HELENIC STUDIES

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Hellenic Studies is a program of the European Studies Council. The core of the program is the teaching of modern Greek, supplemented with other courses and events related to the study of postantiquity Greece, as well as the society and culture of modern Greece and its interaction with the rest of Europe and the world. Related courses can be found in the listings of Anthropology, History, History of Art, Comparative Literature, Political Science, Religious Studies, and Russian and East European Studies. A major in Ancient and Modern Greek is described under Classics. Students who have an interest in postantiquity Greek language, society, or culture are advised to consult with the program director of the Hellenic Studies program.

Hellenic Studies is an interdisciplinary program of the European Studies Council located at the Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies. The core of the program is comprehensive instruction in the modern Greek language at the elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels. The program supplements this language instruction with a variety of courses and events focused on modern Greek literature and culture as well as Ottoman, Balkan, and modern Greek history, all situated within the broader geographical, historical, and comparative context of postantiquity Greece. Relevant courses are taught in various departments in the humanities and social sciences.

A major in Ancient and Modern Greek is offered in conjunction with the Department of Classics. In addition, the program in Hellenic Studies offers language and research fellowships to eligible Yale students. First-year students are encouraged to consult with the directors of the program for advice on appropriate programs of study.

FACULTY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM OF HELLENIC STUDIES

Professor John Geanakoplos (Economics)
Senior Lecturer George Syrimis (Comparative Literature)
Lecturer Paris Aslanidis (Political Science)
Senior Lecteur Maria Kaliambou (Language and Folklore)

View Courses

Courses

**MGRK 110a, Elementary Modern Greek I**  Maria Kaliambou
An introduction to modern Greek, with emphasis on oral expression. Use of communicative activities, graded texts, written assignments, grammar drills, audiovisual material, and contemporary documents. In-depth cultural study. L1 1½ Course cr

**MGRK 120b, Elementary Modern Greek II**  Maria Kaliambou
Continuation of MGRK 110. Prerequisite: MGRK 110. L2 1½ Course cr
* MGRK 130a, Intermediate Modern Greek I  Maria Kaliambou
Further development of oral and written linguistic skills, using authentic readings and
audiovisual materials. Continued familiarization with contemporary Greek culture.
Prerequisite: MGRK 120 or equivalent.  L3  1½ Course cr

* MGRK 140b, Intermediate Modern Greek II  Maria Kaliambou
Further development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in modern
Greek. Presentation of short research projects related to modern Greece. Prerequisite:
MGRK 130 or equivalent.  L4  1½ Course cr

* MGRK 216a / CLCV 216a / LITR 239a / WGSS 209a, Dionysus in Modernity
George Syrimis
Modernity’s fascination with the myth of Dionysus. Questions of agency, identity
and community, and psychological integrity and the modern constitution of the self.
Manifestations of Dionysus in literature, anthropology, and music; the Apollonian-
Dionysiac dichotomy; twentieth-century variations of these themes in psychoanalysis,
surrealism, and magical realism.  HU TR

* MGRK 218b / FILM 243b / WGSS 245b, Family in Greek Literature and Film
George Syrimis
The structure and multiple appropriations of the family unit, with a focus on the
Greek tradition. The influence of aesthetic forms, including folk literature, short
stories, novels, and film, and of political ideologies such as nationalism, Marxism, and
totalitarianism. Issues related to gender, sibling rivalry, dowries and other economic
factors, political allegories, feminism, and sexual and social violence both within and
beyond the family.  WR, HU TR

* MGRK 236b / PLSC 138b / SOCY 221b, The Euro Crisis  Paris Aslanidis
Examination of how Europe continues to struggle with the social and economic
repercussions of the Great Recession and the impact of socioeconomic asymmetries in
countries such as Portugal, Ireland, Spain, Italy, and Greece. Topics include the euro as
a viable common currency; why and how the Euro crisis erupted and spread; how the
COVID-19 fallout will impact the Union.  SO

* MGRK 237a / GLBL 215a / LAST 386a / PLSC 375a / SOCY 389a, Populism  Paris
Aslanidis
Investigation of the populist phenomenon in party systems and the social movement
arena. Conceptual, historical, and methodological analyses are supported by
comparative assessments of various empirical instances in the US and around the
world, from populist politicians such as Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders, to populist
social movements such as the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street.  WR, SO

* MGRK 238a / FILM 341a / WGSS 233a, Weird Greek Wave Cinema  George Syrimis
The course examines the cinematic production of Greece in the last fifteen years or so
and looks critically at the popular term “weird Greek wave” applied to it. Noted for
their absurd tropes, bizarre narratives, and quirky characters, the films question and
disturb traditional gender and social roles, as well as international viewers’ expectations
of national stereotypes of classical luminosity#the proverbial “Greek light”#Dionysian
exuberance, or touristic leisure. Instead, these works frustrate not only a wholistic
reading of Greece as a unified and coherent social construct, but also the physical
or aesthetic pleasure of its landscape and its ‘quaint’ people with their insistence on
grotesque, violent, or otherwise disturbing images or themes (incest, sexual otherness

and violence, aggression, corporeality, and xenophobia). The course also pays particular
attention on the economic and political climate of the Greek financial crisis during
which these films are produced and consumed and to which they partake. None  

* MGRK 300b / CLCV 319b / HIST 242Jb / WGSS 293b, The Olympic Games, Ancient
and Modern  George Syrimis
Introduction to the history of the Olympic Games from antiquity to the present. The
mythology of athletic events in ancient Greece and the ritual, political, and social
ramifications of the actual competitions. The revival of the modern Olympic movement
in 1896, the political investment of the Greek state at the time, and specific games as
they illustrate the convergence of athletic cultures and sociopolitical transformations in
the twentieth century.  HU

* MGRK 304b / ER&M 376b / PLSC 376b / SOCY 307b, Extreme and Radical Right
Movements  Paris Aslanidis
Extreme and radical right movements and political parties are a recurrent phenomenon
found in most parts of the world. Discussion of their foundational values and the causes
of their continuous, even increasing, support among citizens and voters.  SO

* MGRK 305a / HIST 294Ja, The Age of Revolution  Paris Aslanidis
The course is a comparative examination of the international dimensions of several
revolutions from 1776 to 1848. It aims to explore mechanisms of diffusion, shared
themes, and common visions between the revolutionary upheavals in the United States,
France, Haiti, South America, Greece, and Italy. How similar and how different were
these episodes? Did they emerge against a common structural and societal backdrop?
Did they equally serve their ideals and liberate their people against tyranny? What
was the role of women and the position of ethnic minorities in the fledgling nation-
states? As the year 2021 marks the bicentennial of the Greek Revolution of 1821, special
attention is given to the intricate links forged between Greek revolutionary intellectuals
and their peers in Europe and other continents  WR, HU