Hellenic Studies

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Faculty Associated with the Program of Hellenic Studies

Professors John Geanakoplos (Economics), Stathis Kalyvas (Political Science)

Lecturer George Syrimis

Senior Lecturer Maria Kaliambou

Hellenic Studies is a program of the Council on European Studies. 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, Literature, Political Science, Religious Studies, and Russian and East European Studies. A major in Ancient and Modern Greek is described under Classics (http://catalog.yale.edu/ycps/subjects-of-instruction/classics). Students who have an interest in postantiquity Greek language, society, or culture are advised to consult with the program administrator of the Hellenic Studies program.

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. Credit only on completion of MGRK 120. Course includes students from Cornell University via videoconference. L1 1½ Course cr

MGRK 120b, Elementary Modern Greek II Maria Kaliambou
Continuation of MGRK 110. Prerequisite: MGRK 110. Course includes students from Cornell University via videoconference. 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 212b / LITR 328b, Folktales and Fairy Tales Maria Kaliambou
History of the folktale from the late seventeenth through the late twentieth centuries. Basic concepts, terminology, and interpretations of folktales, with some attention to twentieth-century theoretical approaches. Performance and audience, storytellers, and gender-related distinctions. Interconnections between oral and written traditions in narratives from western Europe and Greece. WR, HU, TR

* MGRK 216a / CLCV 216a / LITR 239a, 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 233b / FILM 368b / HIST 275J, The Culture of the Cold War in Europe George Syrimis
European culture during and after the Cold War. Focus on the relation of politics and dominant ideologies to their correlative literary and cinematic aesthetics models and to popular culture. Themes include totalitarianism, Eurocommunism, decolonization, espionage, state surveillance, the nuclear threat, sports, and propaganda. HU

* MGRK 234a / LITR 347a, Surveillance, Paranoia, and the Modern State George Syrimis
Cultural and artistic reactions to the collection and control of information and the tension that arises between these practices and liberal claims to privacy rights. Focus on literary and cinematic works. The control of information as manifested in the technologies of behaviorism; the political and economic regimes of totalitarianism; liberal democracy and corporate capitalism; theoretical speculation about the relationship between writers and authors and spectators and their objects. HU

MGRK 235a / PLSC 386a, Comparative Populism in Europe and the Americas Paris Aslanidis
Comparative study of significant current and historical instances of populist politics across Europe and the Americas, from the U.S. Populist Party to Argentina’s Peron and Greece’s SYRIZA. Methodological approaches identify the presence of populism and its intensity in the political field. Use of textual and video materials; analysis and debate of populism’s relationship with liberal democracy; and consideration of political phenomena, originating from both right and left. None
* MGRK 236a / PLSC 138a, Eurozone Crisis  Paris Aslanidis
Examination of how Europe continues to struggle with repercussions of the Great Recession and the impact of the Eurozone crisis in countries such as Portugal, Ireland, Spain, and, especially, Greece. Topics include the euro as a viable common currency; why and how the Eurozone crisis erupted and spread; and whether this catastrophe could have been averted. SO

* MGRK 300b / CLCV 319b / HIST 243Jb, 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 303b / PLSC 392b, The Greek Civil War  Stathis Kalyvas and Paris Aslanidis
An in-depth look into the Greek civil war, one of the major European civil wars of the twentieth century, including its relation to World War II and the Cold War. Focus on readings from the field of history, with some attention to other disciplines and areas such as anthropology and fiction. SO

* 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 481a and MGRK 482b, Independent Tutorial  Staff
For students with advanced language skills in modern Greek who wish to engage in individual study or concentrated reading and research on material not otherwise offered in courses. Applicants submit a detailed project proposal to the associate program chair. The student must meet with the instructor for at least one hour each week, and the work must terminate in a term paper or its equivalent.