Greek-in-Greece Course Descriptions

Advanced Greek

Courses and Credit Hours:
Students enrolled for Advanced-level Classical Greek will complete two courses at the 3rd-4th-year level: GK3110 (undergrad) / GK 5110 (grad) and GK 3130 (undergrad) and GK5130 (grad). Each course offers 3 semester hours of undergraduate credit. Those taking the courses for graduate credit will complete additional assignments and will earn 4 semester hours per course.

Authors:
GK 3110 / GK 5110, Homer. We’ll read 4-6 books from the Iliad and/or Odyssey.
GK 3130 / GK 5130, Plato. We’ll read 30-45 OCT pages.
  Our specific readings and our daily pace will be determined in February in consultation with the enrolled students based on their interests and levels of preparation.

Pedagogical Procedures:
Prior to the trip:
We will distribute a document that details minimal expectations concerning vocabulary and grammar knowledge. Students will be expected to arrive in Greece having learned the materials specified in that document.

Homework during the course:
• We will provide all students with daily vocabulary and grammar tasks.
• Each student will take responsibility for difficult vocabulary and forms within a section of each day’s readings.

In-class procedures:
* No use of electronic equipment will be allowed during class.
  • A quick quiz to confirm that the student learned the daily vocabulary and grammar.
  • Intense “cracking” of the day’s text via Q&A and directed questions from the professor. Students will be expected to participate actively and will be graded on their participation.
  • After the day’s text is “cracked” (i.e., the problems within it are solved in a preliminary way), students will collaborate to read the entire text aloud to one another, working to hear and understand the Greek with comfort and enjoyment.

After class:
One or two nights a week we will enjoy a couple of hours of reading at sight from additional texts by Homer / Plato. These readings will include students and faculty from Greek in Greece as well as interested parties from the University of Patras. We will read aloud, try to understand, ask questions, and simply immerse ourselves in the sound and story of the Greek text.

We will also encourage ongoing discussion of the texts whenever students have some time. We hope to use bilingual (Classical Greek / Modern Greek) texts that will encourage students to share with their Modern Greek “language buddies” the readings they are doing. Our hope is that sessions with the language buddies will include comparison/contrast of Classical and Modern modes of expression. We also hope that students will enjoy discussions of the language and literature over meals with one another.

Basic Pedagogical Goal:
The first couple of years of language study (as C.S. Lewis once noted) involve a lot of tedious work with relatively little payoff. The payoff, of course, comes when a student finally gains the capacity to read great literature with understanding and pleasure. Our goal during these five weeks of very intense work is to initiate students into that payoff. They will begin (almost certainly) reading Greek as though it were homework assignments. By the end of each course they should have begun to experience the wonder of actually sliding into the language and hearing it from the inside rather than the outside. Progress towards that goal is accelerated by being in Greece, surrounded by Greek street signs and storefronts, the sound of childhood chatter and adult argument in Greek, the reality of sea, olive trees, grapes and wine, Greek music and dancing, ancient ruins, fishing boats, … The goal is for students to deeply experience for a few wonderfully intense weeks Greek … in Greece.