Hellenic 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)

Lecturers Paris Aslanidis, George Syrimis

Senior Lecturer Maria Kaliambou

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 151a, Advanced Modern Greek Maria Kaliambou
Advanced language course intended to further develop reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills, while sharpening students’ sensitivity toward modern Greek culture. MGRK 140 or permission of instructor. L5

* MGRK 216a / CLCV 216a / LITR 230a / 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 218a / FILM 243a / WGSS 245a, 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 236a / PLSC 138a / SOCY 221a, 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.

* 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.