

Solidarity, Social Movements, and the Fight for Justice and Change in Greece: a Service Learning Approach

ANTH 357/ PSCI 357 - Dr. Aimee Placas

Course Overview.

In recent years, Greece has seen the development of a number of social movements and solidarity efforts, in the face of the difficult social conditions that have arisen with the "financial crisis" that occurred in 2009 and the austerity measures which followed. Some of these efforts are new and creative responses, while others have long histories in Greek society and politics. Preceding the crisis, we also see the emergence what has been called "civil society": voluntary and social organizations that are an integral part of political life, but are not commercial in nature or part of the state. This course examines the roles that solidarity and social movements, social justice goals, and civil society development play in contemporary Greek society. What are the social problems currently identified by these concerns? In what ways have people responded? How has the relationship between citizen and state, individual and society, been changing through these efforts? Students join such organizations as volunteers, devoting a minimum of 45 hours to their volunteer work over the course of the semester. These volunteer experiences are integrated into the course, providing an experiential dimension to the questions we will be exploring together.

Why Service?

There are three main reasons why students want to do a service learning course when they study abroad: they have a personal commitment to service or justice, they want to contribute to the community where they will be living, and they want to feel involved and immersed in this community and learn about it by being so. This course provides a structured way of doing these things. At the same time, however, our texts, lectures, and assignments provide another layer to this experience, as students learn about the history and development of the kinds of organizations that welcome volunteers, about why the concept of volunteerism has come to be so closely linked to the idea of a functioning democracy, and about why the development of this type of activity has occurred in a very different way in Greece than it has in other places, like the United States. Through this students will reflect on the cultural specificity of how they themselves have defined service and their expectations of volunteerism, and be challenged and broadened in their viewpoints on this subject, as study abroad is meant to do. Students who have specific areas in which they would like to volunteer may contact the professor before the course begins to see if suitable arrangements can be made. All efforts will be made to match students to volunteer positions that align with their personal interests.

Course Content.

The course begins with an overview of society in Greece and its changes over the past 60 years, giving a particular focus to the most recent 25 years, when we see the development of what has come to be called "civil society." We then thematically examine the sectors, events, and social problems in Greece which have received the attention of citizens, where people have collectively worked to shape their society towards their sense of the greater good. Although our story is sited in Greece, we will consistently switch to a wider focus to understand how and why social scientists have studied the spread of non-governmental

organizations (NGOs) as an institutional form globally, what role civil society plays in discourses of development and democracy, and what the critiques are of that role. We'll look at social movements and solidarity movements in Greece from this comparative view as well. Through our readings and assignments we will be asking:

- Why is volunteering still a somewhat unusual social practice in Greece?
- How do people in Greece think of themselves as citizens, and how do they perceive the responsibilities of the state?
- How has the "crisis" played a role in the articulation of "solidarity" movements and ideals in Greece?
- Might there be forms of civil society in Greece that are not typically recognized as such, or limitations to the concept?
- What roles do Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) play, both as actors in society and as potentially significant voices on political issues? How and when are NGOs an internationalizing or Europeanizing force?
- How does the specific social and historical context of Greece shape the practices and goals of the citizens, NGOs, and social movements we find there?

We will be reading from texts across the social sciences -- sociology, political science, anthropology, gender studies, religious studies, environmental studies, and more. Although the course will be taught through the lens of political anthropology, by a professor of anthropology, we will build a holistic view by benefiting from the perspectives of multiple disciplines all concerned in their own way with a similar subject. At the same time, as active researchers of a culture foreign to them, students will be trained to act and think as anthropologists, a discipline well-suited to this role, utilizing the concepts, methodology, and ethical framework developed in that discipline towards that purpose.

The assignments for this course are based on participant-observation research relevant to the students' volunteer experience. Supported by in-class discussion and readings on methodology and ethics, students will produce field notes and conduct interviews both informal and semi-structured, and review published research relevant to their topic to help guide their inquiries. Students often use these assignments as the foundation for a senior or honors thesis when they return to their home institutions. Because the research findings of the students' assignments will be shared with the class in an ongoing way throughout the semester, students will also learn from each others' work and the individual assignments become part of the course content for all students.

Course Goals.

By the end of the course, students will:

- have become an integral part of an organization in Greece that contributes in a meaningful way to society,
- be self-reflective on what it means to volunteer and the complex and varying roles that voluntary organizations have in a society,
- have learned ethnographic methodology and done ethnographic fieldwork,
- have developed an "anthropological eye" with which to view and interpret their fieldwork findings,
- have a broad general knowledge about contemporary society in Greece within which to interpret their experiences and understand what's happening around them,
- have specific knowledge on the multidisciplinary academic discussion concerning civil society, NGOs, social movements, and solidarity movements applicable to Greece and elsewhere,
- have met new people, made new personal connections, and had a rewarding experience.

Course Requirements.

Attendance in class:

Students are expected to be present at all class meetings, on time, and to have done the assigned

reading and assignment for that day. Unexcused absences will directly affect your grade. The course meets once a week in the classroom on Wednesday for a double class session, so that you have the first half of Monday open for volunteering in your schedule. Because we only meet once a week, missing one day is like missing a week of class, so please make every endeavor to attend.

Attendance for volunteering:

Students must be at their volunteer job weekly at the time agreed upon between them and their organization, and average 3.5 hours of work each time. Students must inform their organization if they are unable to attend due to illness or other problem, and will need to make up that time. The professor will receive evaluations of the students from the organization, which will be part of the participation grade. Students must complete the projects that they have agreed upon with their organizations; I will assist you in making sure you only take on an amount of work that you can complete in the volunteering time required for this class.

Participation in class:

Students will need to write one discussion question/comment for each article read, and have it with them in class.

Other work for this course is as follows:

1. An ongoing fieldwork journal; a general format for these will be provided by the professor, and specific research questions will be posed at intervals throughout the semester.
2. A semi-structured interview with someone associated with their volunteer work, with the results written up in a seven page paper.
3. An annotated bibliography on materials relevant to the field in which they're volunteering.
4. An oral presentation and final report of four pages; a general format for these will be provided by the professor. An article written for a school newspaper, the CYA Owl Magazine, or another news outlet can be substituted for the final report.

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Participation 10%

Journal Entries 15%

Interview Paper 25%

Annotated Bibliography 35%

Final Report/Class Presentation 15%

Office Hours:

I am available after class every Wednesday, or we can make another time that better matches your schedule. If you have problems with the course material, assignments, or with your volunteering, it is your responsibility to let me know as quickly as possible so that it can be resolved.

Class Schedule.

NOTE: Additional topics will be covered through short lectures and news articles distributed in class, specific to the topics and social realms that students may be involved in through volunteering, but which are not covered in the syllabus outline below. We will also make similar adjustments and additions due to current events that may unfold during the semester, and also to reflect the interests of the specific group of students that term.

(Of the readings listed below, some will be assigned to read for class, some will be designated as advanced readings required only for students taking the class at the 400 level, and some will be available as additional bibliography for student research. This list is provisional, as new articles and reports are published all the time and efforts will be made to include the most recent research.)

SECTION ONE – Introduction to Modern Greece, Volunteerism, Ethics, & Research Methodologies.

Fine, Gary Alan. 1993. "Ten lies of ethnography: Moral dilemmas of field research." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 22(3): 267-294.

Gallant, Thomas. 2016. "Chapter 12." In *Modern Greece: From the War of Independence to the Present*. London: Bloomsbury Academic.

Leontis, Artemis. 2009. "Chapter 1: The Land, People, and History." In *Culture and Customs of Greece*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

Wilson, John. 2012. "Volunteerism Research: A Review Essay." *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 41(2): 176–212.

Methodology handouts.

SECTION TWO (2 weeks)-- Important theoretical concepts and debates: Clientelism, Collectivism, & Civil Society.

Arts, Wil, & Gelissen, J. 2001. Welfare states, solidarity and justice principles: Does the type really matter? *Acta Sociologica*, 44(4), 283-299.

Campbell, John. 1964. "Chapter IX: Patronage." in *Honour, Family, and Patronage: A Study of Institutions and Moral Values in a Greek Mountain Community*. Oxford, Clarendon Press.

Frangonikolopoulos, Christos A. 2014. "Politics, the Media and NGOs: The Greek Experience." *Perspectives on European Politics and Society* 15(4).

Huliaras, A. 2014. "The Dynamics of Civil Society in Greece: creating civic engagement from top." University of Peloponnese, Jean Monet Papers on Political Economy.

Lyrintzis, Christos. 2005. "'The Changing Party System: Stable Democracy, Contested 'Modernisation'." in *West European Politics*, 28 (2): pp 242 – 259.

Mouzelis, Nicos, and George Pagoulatos. 2005. "Civil Society and Citizenship in Postwar Greece." in *Citizenship and the Nation State in Greece and Turkey* (Thalia Dragonas and Faruk Birtok, eds). New York, Routledge.

Panagiotopoulou, Roy. 1999. "The Notion of Voluntarism in Modern Greek Society and the Challenge of the Olympic Games." *Volunteers, Global Society and the Olympic Movement*, Lausanne 24-26 November.

School for Civil Society. "What is civil society?"

<http://schoolforcivilsociety.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/What-is-Civil-Society.pdf>

Sotiris, Panagiotis. 2010. "Rebels with a Cause: The December 2008 Greek Youth Movement as the Condensation of Deeper Social and Political Contradictions." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 34, 1(3): 203-209.

Sotiropoulos, Dimitri. 2004. "Formal Weakness and Informal Strength: Civil Society in Contemporary Greece." Discussion Paper No. 16, London School of Economics and Political Science, The Hellenic Observatory, The European Institute

Sotiropoulos, Dimitris. 2014. *Civil Society in Greece in the Wake of the Economic Crisis*. Athens: Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and ELIAMEP.

World Health Organization. "Civil Society" <http://www.who.int/trade/glossary/story006/en/>

SECTION THREE - The Greek sovereign debt crisis & Austerity

Clarke, Jennifer. 2015. "Solidarity and Survival: A Multidisciplinary Exploration of Volunteering during the Greek Crisis." In *Austerity and the Third Sector in Greece: Civil Society at the the European Frontline*, Jennifer Clarke, Asteris Huliaras and Dimitri Sotiropoulos, eds. Surrey, UK: Ashgate. pp 67-84.

Mavrikos-Adamou, Tina. 2015. "Informal Relationships and Structures in Greece and their Effects on Civil Society Formation." In *Austerity and the Third Sector in Greece: Civil Society at the the European Frontline*, Jennifer Clarke, Asteris Huliaras and Dimitri Sotiropoulos, eds. Surrey, UK: Ashgate. pp 45-65.

Papailias, Penelope. 2011. "Witnessing the Crisis." *Hot Spots: Beyond the Greek Crisis*. Cultural Anthropology blog. Available at <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/246-witnessing-the-crisis>

Papoudakis, Fotini. 2015. "Civil Society Development in Microcosm: The Case of Anavra Village, Greece." In *Austerity and the Third Sector in Greece: Civil Society at the the European Frontline*, Jennifer Clarke, Asteris Huliaras and Dimitri Sotiropoulos, eds. Surrey, UK: Ashgate. pp 215-236.

Sotirakopoulos, Nikos, and George Sotiropoulos. 2013. "'Direct Democracy Now!': The Greek Indignados and the Present Cycle of Struggles." *Current Sociology* 61 (4): 443–456.

SECTION FOUR (2 weeks)- Solidarity in concept, practice, and rhetoric

Cabot, Heath. 2015. "The Banality of Solidarity." *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*. Occasional Papers.

Cabot, Heath. 2016. "'Contagious' solidarity: reconfiguring care and citizenship in Greece's social clinics." *Social Anthropology* 24(2):152-166.

Douzina-Bakalaki. 2017. "Volunteering Mothers: Engaging the Crisis in a Soup Kitchen of Northern Greece." *Anthropology Matters* 17(1):1-24.

Kantzara, Vasiliki. 2014. "Solidarity in Times of Crisis: Emergent practices and Potential for Paradigmatic Change. Notes from Greece." *Studi di sociologia* 3 : 261-280.

Petropoulou, Christy Chryssanthi. 2013. "'Alternative Networks of Collectivities' and 'Solidarity-Cooperative Economy' in Greek cities: Exploring their theoretical origins." *Journal of Regional & Socio-Economic Issues* 3 (2).

Rakopoulos, Theodoros. 2014. "Resonance of Solidarity: Meanings of a Local Concept in Anti-austerity Greece." *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* 32(2): 313-337.

Rakopoulos, Theodoros. 2016. "Solidarity: the egalitarian tensions of a bridge-concept." *Social Anthropology* 24(2):142-151.

Rozakou, Katerina. 2016. "Socialities of solidarity: revisiting the gift taboo in times of crises." *Social Anthropology* 24(2):185-199.

Rozakou, Katerina. 2016. "Crafting the Volunteer: Voluntary Associations and the Reformation of Sociality." *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* (34)1:79-102.

Rozakou, Katerina. 2011. "The Pitfalls of Volunteerism: The Production of the New, European Citizen in Greece." European Institute for Progressive Cultural Policies.
<http://eipcp.net/policies/rozakou/en>

Theodosopoulos, Dimitris. 2016. "Philanthropy or solidarity? Ethical dilemmas about humanitarianism in crisis-afflicted Greece." *Social Anthropology* 24(2):167-184.

Hertzfeld, Michael 2016. "Critical reactions: the ethnographic genealogy of response." *Social Anthropology* 24(2): 200-204.

Papataxiarchis, Evthimios. 2016. "Unwrapping solidarity? Society reborn in austerity." *Social Anthropology* 24(2): 205-210.

SECTION FIVE (Two weeks) - Minorities, Migrants and Refugees.

Baldwin-Edwards, Martin. 2003. "Oxi to Oxi Day." EUMC briefing.

Cabot, Heath. 2013. The social aesthetics of eligibility: NGO aid and indeterminacy in the Greek asylum process. *American Ethnologist*, 40(3): pp 452-466.

Cabot, Heath. 2018. "From the Twilight Zone to the Limelight: Shifting Terrains of Asylum and Rights in Greece." In *Living Under Austerity: Greek Society in Crisis*, Evdoxios Doxiadis and Aimee Placas, eds. New York: Berghahn.

Clogg, Richard. 2002. "Introduction" in *Minorities in Greece : Aspects of a Plural Society*. London: Hurst & Co. pp ix-xvii.

Gropas, Ruby and Anna Triandafyllidou. 2009. "Immigrant and Political Life in Greece: Between Political Patronage and the Search for Inclusion." Report, Eliamep.

Hickey, Cameron. 2006. *Garlic and Watermelons*. (documentary film).
<https://vimeo.com/26635441>

Kambouri, Nelli, and Alexandra Zavos. 2010. "On the Frontiers of Citizenship: Considering the Case of Konstantina Kuneva and the Intersections between Gender, Migration and Labour in Greece." *Feminist Review* 94 (1): 148–155.

Karakasidou, Anastasia. 2002. "Cultural Illegitimacy in Greece: The Slavo-Macedonian 'Non-Minority'." in *Minorities in Greece : Aspects of a Plural Society* (Richard Clogg ed), pp 122-150.

Papoudakis, Fotini. 2015. "Civil Society Development in Microcosm: The Case of Anavra Village, Greece." In *Austerity and the Third Sector in Greece: Civil Society at the the European Frontline*, Jennifer Clarke, Asteris Huliaras and Dimitri Sotiropoulos, eds. Surrey, UK: Ashgate. pp 215-236.

Zavos, Alexandra. 2011. "Hunger striking for rights: the alien politics of immigrant protest ." *Hot Spots: Beyond the Greek Crisis*. Cultural Anthropology blog.
<https://culanth.org/fieldsights/249-hunger-striking-for-rights-the-alien-politics-of-immigrant-protest>

SECTION SIX - The environment.

Botetzagias, Iosif and Eirini Koutiva. 2015. "When Best is Not Enough: Greek Environmental NGOs and their Donors amidst the Economic Crisis" In *Austerity and the Third Sector in Greece: Civil Society at the the European Frontline*, Jennifer Clarke, Asteris Huliaras and Dimitri Sotiropoulos, eds. Surrey, UK: Ashgate. pp 125-145.

Christopoulou, Ioli and Roumeliotou, Vivi. 2006. "Uniting People through Nature in Southeast Europe: The Role (and Limits) of Nongovernmental Organizations in the Transboundary Prespa Park." *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies* 6(3): 335 – 354.

Tsaliki, Liza. 2010. "Technologies of Political Mobilization and Civil Society in Greece: The Wildfires of Summer 2007." *The International Journal of Research into New Media Technologies* 16(2): 151-161.

Plantzos, D. 2012. "The Kouros of Keratea: Constructing Subaltern Pasts in Contemporary Greece." *Journal of Social Archaeology* 12(2): 220–244.

Roumeliotis, Spyros & Nikoleta Jones. 2010. "Volunteerism in the context of environmental nongovernmental organizations in Greece." *International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences* 4(12): 27–34.

SECTION SEVEN - Family Law, Gender, Sexuality, and social inclusion.

Carastathis, Anna. 2015. "the politics of austerity and the affective economy of hostility: racialised gendered violence and crises of belonging in Greece." *feminist review* 109(1): 73-95.

Davaki, Konstantina. 2013. *Report: The Policy on Gender Equality in Greece*. Directorate-General for Internal Policies, European Parliament.

Faubion, James. 1993. "Men are Not Always What They Seem: From Sexual Modernization toward Sexual Modernity," in *Modern Greek Lessons*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp 213-241.

Karamessini, Maria. 2013. "Structural Crisis and Adjustment in Greece." In *Women and austerity: The economic crisis and the future for gender equality*, ed. Maria Karamessini and Jill Rubery. Routledge.

Kyriazis, Nota. 1995. "Feminism and the Status of Women in Greece." in *Greece Prepares for the Twenty-First Century*, Dimitri Conostas and Theofanis Stavrou eds. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Miltos, Pavlou. 2005. "Homophobia in Greece; Love for Equality." Report from I-Red Institute for Rights, Equality, and Diversity.

Riedel, Brian. 2005. "Elsewheres: Greek LGBT Activists and the Imagination of a Movement," Ph.D dissertation, selections (on reserve in library).

SECTION EIGHT - The Greek Orthodox Church and the State.

Danopoulos, Constantine. 2004. "Religion, civil society, and democracy in Orthodox Greece," *Journal of Southern Europe and the Balkans*, 6 (1): pp 41- 55.

Dellassoudas, Lavrendios G. 2000. "Church and Social Integration of Disabled People." *Greek Orthodox Theological Review* 45(1/4): 597-627.

Fokas, Effie. 2010. "The Greek Orthodox Church as an Agent of Welfare-the case of Thiva and Livadeia." In *Churches in Europe as Agents of Welfare-England, Germany, France, Italy and Greece, Vol.2*, 218-264.

Leontis, Artemis. 2009. "Chapter 2: Religion." in *Culture and Customs of Greece*.

Makris, Gerasimos, and Dimitris Bekridakis. 2013. "The Greek Orthodox Church and the economic crisis since 2009." *International journal for the Study of the Christian Church* 13 (2) : pp 111-132.

Stathopoulou, Theoni. 2010. "Faith and Trust." In *Orthodox Christianity in 21st Century Greece: The Role of Religion in Culture, Ethnicity, and Politics*. Victor Roudometof and Vasilios Makrides, eds. Ashgate.

Zambeta, Evie. 2000. "Religion and National Identity in Greek Education," *Intercultural Education* 11(2).

FINAL SECTION – Class presentations.