis during the sixth and fifth centuries BCE. The chosen chronological frame focuses on the period of the most intensive activity on the Acropolis, which correlates with the glorious days of Athenian power.

Important notice: Because of the COVID-19 crisis and in order to help students cope with the unusual demands of online teaching, all readings, all powerpoint files, and all personal notes of the instructor will be posted on coursework in the first week of the term

Directed Readings, Independent and Senior Research Seminars

Directed Readings, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa
GRKM UN3997 01

Directed Readings, Dimitris Antoniou
GRKM UN3997 02

Directed Readings, Karen Van Dyck
GRKM UN3997 03

Directed Readings, Stathis Gourgouris
GRKM UN3997 04

Directed Readings, Paraskevi Martzavou
GRKM UN3997 05

Senior Research Seminar, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa
GRKM UN3998 01

Supervised Independent Research, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa
GRKM GU4460 01

Supervised Independent Research, Dimitris Antoniou
GRKM GU4460 02

Supervised Independent Research, Karen Van Dyck
GRKM GU4460 03

Supervised Independent Research, Stathis Gourgouris
GRKM GU4460 04

Supervised Independent Research, Paraskevi Martzavou
GRKM GU4460 05

Contact

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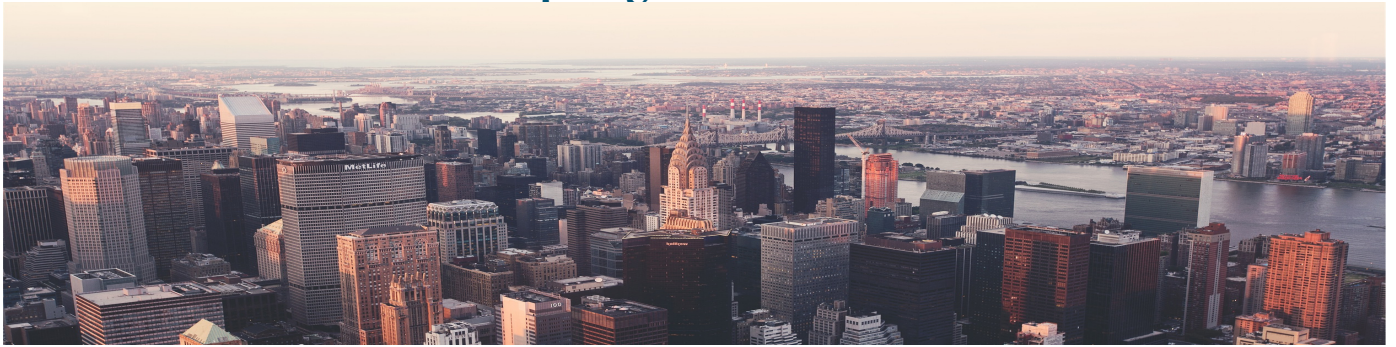
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Program in Hellenic Studies

Spring/Summer 2021



Spring 2021

Elementary Modern Greek II, Chrysanthe Filippardos

GRKM UN1102

M/W, 6:10pm-8:00pm

A continuation of UN1101, the students are expected to be able to read texts containing high frequency vocabulary and basic structures; understand basic conversations or understand the gist of more complex conversations on familiar topics; produce simple speech on familiar topics; communicate in simple tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters; write short texts or letters on familiar subjects.

Intermediate Modern Greek II, Chrysanthe Filippardos

GRKM UN2101

T/TR, 6:10pm-8:00pm

A continuation of UN2101, upon completion of the course, the students are able to read simple Greek newspaper articles, essays and short stories and to express their opinion on a number of familiar topics. In addition to these skills, students will be exposed to a number of authentic multi-modal cultural material that will allow them to acquire knowledge and understanding of the vibrant cultural landscape of Greece today.

The Ottoman Past in the Greek Present, Dimitrios Antoniou

CLGM UN3110

T, 2:10pm-4:00pm

Almost a century after the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, the Ottoman past lives on in contemporary Greece, often in unexpected sites. In the built environment it appears as mosques, baths, covered markets, and fountains adorned with Arabic inscriptions. It also manifests itself in music, food, and language. Yet Ottoman legacies also shape the European present in less obvious ways and generate vehement debates about identity, nation-building, human rights, and interstate relations. In this course, we will be drawing on history, politics, anthropology, and comparative literature as well as a broad range of primary materials to view the Ottoman past through the lens of the Greek present. What understandings of nation-building emerge as more Ottoman archives became accessible to scholars? How does Islamic Family Law—still in effect in Greece—confront the European legal system? How are Ottoman administrative structures re-assessed in the context of acute socioeconomic crisis and migration? This course fulfills the global core requirement.

Greek Poets and their Interlocutors, Stathis Gourgouris

CLGM GU4550

T, 12:10pm-2:00pm

This course stages an imaginary dialogue between certain Greek poets, whose work spans the 20th century, and poets of the same era from other parts of the world, for whom Greek motifs are crucial to their poetic sensibility. These motifs may pertain to both ancient and modern figures of Hellenism, but even when the figures are recognizably ancient the assumption is that they extend themselves to an indisputable modernity. Indeed, by staging this dialogue, we will engage in interrogations of modernity and, moreover, the specific ways in which figures of modernity and figures of Hellenism are entwined. At the same time, we will pay close attention to different articulations of poïesis, especially as they pertain to a certain politics. The literary historical sphere spans the range of early modernism to postmodernism and postcolonialism, as well as specific poetic-political sensibilities, whether aestheticist or Marxist, feminist or queer, etc. The methodological emphasis will be determined by reading the poems themselves, with just a few key essays on poetics as supplemental framework. Students who know Greek would be expected to discuss the Greek poems in the original. But also, students who come from language departments, whose literature may be represented in the selection, will be expected to work on the non-Greek poems in the original language as well.

Language
Courses

Literature, Culture
& History

Cross-listed Courses

Nationalism in Theory and History, Konstantina Zanou
CLIA GU4024
TR, 12:00pm-2:00pm

Were nations always there? Are they real or imagined? Do they come before or after nationalism and the state? How did we pass from a world of empires, duchies, and city-states to a world of nation-states? Where does legitimacy reside if not in God and his endowed kings? Is the modern world really 'disenchanted'? How did we come to understand time, space, language, religion, gender, race, and even our very selves in the era of nations? Are we done with this era, living already in post-national times? This course will combine older theories of nationalism (Gellner, Anderson, Hobsbawm, Smith) with recent approaches of the phenomenon after the 'Imperial/Global/Transnational Turn' (Bayly, Conrad, Innes, Isabella, Reill, Stein etc.) and late studies in Gender, Race, Culture and Nationalism, in order to offer new answers to old questions. We will talk about many places around the world, but the main stage where we will try out our questions is Italy and the Mediterranean.

Related Courses

The Hybrid Voice: Comparative Diaspora and Translation, Karen Van Dyck and Brent Edwards CPLS
GR6111/ CLGM 8 8111 001
W, 2:10pm-4:00pm

This seminar will focus on the theory and practice of translation from the perspective of comparative diasporas and the hybrid voice. Students are encouraged to come to the seminar with a text from any language they wish to translate. We will read key essays on translation focusing on the issues of language and script 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 creolization and translation. We will look at a range of literary representations of language-crossing and -mixing, especially in terms of their lessons for the practice of translation (including Greek, Chinese, French, Latin, Italian, and Albanian). The final weeks of the course will be devoted to a practicum where students will get a chance to workshop their own translation projects.

Directed Readings, Independent and Senior Research Seminars

Directed Readings, Dimitris Antoniou
GRKM UN3997 02
Directed Readings, Karen Van Dyck
GRKM UN3997 03
Directed Readings, Stathis Gourgouris
GRKM UN3997 04
Directed Readings, Paraskevi Martzavou
GRKM UN3997 05
Supervised Independent Research, Dimitris Antoniou
GRKM GU4460 02
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GRKM GU4460 04
Supervised Independent Research, Paraskevi Martzavou
GRKM GU4460 05

Summer 2021

Literature, Culture & History

Hidden Emotions, Hidden Power: Mental Health in Literature from Antiquity to Futurity
Nikolas P. Kakkoufa
CLGM 4650
M/W, 2:10pm-4:00pm, Summer A'

This immersive seminar explores the relationship between literature, culture, and mental health. It pays particular emphasis to the poetics of emotions structuring them around the five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance and the concept of hope. During the six weeks of the course, we will discuss a variety of content that explores issues of race, socioeconomic status, political beliefs, abilities/disabilities, gender expressions, sexualities, and stages of life as they are connected to mental illness and healing. Emotions are anchored in the physical body through the way in which our bodily sensors help us understand the reality that we live in. By feeling backwards and thinking forwards, we will ask a number of important questions relating to literature and mental health, and will trace how human experiences are first made into language, then into science, and finally into action.

The course surveys texts from Homer, Ovid, Aeschylus and Sophocles to Virginia Woolf, Sylvia Plath, C.P. Cavafy, Dinos Christianopoulos, Margarita Karapanou, Katerina Anghelaki-Rooke, Katerina Gogou etc., and the work of artists such as Toshio Matsumoto, Yorgos Lanthimos, and Anohni.

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