

Program in Hellenic Studies

Fall 2022



Elementary Modern Greek I, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa
GRKM UN1101
M/W, 12:10pm-2:00pm

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 UN2101
M/W, 6:10pm-8:00pm

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.

Dictatorships and their Afterlives, Dimitris Antoniou
CLGM UN3005
T, 12:10pm-2:00pm

What does the investigation of a dictatorship entail and what are the challenges in such an endeavor? Why (and when) do particular societies turn to an examination of their non-democratic pasts? What does it mean for those who never experienced an authoritarian regime first-hand to remember it through television footage, popular culture, and family stories? This seminar examines dictatorships and the ways in which they are remembered, discussed, examined, and give rise to conflicting narratives in post-dictatorial environments. It takes as its point of departure the Greek military regime of 1967-1974, which is considered in relation to other dictatorships in South America, Asia, Africa, and Europe. We will be drawing on primary materials including Amnesty International reports, film, performance art, and architectural drawings as well as the works of Hannah Arendt and Günter Grass to engage in an interdisciplinary examination of the ways in which military dictatorships live on as ghosts, traumatic memories, urban warfare, litigation, and debates on the politics of comparison and the ethics of contemporary art.

Language Courses

**Literature, Culture
& History**

Literature, Culture & History

How to do things with Queer Bodies, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa
CLGM UN3450
T, 2.10pm-4pm

Homosexuality, as a term, might be a relatively recent invention in Western culture (1891) but bodies that acted and appeared *queer(ly)* existed long before that. This course will focus on acts, and not identities, in tracing the evolution of writing the queer body from antiquity until today. In doing so it will explore a number of multimodal materials – texts, vases, sculptures, paintings, photographs, movies etc. – in an effort to understand the evolution of the ways in which language (written, spoken or visual) registers these bodies in literature and culture. When we bring the dimension of the body into the way we view the past, we find that new questions and new ways of approaching old questions emerge. What did the ancient actually write about the male/female/trans* (homo)sexual body? Did they actually create gender non-binary statues? Can we find biographies of the lives of saints in drag in Byzantium? How did the Victorians change the way in which we read Antiquity? How is the queer body registered in Contemporary Literature and Culture? Can one write the history of homosexuality as a history of bodies? How are queer bodies constructed and erased by scholars? How can we disturb national archives by globalizing the queer canon of bodies through translation? These are some of the questions that we will examine during the semester.

The course surveys texts from Homer, Sappho, Aeschylus, Euripides, Plato, Theocritus, Ovid, Dio Chrysostom, Lucian, Walt Whitman, Oscar Wilde, Arthur Symonds, Dinos Christianopoulos, Audre Lorde, Larry Kramer, Tony Kushner etc., the work of artists such as Yiannis Tsarouchis, Robert Mapplethorpe, Dimitris Papaioannou, Cassils, movies such as *120 battements par minute*, and popular TV shows such as *Pose*. No knowledge of Greek (ancient / modern) or Latin is required.

Thessaloniki Down the Ages, Paraskevi Martzavou
CSGM UN3567
W, 4:10pm-6:00pm

This course will explore the fascinatingly layered and multicultural history of Thessaloniki, the great city of Northern Greece and the Balkans. We will examine texts, archaeological evidence, literature, songs, and movies and in general the materialities of the city. We will examine this material from the 6th century BCE down to the 21st cent. CE. We will notably think about the problems of history, identity, and cultural interaction in reaction to recent work such as Mark Mazower's well known *Salonica, City of Ghosts* [2004]. *This course fulfills the global core requirement.*

Directed Readings, Independent and Senior Research Seminars

Directed Readings, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa
GRKM UN3997 01

Directed Readings, Dimitris Antoniou
GRKM UN3997 02

Directed Readings, Paraskevi Martzavou
GRKM UN3997 05

Senior Research Seminar, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa
GRKM UN3998

Supervised Independent Research, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa
GRKM GU4460 01

Supervised Independent Research, Dimitris Antoniou
GRKM GU4460 02

Supervised Independent Research, Paraskevi Martzavou
GRKM GU4460 05

Contact

Program in Hellenic Studies Department
of Classics 617 Hamilton Hall
1130 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10027

Stathis Gourgouris
Director of the Program in Hellenic Studies
ssg93@columbia.edu

Nikolas P. Kakkoufa
Director of Undergraduate Studies
nk2776@columbia.edu

Ioanna Messini-Skordas
Program Coordinator
im2505@columbia.edu