

Modern Greece: Language and Culture

Fall session 2017

Monday/Wednesday 13:15-15:20

Instructors:

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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:

Triantafillidou, L., Kokkinidou, M., Takouda, H., Sehidou, I., Stavrianaki, K. (2014). *Ellinika sto pi kai fi*. Athens: Gutenberg.

Dimitra, D., Papahimona, M., (2002). *Greek Now 1+1*. Athens: Nostos.

Triantafillidou, L., Anagnostopoulou, A. (2010). *So, what do you say?* Athens: Nostos.

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 σπίτι, το χωριό

Family, household, village life, and neighborhood space

1. Du Boulay, Juliet. *Portrait of a Greek Mountain Village*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1974.
2. Friedl, Ernestine. *Vasilika: A Village In Modern Greece*. Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1962.
3. Just, Roger. *A Greek Island Cosmos: Kinship & Community on Meganisi*. Oxford: James Currey, 2000.

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

1. Papataxiarchis, Evthymios. 1991. "Friends of the Heart: Male Commensal Solidarity, Gender and Kinship in Modern Greece." In *Contested Identities: Gender and Kinship in Modern Greece*, 156–79. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

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

1. Danforth, Loring. *The Death Rituals of Rural Greece*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1982.
2. Hart, Laurie. *Time, Religion, and Social Experience in Rural Greece*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 1992.

Class outing: The cemetery

Language:

Communicative task: At home: describing one's house, everyday + weekend habits.

Grammar: Present B2 verbs, plural of articles-nouns, adverbs of place, personal pronouns.

Section four: Η κουζίνα

Food and tradition

1. Sutton, David E. *Secrets from the Greek Kitchen: Cooking, Skill, and Everyday Life on an Aegean Island*. Vol. 52. Univ of California Press, 2014.
2. Yiakoumaki, Vassiliki. "The Nation as 'Acquired Taste': On Greekness, Consumption of Food Heritage, and the Making of the New Europe." New School for Social Research, 2002.

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

1. Alexandra Halkias, *The Empty Cradle Of Democracy: Sex, Abortion, And Nationalism In Modern Greece*, Duke University Press, 2004.
2. Yannakopoulos, Kostas. "Cultural Meanings of Loneliness: Kinship, Sexuality and (Homo)sexual Identity in Contemporary Greece." *Journal of Mediterranean Studies*. 19, no. 2 (2010): pp 265-282.

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 Ωραία Ελλάς

Contemporary politics

1. Handout.
2. Kalyvas, Andreas. "An anomaly? Some reflections on the Greek December 2008." *Constellations* 17, no 2 (2010): 351-365.

Related observation exercise: Exarchia

Language: Review class.

Section seven: Η κρίση και η τροϊκά

The financial crisis and austerity

1. Selected news articles.
2. Alexandrakis, Othon. "Incidental Activism: Graffiti and Political Possibility in Athens, Greece." *Cultural Anthropology* 31, no. 2 (2016): 272-296.

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.

Grammar: A,B1,B2, irregular verbs in the Future-Subjunctive. The adjective: πόσος-η-ο.

Section eight: Η προσφυγιά και οι ξένοι

Migration

1. Selected news articles.
2. Cabot, Heath. "From NGOs to Austerity: Socio-legal Terrains of Migration and Asylum in Crisis Greece." in *Living Under Austerity*, forthcoming.

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 χιπ χοπ

Music

1. Elafros, Athena. "Greek Hip Hop: Local and Translocal Authentication in the Restricted Field of Production." *Poetics* 41, no. 1 (February 2013): 75-95.
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

1. Eleana Yalouri, *The Acropolis: Global Fame, Local Claim*, Berg, 2001.

Language: Review, part B.

READINGS SCHEDULE FOR CULTURE SECTION (readings available on Moodle)

Sept. 5 Introduction

Sept. 7 Friedl 1962; *History lecture*

Sept. 12 Herzfeld selections; Crete lecture

Sept. 14 NO CLASS - FIELDTRIP

Sept. 19 *Volunteerism lecture*

Sept. 21 Du Boulay 1974a, Just 2000

Sept. 26 Hart 1992; Religion lecture

Sept. 28 Danforth 1982

Oct. 3 Papataxiarchis 1991

Oct. 5 NO CLASS - CONFERENCE WEEK

Oct. 10 Quiz 1

Oct. 12 Sutton 2014

Oct. 17 Yiakoumaki 2002

Oct. 19 Halkias 2002

Oct. 21 (FRIDAY MAKEUP DAY) Documentary film

Oct. 24 Yannakopoulos 2010

Oct. 26 Quiz 2

Oct. 31 NO CLASS - TUESDAY/THURSDAY COURSES HAVE CLASS

Nov. 2 NO CLASS - FIELDTRIP

Nov. 7 *Politics lecture*

Nov. 9 Kalyvas 2010, Handout

Nov. 14 Alexandrakis 2016

Nov. 16 Quiz 3

Nov. 21 NO CLASS - RECESS

Nov. 23 NO CLASS - RECESS

Nov. 28 Elafros 2013

Nov. 30 TBA

Dec. 2 (FRIDAY MAKEUP DAY) Documentary film

Dec. 5 Yalouri 2001, Plantzos 2012

Dec. 7 Review