

## **Modern Greek 241**

### **The Culture of Contemporary Greece**

Instructor: Prof. Gregory Jusdanis

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Department: Greek and Latin, 414 University Hall; Tel. 292-2744

Office Hours: Fridays. 8:30-10:30, or by appointment

Description: This course is an introduction to the culture of contemporary Greece. It assumes no prior knowledge about Greece. It will try to explore the question, “Who are the modern Greeks?” by looking into literature, film, history, popular culture, and everyday life.

We will consider features of modern Greek culture (antiquity, archeology, history, politics, language, literature, education, state, capital city, religion) through which Greeks define themselves. We will also study how Greeks express themselves by examining customs, rituals, relationships, work, entertainment, food, dance, and music.

Assignments: You will write one paper of no fewer than 6 typed, double-spaced, 250 words per page on topics assigned by me. Only typed papers will be accepted. The grade will be marked down by 1/3 mark for each day (not class) that passes after their due day. An A becomes an A- etc. Papers submitted after class will be considered late. You will submit a typed, two-page outline of the paper with a thesis statement. Please attach this draft to the paper.

Attendance: You will be required to arrive on time and participate regularly in class discussions. It will be your responsibility to sign up the attendance sheet. If you are absent for more than two classes without a written excuse from a doctor or an explanation of a family emergency, you will lose **two points from your final grade** for each missed class. Consistent late attendances will be regarded as an absence.

Participation: You are expected to come to class having completed the reading assignments for that particular day and to participate regularly and energetically. Students who ask questions and volunteer comments without being asked will get an “A” for the participation grade. Those who come to class every day but do not participate will get a “C.”

#### Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is a violation of the code of Student Conduct. The University defines academic misconduct as any activity that compromises the academic integrity of the institution, or subverts the educational process. Some examples are copying other people’s work, having others write a paper for you, or cheating on examinations. For more information please go to <http://www.osu.edu/offices/oa/procedures/index.htm>.

### Disability Accommodation

If you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, you should contact me to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. At the appointment we can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Office For Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services, I encourage you to do so.

Grades: Paper 30%, 20% mid-term, participation 15%, final examination 35%.

Textbooks (required--all available from SBX):

Thomas Gallant Modern Greece; Nicholas Kostis (ed.), Modern Greek Short Stories; Artemis Leontis Greece. Packet

On Reserve: R. Beaton An Introduction to Modern Greek Literature; Richard Clogg A Concise History of Greece; Jill Dubish ed. Gender and Power in Rural Greece; Michael Herzfeld Ours Once More.

### Syllabus:

WEEK ONE: **The Classical and Byzantine Heritage** (Mar 28, 30)

I Introduction

II Jusdanis "Farewell to the Classical" (Packet) Gallant, 1-8.

Film, "Running with Pheidippides"

WEEK TWO: **Nation-Building** (April 4, 6)

I Gallant, 9-25; Leontis, "Mycenae" 60-70, "Delphi" 84-99.

II No class. Students should attend lecture in Faculty Club.

WEEK THREE (Jan. 21): **Nationalism and Identity** (April 11, 13)

I Gallant 31-54; Kostis "How the Village Became Greek 63-68

II Gallant 55-75; Writing Seminar

WEEK FOUR: **Society in the Nineteenth-Century** (April 18, 19)

I Gallant 76-96; Kostis "My Mother's Sin" 23-48

II Gallant 97-115; Kostis "Dream on the Wave" 49-62, Psychology of a Husband from Syra" 1-21.

WEEK FIVE: **Migration and Diaspora** (April 25, 27)

I Kostis "The Boss" 119-132, "The Madman with the Red Lilies," Leontis "The Regards" 204-206

II Film "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"

WEEK SIX: **War and Catastrophe** (May 2, 4)

I **Mid-Term**

II Gallant 125-59, Leontis "The Fountain of Brahim-Baba 176-85

**WEEK SEVEN: Occupation and Civil War** (May 9, 11)

I Gallant 157-172; Kostis “Margarita Perdikari” 141-66; Leontis “The Smile from the Abyss” 224-226.

II Gallant 173-192; Leontis “Carnival” 135-149. **Outlines Due**

**WEEK EIGHT: Families and Interpersonal Relationships** (MAY 16, 18)

I Dubish Gender and Power in Rural Greece pp 97-120, 169-194 (Packet)

II Loizos and Papataxiarchis Gender and Kinship in Modern Greece pp156-179, 180-202 (Packet)

**WEEK NINE: Greece Today** (May 23, 25)

I Gallant 193-216; Kostis “In the Depths of the House” 249-68.

II Kostis “The Teacher” 181-98, “The Bath” 227-40.

**WEEK TEN Review** (June 1)

I Review; **Papers Due**

**Final Exam:**

Grading of Papers:

Correct grammar, lucid writing, organization of ideas, examination of issues (and not just themes), and reasoned argument based on ideas (rather than personal experiences) are very important in this class. It is expected that you will have a clear thesis statement in your introduction and then develop your argument persuasively, using passages from the texts to back up your views. In short, your paper will be evaluated with respect to form (writing) and content (ideas).

Here are the criteria I will be using to grade your papers:

- A. Excellent. The paper is well written and organized, is interesting and a pleasure to read. It is free of any grammatical errors. It provides a clear thesis and convincing proof of that thesis, using passages from the texts to support it. It goes beyond the arguments discussed in class and may show some originality in the thesis or its development.
- B. Good. It offers a satisfactory proof of a thesis. The writing and organization are clear. The paper may have a few problems in writing, organization, development of the argument, or some misprints. Basically it is an A paper with some problems.
- C. Satisfactory. This paper will have more of the above errors such as lack of clear thesis, difficulty in its development, or a flaw in the organization, logic, or writing. It may, for instance, lack logical transitions between paragraphs; or paragraphs may contain ideas not really connected to one another. Typically a C paper summarizes texts or positions without analyzing them.

- D. Poor. This paper may contain many of the above flaws: no thesis, poor writing, many grammatical errors; lack of clarity, problems in organization, little evidence and so on. It is difficult to read.
- E. Unsatisfactory. This paper contains an unacceptable number of flaws.

Please keep in mind that one of the most common flaws in undergraduate papers is the absence of a clear thesis statement. It is important for you to outline in the introduction your argument (i.e. your position) and explain how you will develop it.