

**CLAG 306 Advanced Ancient Greek II: Attic Poetry**  
**Spring Semester 2023**

**Course Instructor:**

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*The Pronomos Vase*  
Attic Red-Figure Volute-Crater, ca. 400 BC  
Naples, Museo Nazionale Archeologico

## Required Text

A comedy or tragedy (a copy of the original text will be provided in class)

## Recommended Text

Liddell H. G. & Scott R., *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon*

Smyth H.W., *Greek Grammar*, Oxford 2010

## Course Description

This course is intended to introduce the student to the work of the great tragedians of the fifth century BC (Aeschylus, Euripides, Sophocles) or the comedies of the most important poet of the Old Attic Comedy, Aristophanes.

Ancient Greek culture was a highly performative one. Life in an ancient Greek city can be viewed as an extension of the theatrical stage: by attending the city-council, debating for or against war, participating in religious festivals, celebrating the birth of a new family member or mourning for those gone, men and women presented their lives as if on a stage. Thus, an entire city becomes a theater.

In a similar way, the plays of the great poets of the period echo the daily life of the Greek people and also (re)create scenes that reach the unbelievable or the divine. We, the modern readers, take the role of the audience but also become involved in this performance every time we visit a site or read and reflect upon the verses of a play.

This course will be the means to bridge the gap between today and the Greek past in its physical and mental context.

## Learning Objectives and Activities

It is the overall purpose of the course not only to improve your reading skills but also to make you “feel” the spirit of the play, the ethics of its characters, and its role in the history of Greece and the literature produced there. Having learned the basics of Ancient Greek at your home institutions, you will improve, with my assistance, your reading skills by translating as much Greek as possible and at the same time expanding your knowledge of the grammar and syntax of the language. Exams in writing, exercises on the board, sight-reading and meter exercises will be important components of the course.

We will also examine the author’s language and style in comparison to that of contemporary authors. Aspects pertaining to the place of the text in its historical context will be addressed: how does the work relate to the events of the period during which it was written, what was its purpose, does it reflect the values of the society and its people, what values are those, what are the author’s views with regard to contemporary politics, and so on. For that reason, you will be asked to critically approach and comment on select articles of modern scholarship.

As part of our class activities, we will visit and have a class meeting at Herodes’ Odeion or the Theater of Dionysus, where the City Dionysia festival was celebrated and the great tragedians competed!!

Try to allow about 3 hours per night for homework. The more study time put in early on, the less pain and suffering later on. You are encouraged to consult with the instructor on all matters pertaining to the course: difficulties in mastering the language, grammar, and meter of the text, as well as complications in proceeding through the materials of the course.

## Course Requirements and Exams

**Class Attendance:** Ancient Greek is a difficult language to master and CYA regards attendance in class as essential. Therefore, it is highly important that you attend class. You are expected to report for classes promptly. Absences are recorded and have consequences. Illness or other such compelling reasons, which result in absences should be reported immediately in the Student Affairs Office.

**Participation:** Your participation and proper conduct are vitally important to your success in this course: they are expected and **graded**. You are expected to have all assignments completed (translation, review of modern scholarship, and so on) before you come to class. Do not be afraid to ask questions, volunteer to translate or answer questions.

**Exams:** There will be six quizzes and a midterm exam. Each quiz will cover the previous reading assignment translated in class. It will consist of translation (one passage, ca. 15 lines long), grammar and syntax questions. The lowest quiz will be dropped. The midterm exam will consist of the translation of 4 out of 5 passages already discussed in class, 15 lines long each, the sight translation of a short passage, for which some vocabulary will be given, grammar and syntax questions.

**N.B. MAKEUPS WILL BE GIVEN ONLY FOR VALID EXCUSES.**

**Research Paper and Presentation:**

Students are expected to write one research paper of about 3000 words (Times New Roman, size 12, double-spaced) excluding bibliography. Students can choose their own topic or select one in discussion with the instructor. Individual titles and bibliography will be agreed after consultation. You are encouraged to discuss research topics with the instructor by **early March** (at the very latest).

The paper will be graded on:

- originality of thought
- critical analysis of an aspect or aspects of the work
- clarity of argument and structure
- variety of evidence and bibliography used

Students are also expected to make an oral presentation of their topic in class. That should be about 15 minutes long, and you should be ready to answer questions and discuss issues pertaining to your topic with the instructor and your colleagues.

Those who wish to turn in rough drafts of their papers for consultation are welcomed to do so by **Friday, May 5**.

The deadline for the submission of the final research paper is **Friday, May 19**.

## Grading and Evaluation

Your grade for this course will be based on the following distribution:

- 30% Research Paper
- 10% Paper Presentation
- 25% Midterm
- 20% Quizzes
- 15% Participation-Attendance

### Grading Scale:

A+ 100-98	B+ 89-87	C+ 79-77	D+ 69-67	F 59-
A 97-93	B 86-83	C 76-73	D 66-63	
A- 92-90	B- 82-80	C- 72-70	D- 62-60	

**Please note: in the name of fairness to all students, there will be no extra points awarded, even if you are very close to a higher letter grade.**

### Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a registered (with your home institution) student with a disability and you are entitled to learning accommodation, please inform the Director of Academic Affairs and make sure that your school forwards the necessary documentation.

## Class Schedule

Class Week	Day/Date	Assignments	Other Events
1	Jan 30-Feb 5		
2	Feb 6-12	- Quiz 1 (Feb 8)	
3	Feb 13-19		Field Study: Peloponnese (Feb 14-18)
4	Feb 20-26	- Quiz 2 (Feb 22)	
5	Feb 27-Mar 5		- Clean Monday: Holiday (Mar 7) - Optional Study: Venice, Ravenna (Mar 3-5)
6	Mar 6-12	- Quiz 3 (Mar 8)	Reading Day (Mar 10)
7	Mar 13-19	- Midterm Exam (Mar 13)	Optional Study: Rhodes (Mar 17-19)
8	Mar 20-26	- Quiz 4 (Mar 22)	
9	Mar 27-Apr 2	- Paper Presentations (Mar 27)	Field Study: Northern Greece-Thessaloniki (Mar 28-Apr 1)
10	Apr 3-9		Spring Recess (Apr 7-17)
11	Apr 10-16	NO CLASS	
12	Apr 17-23	- Quiz 5 (Apr 19)	Optional Study: Crete (Apr 21-23)
13	Apr 24-30		
14	May 1-7	- Quiz 6 (May 3)	May Day: Holiday (May 1)
15	May 8-14	- Deadline for Submission of Paper Draft (May 5)	- CYA Student Conference (May 8-9) - Reading Day (May 12)

**Deadline for submission of final paper: Friday, May 19**

N.B.: *Course schedule, in terms of subjects and readings, may be subject to change to benefit student learning and in keeping up to date with current research*

**N.B.**

**The use of cell phones is prohibited during class time. You may use your computers but ONLY for class-related purposes.**

**Food is not allowed in classrooms. Beverages are permitted, but be sure to clean up any mess you make.**