

## Honors Modern Greek 250

### Greek Identities: Ancient and Modern

Prof. Gregory Jusdanis      Office hours: Fridays 8:30-10:30  
jusdanis.1@osu.edu      UH 272 292-3785,  
Departmental Office: 414 university Hall 292-2744

### Course description

What does it mean to be Greek? This class seeks to understand how the Greeks defined themselves through the ages by comparing the concept of ethnic and national identity in modern Greece and ancient Greece. An ancient philosopher once wrote "I am grateful for three things: first, that I am a human not a beast; second, that I am a man not a woman; and third, that I am a Greek not a barbarian." This provocative quotation suggests that for the ancient Greeks, national identity was inseparable from sexual, cultural, ethnic, and human identity. How did these different types of identity intersect in ancient Greece, and how do they intersect in modern Greece? How is national identity constructed and what are its constituent elements? How does national identity permeate individuals, becoming vital to their sense of self? How does the idea of "Greekness" change over time, and how does that transformation reflect or respond to shifts in Greece's place in the world?

**Assignments:** You will write two term papers of no fewer than 7 typed, double-spaced, 250 words per page on topics assigned by the instructor. 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. Papers submitted after class will be considered late. I do not accept papers by fax or email.

**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 a **grade for each day missed from your class participation grade**. An A will become an A- and so on. 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."

### Evaluation

50% two papers  
40% final examination  
10% participation

### **Required Books** (Available at SBX)

Rhea Galanaki *The Life of Ismail Ferik Pasha*, Trans. Kay Cicellis, (Peter Owen)  
Alki Zei *Achille's Fiancée* Trans. Gail Holst Warhaft, (Kedros)  
Heliodorus *An Ethiopian Romance*. Trans. Moses Hadas (University of Pennsylvania Press)  
Packet of readings (available at Cop-Ez, Tuttle Park Place)

### **Academic Misconduct**

Academic misconduct is a violation of the code of Student Conduct and will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. The University defines academic misconduct as any activity which tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution, or subvert the educational process. Some examples are plagiarism, cheating on examinations, and violation of course rules as contained in the course syllabus. See <http://www.osu.edu/offices/oaa/procedures/index.htm>.

### **Disability Accommodation**

Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact us privately to discuss his or her specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at (614) 292-3307, or visit 150 Pomerene Hall, to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

### **Schedule of Topics and Readings**

Sept. 21 Introduction

#### **Section One: Definitions (weeks 1-2)**

Sept. 26 Thinking about identity: Jusdanis, *The Necessary Nation*, ch. 1

“Farewell to the Classical” Jusdanis (both in reader)

Sept. 28 Before the Greeks were “Greek”: Homer *Iliad* 2.484-780, Thucydides 1.1-23, 66-88 (reader)

Oct. 3 Viziinos “Moskov Selim”; Jusdanis, *Belated Modernity* 13-36 (reader)

Oct. 5 Writing Seminar

#### **Section Two: Situating Greekness (weeks 3-4)**

Oct. 10 To live and die an Athenian: Thucydides 2.34-46 (reader)

Oct. 12 Ancient, modern and in-between: guest lecture (Anthony Kaldellis)

L. Danforth, “The Ideological Context of the Search for Continuities in Greek Culture” (reader)

Oct. 17 Solomos, Cavafy, Sikelianos, Seferis (reader)

Oct. 19 Solomos, Cavafy, Sikelianos, Seferis, continued **\*First Paper Due**

**Section Three: Ethnicity and Identity (weeks 5-6)**

- Oct. 24 Greeks and barbarians: Herodotus 1.1-94 (reader)  
Oct. 26 Greeks and barbarians: Aeschylus *The Persians* (reader)  
  
Oct. 31 Rea Galanaki *The Life of Ismail Ferik Pasha* 1-71  
Nov. 2 Rea Galanaki *The Life of Ismail Ferik Pasha*, 73-166

**Section Four: Gender and Identity (weeks 7-8)**

- Nov. 7 Alki Zei *Achilles' Fiancée*, 9-181  
Nov. 9 Alki Zei *Achilles' Fiancée*, 181-359  
  
Nov. 14 Barbarian woman: Euripides *Medea* (reader)  
Nov. 16 Debate

**Section Five: Local and Global Identities (weeks 9-10)**

- Nov. 21 Heliodorus *Ethiopica*, 1-140  
  
Nov. 28 Heliodorus *Ethiopica*, 141-277  
Nov. 30 Review \***Second Paper Due**

**Final Examination: Wednesday, Dec. 6. -- 9:30-11:18**

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.