GREEK

In the Department of Classics

The Classics Department offers courses listed in this catalogue under “Ancient History,” “Classics,” “Greek,” and “Latin.”

Course Offerings

GK111f Introductory Greek  An introduction to the ancient Greek language as spoken and written at Athens during the 5th and 4th centuries BCE. The first of a two-semester sequence in which students learn to read authors such as Homer, Sophocles, and Plato. Careful attention to grammar, syntax, and vocabulary forms the foundation of the course.  

Four credit hours.  

BARRETT

GK112s Intermediate Greek  The second of a two-semester sequence in which students learn to read the ancient Greek of classical Athens. Careful attention to grammar, syntax, and vocabulary forms the foundation of the course.  

Prerequisite: Greek 111.  

Four credit hours.  

BARRETT

GK131f Introduction to Greek Literature  Introduction to the reading of original ancient Greek text. The choice of text varies from year to year and consists of either poetry or prose. Focus on applying the concepts of syntax and grammar learned in previous semesters. It includes textual and literary analysis of the selected work. Learning goals include decoding of ancient text, further development of critical and analytical faculties, and an improvement of oral argumentational structuring skills.  

Prerequisite: Greek 112.  

Four credit hours.  

L.  

BARRETT

GK235f Plato: Apology of Socrates  In 399 BCE, Socrates was charged with impiety and put on trial. Plato’s Apology presents Socrates’ defense speech in which he explains himself and his unusual way of life as a lover of wisdom. Attention to philosophical, rhetorical, mythological, and historical contexts.  

Prerequisite: Greek 131 or equivalent.  

Four credit hours.  

BARRETT

[GK239] Revenge and Cowardice: Euripides’s Electra  In the Euripidean version of the myth of Electra, the playwright asks his audience what happens when one parent murders the other. How does one reconcile the imperative to avenge a father’s murder with matricide?  

Prerequisite: Greek 131.  

Four credit hours.  

L.

[GK251] Husbands and Wives: Euripides’s Alcestis  Alcestis agrees to die instead of her husband, Admetus. Why? And why does Admetus let her? Is there a tragic character in the play?  

Prerequisite: Greek 131.  

Four credit hours.  

L.

[GK351] Homer’s Odyssey 19-20  Odysseus returns to his palace on Ithaka disguised as a wandering beggar, concealing his identity even from his wife Penelope. Why does he lie to her? Does Penelope suspect the truth? How are we to judge her fidelity as she prepares to marry one of the suitors?  

Prerequisite: Greek 131.  

Four credit hours.  

L.

[GK356] Homer, Iliad 1: Hero’s Rage  Achilles’s quarrel with Agamemnon followed by his decision not to fight caused the Greeks and their allies many casualties and led to the deaths of Patroclus and Hector. The episode described in Iliad 1 questions the values of authority, hierarchy, bravery, gratitude, loyalty, and arrogance, as well as the attitude of the Homeric Greeks toward their wives and concubines. The description of events allows us to analyze the emotions of anger and restraint, as well as forgiveness. Learning goals include further development of Greek reading and comprehension skills, familiarity with the Homeric epic, enhancement of critical and analytical faculties, improvement of oral and argumentational structuring skills, and refinement of writing skills.  

Prerequisite: Greek 131.  

Four credit hours.  

L.

[GK359] Homer’s Iliad 3: Menelaos and Paris  In preparation for the combat between Menelaos and Paris, Helen shows herself on the walls of Troy. Will the two heroes, rivals for her hand, fight to the death? If not, what will happen next?  

Prerequisite: Greek 131.  

Four credit hours.  

L.

GK362s Sophocles: Ajax  Sophocles’ Ajax presents the last moments in the life of this heroic figure as he comes to terms with a new world hostile to his most cherished values. Having lost to Odysseus in the contest for the arms of Achilles, Ajax struggles in vain against the machinations of Athena. The end of the heroic age is at hand.  

Prerequisite: Greek 131 or equivalent.  

Four credit hours.  

L.

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