

Humanities 120
Understanding Greek life and culture
Syllabus

Spring 2019

American College of Thessaloniki



The American College of Thessaloniki

Humanities 120: Understanding Greek life and culture

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Course Instructor:

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Office: 6, New Building (1st floor)

Office Hours: Mo, We: 14.00-15.00

Course Description

The course provides an understanding of contemporary Greek life and what it means to be Greek. It does so by examining the practices and creations of Greek culture, as well as by identifying and understanding the main figures of Greek life and the political scene through time. In addition, it develops students' intercultural and communicative competency so that they can interact both locally in Greece and in the global community.

Content areas covered by the course are:

- 1) Modern Greek Language (acquisition of basic communication skills for daily use)
- 2) Greek Culture (language, literature, food, cinema, music and customs)
- 3) The Modern Greek State Structure (background, historical development)
- 4) National Identity (nation-building, ethnicity, and Greeks within Europe, the Balkans and the world)
- 5) Greece as pluralistic society (migration, minorities)
- 6) Figures and Institutions (the Orthodox Church, Family, Community and values)

Learning outcomes

At the end of the course, learners will be expected to:

- develop communicative competence in basic Greek
- develop an insight into the nature of Greek language, culture and society
- develop intercultural awareness by understanding the western and eastern influences of the Greek civilization as well as the cultural exchanges between Greeks and their neighbors
- develop the ability to bring the culture of origin and the Greek culture into relation with each other
- demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the institutions of Modern Greece and of the ways in which those have developed and evaluate the actions of a variety of actors in Greece today
- explore the impacts of global and regional challenges such as the ongoing financial and refugee crisis to Greek society and life

Course Assessments

1. Projects (25%)

- **Project 1: Greek Cuisine (10%)** Choose a Greek dish, gather information about where this food is from, when it is eaten and how it is prepared, write the key ingredients in Greek and make a presentation about the findings and how it is prepared. Include photos. Compare with American dishes. **(Week 4)**
- **Project 2: Cultural Journal (15%)** Each student will keep weekly notes recording their encounters with Greek culture, including but not limited to, customs, music, food, politics, religious observances, festivals, sports, etc. **At the end of 11th week** students will write a reflection piece based on their experience. The journal must include a written interpretation of Greek life and background information on what influenced their view on Greece during their stay. **(Week 11)**

2. Midterm exam (20%)

3. Quiz (10%)

4. Final exam (20%)

5. Class engagement (25%) Part of class engagement requires attending class and actively participating in class discussions and group work. In addition, class engagement requires active involvement with assigned activities. All readings must be prepared in advance and students are expected to be able to demonstrate critical knowledge of readings by participating in class discussions and activities such as preparation of readings, unexpected small quizzes, response papers and other written and oral exercises. Since participation is a major part of this class, student presence is required and more than three unexcused absences will affect his/her grade.

Grading system

Grade Description	% points	US Letter Grade	US point grade
Excellent	95-100	A	4.0
Very Good (high)	90-94	A-	3.67
Very Good (low)	85-89	B+	3.33
Good (high)	80-84	B	3.0
Good (low)	75-79	B-	2.67
Satisfactory (high)	70-74	C+	2.33
Satisfactory (low)	65-69	C	2.0
Fail	0-64	F	0

Course policies

1. If a student misses the Final exam, that student will automatically fail the course.
2. Cheating in exams will result in a grade of zero for the specific test for any student who cheats or assists in cheating.
3. Late assignments may be accepted under the discretion of the instructor and may subject to a point deduction penalty depending on how late the submission is.
4. Attendance is highly important in this class. Student presence is required and more than 3 (three) unexcused absences will affect his/her grade. Latecomers receive partial absences.

Maximum Allowed Number of Absences

The maximum allowed number of absences for all ACT courses stands at 6 (six) hours per course, which corresponds to 6 one- hour classes.

Excusing Absences

To excuse absences for good cause (such as medical reasons or personal crises), the student should contact the Registrar's office and, ahead of time or at the latest within a week from the time the absences took place, provide written proof of the cause of the absences. The documents submitted are then evaluated by the Assistant Dean, who decides whether there are valid grounds for excusing the absences.

Successful Attendance

A student is considered to have successfully attended a course if he/she has attended 75% of the course lectures. Thus, the maximum number of absences (excused or not) stands at 11 hours (11 classes) for courses. In case of an unsuccessful attendance, the student is administratively withdrawn from the course. The student has the right to appeal the decision to be administratively withdrawn from a course due to excessive absences and seek reinstatement. In this case, the student, within three working days, must fill in a 'mitigating circumstances' form in the Registrar's office, where the reasons of the appeal should be explained. Following this, a formal hearing of the Academic Standards and Performance Committee (ASPC) takes place. The decision of the Committee is final.

College-wide Policy on Academic Integrity

All academic divisions at ACT, both undergraduate and graduate, will apply the following policy on academic integrity:

"A student committing an act of Academic Dishonesty in a given course will receive an F (0 percentage points) in the assignment where the academic infraction took place. If a student commits an act of Academic Dishonesty for a second time in the same course, this student will receive a failing grade in that course.

The individual faculty is responsible for enforcing the policy in a conscientious manner, for reporting all cases to the Academic Standards & Performance Committee (AS&PC) for record-keeping and for informing the affected students of their right to appeal the faculty's decision to the AS&PC. Faculty must also insert the college's policy on Academic Integrity in their course syllabi."

Syllabus

Note: The syllabus below is tentative. The instructor reserves the right to make changes if necessary. It is the responsibility of each student to stay abreast of what happens in the classroom and of changes in the dates of assignments, exams etc.

Topics	Readings	Assignments/ Activities
<p>Language and Identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introductions and greetings (e.g. the sounds and the letters of the Greek language, introducing ourselves, asking for and giving identity information, talking about age, likes and dislikes, numbers) ● Language and national identity in Greece 	<p>Leontis, excerpt from chapter 5 (Language and Literature), pp. 101-103</p> <p>Online material uploaded on MOODLE</p>	<p>Present oneself in class (oral presentation)</p> <p>Interview locals about their personal identity (soundcloud)</p>
<p>Food and Identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Market and food (e.g. asking for the menu, ordering something, asking for the bill, buying something, asking for the price, counting from 20 to 100) ● The Greek table, the social space of “laiki” 	<p>Leontis, excerpts from chapter 3 (Laiki, a farmers’ market), pp. 54-56, chapter 4 (The Greek table), pp. 92-96</p> <p>Online material uploaded on MOODLE</p>	<p>Project 1: Greek recipe (4th week) Choose a Greek dish, gather information about where this food is from, when it is eaten and how it is prepared, write the key ingredients in Greek and make a presentation about the findings and how it is prepared. Include photos. Compare with American dishes.</p> <p>Short story: “Come on Ellie, Feed the Pig” (response paper)</p> <p>Visit to Roman Agora and Kapani market (field trip)</p>
<p>Showing around Thessaloniki</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Directions (e.g. talking about places in a town, asking for and giving simple directions) ● Thessaloniki and its complex identity 	<p>Mazower, Salonica, City of Ghosts, Introduction, pp. 3-13</p> <p>Online material uploaded on MOODLE</p>	<p>Plan a Thessaloniki walking tour</p> <p>Midterm exam</p>

<p>Time & Holidays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Travelling around (e.g. asking for time tables/ telling the time, buying a ticket) ● Holidays (national & religious) and the Greek Orthodox Church 	<p>Leontis, excerpts from chapter 4 (Leisure and Holidays), pp. 75-87 and chapter 2 (Religion), pp.31-34</p> <p>Online material uploaded on MOODLE</p>	<p>What the main differences between the American and the Greek lifestyle are as presented in the movie <i>Never on Sunday</i>.</p> <p>(response paper)</p> <p>Discussion in classroom on Cultural Journal project</p> <p>Quiz</p>
<p>The Modern Greek State: Structure and Identity</p> <p>(Background, historical development, nation building and ethnicity)</p>	<p>Gallant, excerpts from chapter 4, pp. 67-74, chapter 7, pp. 141-150</p> <p>Broome, Exploring the Greek Mosaic, excerpt from chapter 2, pp. 22-31</p>	<p><i>Smyrna: The destruction of a Cosmopolitan City – 1900-1922</i>, by Maria Eliou (documentary, 2011)</p>
<p>Greece in 21st century</p> <p>(Financial & refugee crisis, minorities)</p>	<p>Clogg, Minorities in Greece, Introduction</p> <p>Online material uploaded on MOODLE</p>	
<p>Discover the Greek music & dance</p> <p>(Some Greek artists)</p>	<p>Online material uploaded on MOODLE</p>	<p>Project 2: Cultural journal (11th week)</p> <p>A reflection piece based on your experience, a written interpretation of Greek life and background information on what influenced your view on Greece during your stay.</p>
<p>Final exam</p>		<p>Review</p>

Reading List

Key Readings

- Broome, B. J. (1996) *Exploring the Greek Mosaic. A Guide to Intercultural Communication in Greece*, Boston, Intercultural Press.
- Leontis, A. (2009) *Culture and Customs of Greece*, Westport, Greenwood Press.

Other Indicative Texts

- Clogg, R. (2013) *A Concise History of Greece*, 3rd edn, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Clogg, R. (ed) (2002) *Minorities in Greece. Aspects of a Plural Society*, London, Hurst & Company.
- Close, D. H. (2002) *Greece since 1945. Politics, Economy and Society*, London, Pearson Education.
- Gallant, T. W. (2016) *Modern Greece: From the war of Independence to the present*, Bloomsbury
- Koliopoulos, J. S. and Veremis, T. M. (2004) *Greece: The Modern Sequel*, London, C. Hurst & Co. Publisher
- Leontis, A. (1995) *Topographies of Hellenism, mapping the homeland*, Cornell, Cornell University Press.
- Mackridge, P. (2010) *Language and national identity in Greece, 1766-1976*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.
- Mazower, M. (2005) *Salonica, City of Ghosts: Christians, Muslims and Jews, 1430-1950*, New York, Alfred A. Knopf
- Ricks, D. and Magdalino, P. (eds) (1998c) *Byzantium and the Modern Greek identity*, Farnham, Ashgate.
- Coufoudakis, V. et al. (eds) (1999) *Greece and the New Balkans: Challenges and Opportunities*, New York, Pella Pub. Co.
- Zacharia, K. (2008c) *Hellenisms: culture, identity, and ethnicity from antiquity to modernity*, Farnham, Ashgate.

Indicative Films

- A Touch of Spice (by T. Boulmetis)
- Never on Sunday (by J. Dassin)
- Zorba the Greek (by M. Cacoyannis)
- Rembetiko (by C. Ferris)
- Smyrna: The Destruction of a Cosmopolitan City - 1900-1922 (by M. Eliou)

Additional material and articles uploaded on MOODLE.

