Modern Greece: Language and Culture

Fall session 2017
Monday/Wednesday 13:15-15:20

Instructors:
Angeliki Anagnostopoulou, PhD Comparative Literature
agelikaki@yahoo.gr

Aimee Placas, PhD Anthropology
aimee.j.placas@gmail.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Students abroad in Greece are faced with a double challenge: making sense of a new culture, in a language that is new to them. This course gives students the tools necessary to interpret and understand what’s going on around them, and to push past their first impressions of difference in order to evaluate the cultural logics and history behind what they observe. What are these tools? First, language. Students will receive an introduction to the Modern Greek language, making it possible for them to interact with people on a basic everyday level in their neighborhood, in their explorations of the city, and in their travels throughout Greece. They’ll also be able to negotiate the signs, graffiti, posters, and other messages spread across Athens in a way that will make the city feel like home. Second, social history. Through readings and discussion, students will learn the important social changes that have transformed Greek society over the past 50 years, giving depth to their interactions and observations. Third, contemporary issues. Through discussion, observation, and interviewing, students will explore and understand the social concerns most pressing in Greek society today. Students will be required to participate in activities geared towards immersion, and to use those experiences as the basis for research and reflection. Key Greek words will be learned that will unlock deep cultural themes and concepts, connecting language and culture in a meaningful way. Each class will be split into two parts: the first will be dedicated to language learning and will be conducted in Greek, and the second will be dedicated to the study of culture and will be conducted in English.

LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS
- Students will gain the language and cultural knowledge necessary to allow them to integrate more fully into Greek society and to be better participants in the everyday life of the city.
- Students will gain the confidence that they know how to behave respectfully and appropriately in their new culture.
- Students will understand the most relevant contemporary issues and recent historical events, giving them a better understanding of Greek society and culture, as well as allowing them to demonstrate their interest and knowledge in their interactions with their new acquaintances and friends.
- Students will participate in activities that will facilitate immersion and deeper understanding of contemporary culture.
- Students will learn a general analytical framework towards studying culture, allowing them to make productive comparisons between what they learn in Greece and their explorations of other cultures and/or their own cultural context.
- Students will learn research techniques that will allow them to turn their study abroad experience into a structured exploration, where they will collect and analyze the data of their experiences.
LANGUAGE: MAIN CONVERSATION/VOCABULARY AREAS

- Greetings and introductions * personal information * numerals and money * giving and taking directions * shopping cloths * colors * eating out * foods and weights * travel * departure and arrival * telling the time * information for airplanes, boats, trains, buses * hotel reservations * days of the week * months and seasons * weekly schedules and rate * the weather * family relations * likes and dislikes * agreements and disagreements * weekend activities * making plans * going on vacation * entertainment * phone calls * discussing frequency (e.g. always, often etc) * formal & informal speech * cause and effect (e.g. why because etc.)

Language Textbooks to be used:

ASSIGNMENTS

Language Assignments. Students will have homework, quizzes, oral presentations, class-neighbourhood projects, and exams.

Structured observation reports. Students will be completing structured observation reports based on their immersion activities. A detailed guideline for these reports will be distributed. Activities will be discussed in detail in class. Immersion activities to report on will be a mix of ongoing participation in a specific project (like volunteering) and options for one-time activities related to class topics.

Quizzes. Students will have short quizzes based on the readings done and lectures given in the culture section of the course.

GRADING

40% - Performance in the language section of the course.
20% - Structured observation reports.
20% - Quizzes in the culture section of the course.
10% - Participation.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to be present for classes and for all arranged activities.
SCHEDULE
The readings listed below will either be read in full or in excerpt form; they will be available on Moodle. Not all related observation exercises are mandatory; students will choose those best suited to their personal interests for exploration.

Section one: Το σόι, το σπίτι, το χωριό
Family, household, village life, and neighborhood space
Class outing: Exploring neighborhood space
Language:
Communicative task: Greetings, introducing myself and my family, numbers 0-100.
Grammar: The verb ‘to be’ (present), Present A’ group verbs, articles and nouns in the nominative-singular (subject).

Section two: Η παρέα, η φιλία, το κέφι
Friendship
Related observation exercise: Interviewing students at the university
Language:
Communicative task: Making suggestions, asking and giving information about Athens, the means of transportation, nationalities, entertainment.
Grammar: Present B1’ verbs, special case verbs, Accusative of the articles-nouns (object), prepositions+Accusative.

Section three: Δόξα τω Θεώ
Religion
Class outing: The cemetery
Language:
Communicative task: At home: describing one’s house, everyday + weekend habits.

Section four: Η κουζίνα
Food and tradition
Related observation exercise: The central market
Language:
Communicative task: Ordering food and drinks, asking for the bill, expressing likes/dislikes.
Grammar: 2 groups of adjectives (singular-plural), numbers 100-1.000.000.
Section five: Ας μιλήσουμε λίγο για το σέξ
Gender and sexuality

Related observation exercise: Gazi

Language:
*Communicative task:* Time expressions: what time is it?, parts of the day, days, months, weather vocabulary.
*Grammar:* Verbs in -ομαι, -άμαι, adverbs of time and frequency, articles-nouns: genitive singular.

Section six: Καφενείο Η Ωρίαι Ελλάς
Contemporary politics
1. Handout.

Related observation exercise: Exarchia

Language: Review class.

Section seven: Η κρίση και η τροίκα
The financial crisis and austerity
1. Selected news articles.

Related observation exercise: Neighborhood graffiti

Language:
*Communicative task:* At the market: asking about prices, products; asking for something in a polite/formal-informal way. Fruit-vegetables, colors-clothes.

Section eight: Η προσφυγιά και οι ξένοι
Migration
1. Selected news articles.

Language:
*Communicative task:* Buying a ticket, making a hotel reservation, asking information about itineraries, describing how things were and comparing them with today.
*Grammar:* Simple Past Tense, question words-phrases, the conjugation of feminine nouns in -ος.

Section nine: Από το σκυλάδικο στο χίπ χοπ
Music
2. Youtube list of videos will be on Moodle, to be viewed in conjunction with the handout.

Related observation exercise: Bouzoukia

Language:
**Communicative task:** Giving directions, talking about weekend plans, more enriched description of the city, advertisements, social messages.

**Grammar:** Adverbs of place, Imperative of the active voice A-B1,B2 verbs, Vocative of the nouns.

**Section ten: Η νέα γενιά
Youth culture**
1. TBA.

Related observation exercise: Football game

**Section eleven: Εμείς οι Έλληνες και η προγονολατρεία
Greece's relationship with the ancient past**

**Language:** Review, part B.

**READINGS SCHEDULE FOR CULTURE SECTION (readings available on Moodle)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 7</td>
<td>Friedl 1962; <em>History lecture</em></td>
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<td>Sept. 12</td>
<td>Herzfeld selections; Crete lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 14</td>
<td>NO CLASS - FIELDTRIP</td>
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<td>Sept. 19</td>
<td><em>Volunteerism lecture</em></td>
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<td>Sept. 21</td>
<td>Du Boulay 1974a, Just 2000</td>
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<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>Hart 1992; Religion lecture</td>
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<td>Sept. 28</td>
<td>Danforth 1982</td>
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<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>Papataxiarchis 1991</td>
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<td>Oct. 5</td>
<td>NO CLASS - CONFERENCE WEEK</td>
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<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
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<td>Oct. 12</td>
<td>Sutton 2014</td>
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<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>Yiakoumaki 2002</td>
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<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>Halkias 2002</td>
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<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>(FRIDAY MAKEUP DAY) Documentary film</td>
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<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>Yannakopoulos 2010</td>
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<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
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<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td>NO CLASS - TUESDAY/THURSDAY COURSES HAVE CLASS</td>
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<td>Nov. 2</td>
<td>NO CLASS - FIELDTRIP</td>
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<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td><em>Politics lecture</em></td>
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<td>Nov. 9</td>
<td>Kalyvas 2010, Handout</td>
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<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>Alexandrakis 2016</td>
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<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td>Quiz 3</td>
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<td>Elafros 2013</td>
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<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>(FRIDAY MAKEUP DAY) Documentary film</td>
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Dec. 5    Yalouri 2001, Plantzos 2012
Dec. 7    Review