

Program in Hellenic Studies

Spring 2022



Elementary Modern Greek II, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa
GRKM UN1102
M/W, 12.10pm-2pm

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.

Mental health in Literature from Antiquity to Futurity, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa
CLGM UN3650
M, 4.10pm-6.00pm

This 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 course of the semester, 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.

Language Courses

**Literature, Culture
& History**

Politics of Violence: Conflict, Borders, and the Carceral State, Katerina Stefatos
CLGM 3700UN
Tuesdays, 2.10pm-4.00pm

Politics of Violence offers an analysis of the role of the state, its mechanisms, and its structures in perpetuating, legitimizing, and facilitating political, racial and gender based violence worldwide. We will explore the connections and effects of nationalism, militarism, and heteropatriarchy (as structural and ideological elements of the state) as well as neoliberal assaults and practices in the normalization of violence against dissidents, incarcerated populations, refugees, workers, and indigenous communities. We will engage in a theoretical discussion on the salience of particular ideational and material experiences of race, ethnicity, indigeneity, gender and queer identities, political affiliation, in rendering state sponsored, political violence, and torture thinkable.

The course aims to shed light on the power structures within militaristic and hypermasculinized state frameworks, and on biopolitical practices that legitimize structural violence against particular communities based on their political, class, gender, ethnic identities or precarious immigration status. In this seminar, we will examine violence, persecution, and dispossession as inherent phenomena of the sovereign nation state, in their continuities and ruptures, during war and conflict, but also in migratory, democratic, and transitional contexts.

Students will examine historical and contemporary cases of state sponsored and political violence, systematic violations of human rights in the context of genocide, gendercide, racist violence, colonial terrorism, carceral regimes, and the securitization of forced migration. Lectures and readings provide a comparative, transnational perspective but focus on regional case studies, through a transdisciplinary lens, drawing on international relations, anthropology, gender studies, political theory, and history.

Retranslation: Worlding C. P. Cavafy, Karen Van Dyck
CLMG W4300
T, 6.10pm-8.00pm

By examining the poetry of the Greek Diaspora poet C. P. 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). Focus on a canonical author can be a productive way to explore translation research and practice and its implications for world literature. The works of authors from Homer and Sappho to Césaire and Cavafy raise the question of reception in relation to different critical approaches and illustrate different strategies of translation and adaptation. The very issue of intertextuality that prompted Roland Barthes's proclamation of "the death of the author" reinstates the possibility of an author-centered course if we engage an oeuvre as an on-going interpretive project of "worlding" through criticism, translation and adaptation. 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.

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

Contact

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Mobility and Enclosure, Statelessness and Democracy, Stathis Gourgouris
CPLS GU4095, *cross-listed with ICLS*
W, 2:10pm-4:00pm

**Cross-listed
Courses**

The volume and intensity of human mobility from the Middle East and North Africa to Europe remains dramatically increased nowadays, despite the overall restrictions in mobility imposed by the pandemic conditions worldwide. During the last decade refugee statelessness has evolved into a quasi-permanent liminal condition of being within the political body of western societies, especially in so called border countries of the European periphery. The continuous expansion and multiplication of camps and hot-spots in countries such as Turkey, Greece, Italy, Spain, etc. has created different states of existence within the national territories, raising a wide range of issues that concern statehood, political rights, the right to equal treatment and access to public goods (i.e., health, education, safety, representation etc.), which concern the core social and political demands of a democratic polity.

However, the antinomies and aporias related to refugee statelessness within the nation state are nowadays further aggravated by the pandemic conditions of the last two years. The pandemic has opened up a new space of unprecedented state intervention in the public and private lives of citizens, while reconfiguring the meaning of globalization. Questions of democracy, statehood and statelessness, mobility, access, restriction and enclosure are now re-conditioned under the two-fold historical contingency of refugee life and citizen life in a pandemic.

In this course we address these emerging issues through theoretical, literary, legal, historical texts that highlight how long established social and political problems, imbedded in existing structures since the late 20th century, are currently intrinsically re-conditioned. Our intention is to serve a pedagogy that is alert to how the present time affects the social and intellectual life of people across borders and cultures, while retaining deep historical learning that establishes connections between radical new occurrences (such as the Covid pandemic or the refugee problem in the Mediterranean) and long term hard structural patterns.

Directed Readings, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa

GRKM UN3997 01

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

GRKM UN3998 01

Supervised Independent Research, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa

GRKM GU4460 01

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

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