

 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Program in Hellenic Studies
Fall 2026 Courses



Elementary Modern Greek I, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa
GRKM UN1101 - 4 Points
M/W 12:10-2:00 PM

**Language
Courses**

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, Chrysanthé Filippardos
GRKM UN2101 - 4 Points
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, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa
GRKM UN3003 - 3 Points - Taught in Greek
M/W 10:10 - 11:25 AM

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. This course is taught in Greek.



Retranslation: Worliding C.P. Cavafy, Karen van Dyck
CLGM4300GU - 4 Points Cross-listed with ICLS
T 10:10-12:00 PM

**Literature,
Culture &
History**

Focusing on a canonical author is an immensely productive way to explore translation research and practice. The works of Sappho, Dante, Rilke, Césaire or Cavafy raise the question of reception in relation to many different critical approaches and illustrate many different strategies of translation and adaptation. The very issue of intertextuality, that challenged the validity of author-centered courses after Roland Barthes's proclamation of the death of the author, reinstates it, if we are willing to engage the oeuvre as an on-going interpretive project. By examining the poetry of the Greek Diaspora poet C. P. Cavafy in all its permutations (as criticism, translation, adaptation), the Cavafy case becomes an experimental ground for thinking about how a canonical author can open up our theories and practices of translation. For the final project students will choose a work by an 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. Among the materials considered are commentary by E. M. Forster, C. M. Bowra, and Roman Jakobson, translations by Rae Dalven, 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.

Hellenism and the Topographical Imagination, Dimitris Antoniou
GRKM4300 - 3 Points Global Core
T 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?

**Directed Readings, Independent &
Senior Research Seminars**

Directed Readings GRKM UN3997 1-4 Points

Senior Research Seminar GRKM UN3998 1-4 Points

Supervised Independent Research GRKM GU4460 3 Points

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