

Course Instructor: Themistoklis Aravossitas, Ph.D.

Email: themis.aravossitas@utoronto.ca

Office: 111N, 1 Devonshire Place, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

Office in Greece: TBA (upon arrival in Greece)

1. Course Description

Greek civilization has influenced the world since the ancient times. Starting from their remarkable contributions in fields such as philosophy, science, architecture, history, music, literature and politics, Greeks continue to impact our everyday lives through their unique language and rich culture. It is impossible to celebrate the values of democracy, to sense the Olympic games spirit, to enjoy the flavours and nutrients of Mediterranean cuisine or to feel the magic of music and theatre, without revealing their Greek connections. This course is intended for anyone who wishes to explore Modern Greek culture both in the context of the Mediterranean and European regions and with reference to the continuing Greek contributions to world civilization. Important aspects of the contemporary Greek culture and values will be examined along with elements of the Greek language, literature, food, and arts. Students will experience living in glorious Athens, a European megalopolis surrounded by significant monuments and museums. They will also travel to famous destinations of mainland Greece and Dodecanese, including the islands of Rhodes and Simi. The course is taught in English without any Greek language requirements.

2. Objectives and Learning Outcomes

The main objective of the course is to familiarize students with modern Greece and its culture, the people, their language, values, and traditions. Through lectures, readings, interaction with distinguished Greek professionals and educational excursions to sites of historical and cultural importance, students will have the opportunity to explore and analyze critically contemporary Greece. They will discover unknown aspects of a culture that remains resilient to regional and international challenges.

Students will develop a basic familiarity with the Greek language by learning some daily expressions and discovering a plethora of Greek words used in various languages to encode complex concepts and scientific terms. They will learn about the life and achievements of important Greeks in the fields of art, literature, science, politics, sports and economics. They will be also introduced to the secrets of Mediterranean and Greek cuisine and will observe how Greeks use their local products in their diet and how they preserve their cultural traditions in various aspects of their lives.

While most part of the coursework -lectures and excursions- will be offered in Athens, the course includes several educational excursions around Attica, and the Peloponnese. Furthermore, a five-day trip will take the class to the Dodecanese, one of the most picturesque regions of the Aegean islands. Students will experience living in glorious Athens, a European megalopolis surrounded by significant monuments and museums, before traveling to Rhodes and Simi to learn more about the Hellenic tradition and enjoy the beauty and hospitality of the Greek islands.

Thus, students will have the opportunity to compare a variety of landscapes and lifestyles: the vivid rhythms of a European multicultural metropolis and the relaxing atmosphere of coastal towns and mountain villages the East meets the West and where history and tradition coexist with the beautiful Mediterranean nature. Major learning outcomes of the course, include:

- Understanding of the connection and continuity between ancient and modern Greece.
- Exploring the impacts of global and regional challenges such as the ongoing financial and refugee crisis, to Greek society and lifestyle.
- Familiarity with famous Greeks and key events in recent Greek history.
- Understanding of the enduring influence and the vast contributions of the Greeks in fields such as culture, economy, politics, science, arts, sports, theatre, and cuisine.
- Developing intercultural awareness by understanding the western and eastern influences. of the Greek civilization as well as the cultural exchanges between Greeks and their neighbours.

3. Assessment

Includes a test based on topics that will be covered in lectures and readings; a reflection paper or presentation based on class visits and the students' experiences and observations; a research paper based on themes discussed throughout the course. Readings and paper guidelines will be available before the beginning of the course.

- Group Presentation (10%): Student groups will present on various dates (see schedule)
- Test (30%): Due at the end of week three (before departure to Rhodes)
- Reflection paper (20%): Due at the end of week three four (before departure from Rhodes)
- Research/Position Paper (30 %): July 10, 2024
- Participation (10%): Based on the overall performance and coursework

4. Methodology

The course blends conventional and experiential learning. It includes lectures, discussions, and presentations by the course instructor, students, and guest speakers, as well as guided tours and interaction with Greek academics and other professionals. Students will have the opportunity to work independently or collaborate in groups. Lectures will take place in class between Monday and Wednesday. On Thursday and Friday learning takes place outside the classroom with visits to various sites.

5. Course Outline

5.1 Modules

- A. Greece Today: Priorities and challenges in today's society, economy, education, and politics.
- B. Prominent Greeks: Significant contributions by individuals and organizations in preserving and promoting Greek culture and values.
- C. Cuisine: Introduction to Greek products and the Mediterranean diet.

D. Culture: Language, literature, religion, history, music, arts, science, traditions.

5.2 In-class lectures (*While in Athens, lectures take place at CYA. In Rhodes, lectures are held at the hotel, at the University of the Aegean, and at various cities*).

Topics

Introduction to Greek geography, culture, religion, and the Modern Greek alphabet

Introduction to recent Greek history and useful everyday phrases in Greek

Greek politics, economy and the “National Greek Issues”

Greeks in the Arts, Science, Sports and Entertainment (e.g., Maria Callas, Melina Merkouri, Theo Angelopoulos, George Papanikolaou, Yannis Antetokounmpo).

Greek Literature and Music: Cavafy, Kazantzakis, Seferis, Elytis, Ritsos, Tsitsanis, Chatzidakis, Theodorakis.

Politicians and Benefactors: Kapodistrias, Venizelos, Karamanlis, Papandreou, Onassis, Niarchos

Made in Greece: Olive oil, mastic, feta, yogurt, herbs, fruits and vegetables, seafood, well-known Greek dishes

Food and tradition: Ancient, Byzantine, and Modern Greek gastronomy/ from fasting to feasting; major holidays and unknown-local Greek dishes

The Greek economy and social life/ hospitality and tourism

Greek Diaspora and Naval Tradition/ life in the Greek islands

5.3 Sites/ Excursions/ Field trips

Acropolis of Athens: A sacred rock with ancient temples considered the important monuments of Western civilization

More info: <http://www.acropolisofathens.gr/aoa/>

Acropolis Museum: an archaeological museum focused on the findings of the archaeological site of the Acropolis of Athens.

More info: <https://www.theacropolismuseum.gr/en>

Arachova: a beautiful town on the slopes of Mount Parnassus, constructed at an altitude of 950 metres. Due to the three ski centres of Parnassus that are located in close distance to Arachova, this town is the most popular winter destination in Greece.

More info: <http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/mainland/arachova>

Benaki Museum: Dating back to antiquity and the Byzantine period, the Benaki Museum collection gives a captivating overview of Greek history throughout the ages.

More info: <https://www.benaki.gr/index.php?lang=en>

Delphi: The pan-Hellenic sanctuary of Delphi was indeed the religious centre and symbol of unity of the ancient Greek world.

More info: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/393/>

Dionysus Theatre: a major theatre in Athens, considered to be the world's first theatre, built at the foot of the Acropolis

More info: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Theatre-of-Dionysus>

European Bread Museum: Guided tour in the bread museum and the folk art museum; participation in a workshop on making bread and preparing traditional decorative breads that will be baked.

More info: <https://mouseio-psomiou.com/the-museum/>

Greek Parliament: At Syntagma square, in the centre of Athens an austere Neoclassical building facing the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier houses the Parliament of Greece.

More info: <https://www.hellenicparliament.gr/en/>

Lycabettus Hill: The highest point of Athens offering the best view to the city.

More info: <https://whyathens.com/lycabettus-hill/>

Marathon: A town in Greece and the site of the Battle of Marathon in 490 BCE, in which the heavily outnumbered Athenian army defeated the Persians. That's when and where the first marathon run in history took place.

More info: <https://www.greekboston.com/category/marathon/>

Kokotos Winery: It is an exceptional winery close to Athens.

More info: <https://kokotosestate.gr/en/about/>

Panathenaic Stadium (a.k.a. Kallimarmaro): a multi-purpose stadium in Athens. One of the main historic attractions of the city where the first modern Olympic games took place; it is the only stadium in the world built entirely of marble.

More info: <https://whyathens.com/the-panathenaic-stadium/>

Piraeus: The Port of Piraeus is the largest Greek seaport and one of the largest in Europe.

More info: <http://www.piraeus-greece.org/>

Rhodes island: Rhodes, the largest of Greece's Dodecanese islands, is known for its beach resorts, ancient ruins and remnants of its occupation by the Knights of St. John during the Crusades. The city of Rhodes has an Old Town featuring the medieval Street of the Knights and the castle like Palace of the Grand Masters More info: <http://www.rodosisland.gr/>

Old Town (Rhodes): Medieval walls enclose an enchanting microcosm, a place where different eras, cultures and architectural styles meet. More info: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/493>

University of the Aegean (Rhodes): The University Unit of Rhodes hosts the School of Humanities consisting of the Departments of: Primary Education, Sciences of Pre-school Education & Educational Design and Mediterranean Studies. More info: <http://www1.aegean.gr/aegean2/index.html>

Palace of the Grand Master (Rhodes): The most prominent historical and architectural landmark of the medieval city of Rhodes is the Palace, the administrative seat and residence of the Grand Master of the Order of the Knights Hospitaller.

More info: <https://rhodos.gr/places-to-visit/knights-palace-of-the-grand-masters/>

Archeological Museum of Rhodes: The Archaeological Museum of Rhodes is located in the Medieval City of Rhodes. The museum is housed in the monumental edifice that was the hospital of the Knights of Saint John. Construction of it was begun in 1440 and brought to completion in the time of the Grand Master d'Aubusson. More info: <https://www.gtp.gr/TDirectoryDetails.asp?ID=854>

Kallithea Springs (Rhodes): Kallithea Springs are located at the bay of Kallithea, just 9km from the City of Rhodes. Known since antiquity for their therapeutic properties, the thermal springs of Kallithea

were utilized by the Italians, in the early 20th century, being very popular and attracting visitors from all over the world. More info: <http://www.kallitheasprings.gr/>

Lindos Village (Rhodes): Lindos is a town on the Greek island of Rhodes. It's known for its cliff-top acropolis, which features monumental 4th-century gates and reliefs from about 280 B.C.

More info: <http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/destinations/lindos>

Melissokomiki/ Bee Museum (Rhodes): The Beekeeping Company of the Dodecanese produces and packages beehive products of more than 70 beekeepers from the nearby area. It has also founded the Bee Museum which is the only one in Greece. More info: <https://beemuseum.gr/>

APLOS factory (Rhodes): A dairy foods company that produces high quality local products, including fresh Greek yogurt. More info: <http://www.aplos.eu/?lang=en>

Valley of the Butterflies (Rhodes): A nature park with walking trails that offers a summer home for many butterflies. More info: http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/nature/fauna/butterfly_valley_of_rhodes

Simi island: Simi a.k.a. Symi is a Greek island, part of the Dodecanese Island group. It's known for the harbor at Symi Town, surrounded by colorful neoclassical houses. On the southwest coast, the 18th-century Monastery of Archangel Michael Panormitis is a major Greek Orthodox pilgrimage site with a Byzantine museum. More info: <https://symi.gr/en/>

6. Course Calendar: June 3 – June 29, 2024

Please note that for various reasons daily course activities could be rescheduled. While in Greece, make sure to check the course announcements on Quercus, daily!

- Pre-Departure Meeting (90 min.): TBA
Discussion of syllabus, predeparture readings, first assessment, Q&A

WEEK ONE

1. Monday, June 3

11:00-14:00 Meet and assist at the airport by CYA staff

14:00 Bus transfer to CYA

15:00-16:00 Check-in CYA apartments

18:30 Meet at CYA – Neighborhood walk by CYA staff

19:00 Welcome dinner in a neighborhood restaurant arranged by CYA

2. Tuesday, June 4

Class 09:00-12:30: lecture

13:00-14:30 Orientation Session by CYA staff in (CYA Auditorium)

14:30 Meet at CYA - Neighborhood Walk by CYA staff

3. Wednesday, June 5

Class 09:00-12:30: lecture

GROUP PRESENTATIONS A (10%)

4. **Thursday, June 6**
09:00 Visit the Acropolis & Dionysus Theater – On-site lecture by CYA faculty
11:00 Visit the Acropolis Museum OK. On-site lecture by CYA faculty
5. **Friday, June 7**
Day Trip to Delphi
Visit the archaeological site and museum of Delphi – On-site lecture by CYA faculty
Lunch in Arachova
6. **Saturday, June 8**
Free day (9.AM Optional visit to Panathinaiko Stadium and Lycabettus Hill).
7. **Sunday, June 9**
Free day

WEEK TWO

8. **Monday, June 10**
Class 09:00-12:30: lecture
 9. **Tuesday, June 11**
Class: 09:00- 12:00 Lecture
 10. **Wednesday, June 12**
Class: 09:00-12:00 Lecture & Guest speaker
- GROUP PRESENTATIONS B (10%)**
11. **Thursday, June 13**
Day Trip to Sounio
15:00 | Bus departs for Sounio
c.17:00-19:00 | Swim and snack at the beach under the temple
c.19:30-20:45 Visit the Temple & on-site lecture by CYA Faculty TBA
21:00 | Bus departs for Athens
22:30 estimated arrival in Athens
 12. **Friday, June 14**
08:30 | Bus to the Bread Museum - Bread workshop OK
Lunch in the museum arranged by CYA
13:00 Bus to Kokotos Winery Wine tasting
 13. **Saturday, June 15**
Free day
 14. **Sunday, June 16**
Free day

WEEK THREE

15. Monday, June 17

Class: 09:00-12:00 Lecture

16. Tuesday, June 18

Class: 09:00-12:00 Lecture & Guest speaker

17. Wednesday, June 19

Class: 09:00-12:00 Lecture **GROUP PRESENTATIONS C (10%)**

18. Thursday, June 20

10:00| Visit the Greek Parliament – Guided Tour by Parliament Staff OK

11:30 Benaki Museum –OK

On-site lecture by CYA Faculty John Karavas OK

ASSESSMENT: Test online 25% (Available 3-6 PM)

19. Friday, June 21

Day Trip to Marathon

09:00 | Bus to Marathon

10:30 | Visit the Marathon tomb & On-site lecture by CYA Faculty John Karavas OK

12:00 Lunch and swim break at Nea Makri

15:30 | Bus departs for Athens

c.16:30 | Estimated Return to Athens

20. Saturday, June 22

Free Morning

17:00 Bus Transfer from CYA to Piraeus Port

19:00 Departure of TBA from Piraeus to Rhodes

WEEK FOUR (In Rhodes, Dodecanese)

21. Sunday, June 23

08:00 Arrival + Bus Transfer to Hotel – Leave luggage at lobby

Orientation Walking Tour in Rhodes Town. Lecture by UT Prof. T.A.

14:00 Check-in Hotel

22. Monday, June 24

Am Breakfast at the Hotel

10-1.00: Field visits and activities in Rhodes Town, Palace of Magistros

Archaeological Museum. On-site lectures by prof T.A.

23. Tuesday, June 25

Am Breakfast at the Hotel

Am: Bus trip to Kallithea Springs and Lindos Acropolis and Asklepieio Village

Lunch on your own

Visit Askleipio Village. On-site lectures by prof T.A.

24. Wednesday, June 26

08:45 Bus to Melissokomiki Dodekannisou

09:15-10:15 Guided tour of the premises

10.30 Bus to Butterflies' Valley and Springs. On-site lectures

25. Thursday, June 27

Am Breakfast at the Hotel

Day trip by CYA to Simi Island – Bus to Port of Rhodes. Ferry to Simi

PM Ferry to Rhodes from Simi. Bus to Hotel from the port of Rhodes

26. Friday, June 28

REFLECTION PAPER DUE (20%)

Am Breakfast at the Hotel

11am Check-out hotel room

Independent Departures

End of Program

POSITION PAPER DUE JULY 10 (30%)

7. Bibliography-Readings

A. READINGS BEFORE DEPARTURE

Greece (Required)

Module: Greece Today, Greek Society

Topic: Geography, geology, economy, history, society, arts, education, etc.

Authors: John Frederick Haldon, Loring Danforth, Richard Ralph Mowbray Clogg, John S. Bowman, The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica

Publication: Encyclopaedia Britannica

URL: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Greece>

Recommended: Kalyvas, S. (2015). *Modern Greece: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

B. READINGS OF WEEK 1

Check daily the course announcements on Quercus for additional notes, readings, and videos

Babiniotis, G. (2006). *The Greek Language. Diachronic Evolution and Present. Its Role in the European Union*

Modules: Greece Today

Topic: Greek Language

Author: George Babiniotis, Linguist, University of Athens

Publication: <https://babiniotis.gr/>

Chatzidakis, M. (2016). *Street art conservation in Athens: Critical conservation in a time of crisis*

Modules: Greek Society, Greece Today

Topic: Street art in Athens

Author: Maria Chatzidakis, Department of Conservation of Antiquities & Works of Art, Technological Educational Institute of Athens, Athens, Greece

Publication: Studies in Conservation, 61:sup2, 17-23, DOI: 10.1080/00393630.2016.1201757

URL: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00393630.2016.1201757>

Georgakopoulos, T. (2017). What Greeks believe

Module: Greece Today

Topic: Survey on Greek people beliefs about various contemporary societal, cultural and political challenges

Author: Thodoris Georgakopoulos, journalist, writer.

Publication: DiaNEOsis

URL: <https://www.dianeosis.org/en/2017/04/greeks-believe-in-2017/>

Liakos, A. (2007). Historical Time and National Space in Modern Greece. Historical Time and National Space in Modern Greece

Module: Greece Today

Topic: Modern Greek national history

Author: Antonios Liakos

Publication: Hayashi Tadayuki and Hiroshi Fukuda (Eds) Regions in Central and Eastern Europe: Past and Present, Sapporo, Slavic Euroasian Studies 15, 2007, 205-227

URL: http://src-h.slav.hokudai.ac.jp/coe21/publish/no15_ses/11_liakos.pdf

Plantzos, D (2017). Caryatids lost and regained: Rebranding the classical body in contemporary Greece

Module: Greek Society, Greece Today

Topic: Classical Culture in contemporary Greece

Author: Dimitris Plantzos National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Publication: Journal of Greek Media & Culture Volume 3 Number 1

URL:

<https://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/intellect/jgmc/2017/00000003/00000001/art00001>

Simopoulos, A. P. (2001). The Mediterranean Diets: What Is So Special about the Diet of Greece? The Scientific Evidence

Module: Greek Cuisine

Topic: Mediterranean diet

Author: Artemis P. Simopoulos

Publication: American Society for Nutritional Sciences.

Trichopoulou, A., Vasilopoulou, E. (2000). Mediterranean diet and longevity. British Journal of Nutrition, 84 (S2), S205-S209. doi:10.1079/09658219738855

Module: Greek Cuisine

Topic: Mediterranean diet

Author: Trichopoulou, A., Vasilopoulou, E

Publication: British Journal of Nutrition

C. READINGS OF WEEK 2

Check daily the course announcements on Quercus for additional notes, readings, and videos

Critchley, S. (2019). Athens in Pieces: The Happiest Man I've Ever Met.

Modules: Greek Society, Greece Today

Topic: A story about Greece's monasteries and what is like to be a monk

Author: Simon Critchley: philosophy professor and author.

Publication: NY Times, online edition

URL: https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/03/opinion/mount-athos-monks.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FGreece&action=click&contentCollection=world®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=3&pgtype=collection

Kiortsi, F., Mavroidis, K. (2019). Kostas Gavras on Tragedy, Power and Filmmaking in Greece

Module: Great Greeks

Topic: Greek cinema

Author: Florentia Kiortsi, Kostas Mavroidis

Publication: Greek News Agenda

URL: <http://www.greeknewsagenda.gr/index.php/interviews/filming-greece/6955-kostas-gavras-on-tragedy,-power-and-filmmaking-in-greece>

Maltezou, R., Georgiopoulos, G. (2019). Greek parliament calls on Germany to pay WW2 reparations

Module: Greece Today

Topic: Greek national issues, WWII reparations

Author: Renee Maltezou, George Georgiopoulos

Publication: Reuters

URL: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-greece-germany-reparations/greek-parliament-calls-on-germany-to-pay-ww2-reparations-idUSKCN1RT1PL>

Norris, M (2019). Greek to Me: The Comma Queen on the pleasures of a different alphabet

Module: Greece Today

Topic: Greek language

Author: Mary Norris (author, journalist)

Publication: New Yorker, January 14, 2019 issue/ headline "To the Letter."

URL: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/01/14/greek-to-me>

Tsilimpounidi, M. (2015). "If These Walls Could Talk": Street Art and Urban Belonging in The Athens of Crisis

Module: Greek Society, Greece Today

Topic: Street art in Athens

Author: Myrto Tsilimpounidi, social researcher, photographer, Department of Social and Political Thought, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK.

Publication: Laboratorium. 2015. 7(2):71–91

URL: Quercus/readings

Varvarrigou, M. (2019). Remembering Melina – 25 Years After

Module: Great Greeks

Topic: Melina Merkouri

Author: Mariana Varvarrigou

Publication: Greek News Agenda

URL: <http://www.greeknewsagenda.gr/index.php/topics/culture-society/6945-remembering-melina>

D. READINGS OF WEEK 3

Check daily the course announcements on Quercus for additional notes, readings and videos

Georgakopoulos, T. (2016). Greeks and the Refugee Problem

Module: Greece Today

Topic: The refugee crisis, Greek society

Author: Thodoris Georgakopoulos, journalist, writer.

Publication: DiaNEOsis

URL: <https://www.dianeosis.org/en/2016/02/study-greeks-refugee-problem/>

Greek News Agenda (2019). Between a “glorious past” and an “authentic present”: a brief overview of tourism in modern Greece

Module: Greece Today

Topic: Tourism, economy

Author: Greek News Agenda

Publication: Greek News Agenda

URL: <http://www.greeknewsagenda.gr/index.php/topics/culture-society/6969-tourism-modern-greece>

INSETE (2017). Contribution of Tourism to the Greek Economy 2016-2017.

Module: Greek Society, Greece Today

Topic: Tourism, Economy

Author: INSETE

Publication: insete.gr

URL: http://www.insete.gr/portals/0/meletes-INSETE/01/2018_SymvolhTourismou-2017_EN-Summary.pdf

Papandreou, N. (2003). Growing Up Bilingual

Module: Greece Today

Topic: Greek as a second language

Author: Nikos Papandreou

Publication: Pantheon Books, Essay for Collection Entitled: The Genius of Language

URL: <http://npapandreou.gr/en/83/>

Livaditi, I. (2017). Rethinking Greece: George Prevelakis on Contemporary Hellenism as a “cultural sediment” linking Europe with the emerging multipolar world

Module: Greece Today

Topic: Greek geopolitical condition

Author: Ioanna Livaditi

Publication: Greek News Agenda

URL: <http://www.greeknewsagenda.gr/index.php/interviews/rethinking-greece/6346-georges-prevelakis>

Additional Sources on Greek Cuisine

Meneley, Anne. “Like an Extra Virgin.” *American Anthropologist* 109, no. 4 (2007): 678–87.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/27563819>.

An Introduction to Greek Food and Greek Cooking

Module: Greek cuisine

Topic: Greek cuisine

Author: thespruceeats.com

Publication: thespruceeats.com

URL: <https://www.thespruceeats.com/greek-food-history-1705413>

Greek Gastronomy Website

Module: Greek Cuisine

Topic: Greek Products

Authors: George Pitas, Bilio Tsoukala

Publication/ URL: <http://www.greekgastronomyguide.gr/en/>