

## CLAG 101 Beginning Ancient Greek (1<sup>st</sup> semester) Fall Semester 2023



### Course Instructor:

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### Course Description

#### ❖ Language in Use

*Beginning Ancient Greek* introduces students to classical Greek, applying traditional as well as innovative methods. Students will become acquainted with the language, style and grammatical and syntactical structures which form the core of Attic Greek. Through a systematic and in-depth presentation of vocabulary and language forms students will develop their skills in reading, comprehension and translation of phrases and, eventually, small passages in classical Greek. Assisted by the instructor, students will also be encouraged to explore the impact of style and to discover the connections between linguistic features of Greek and modern languages which they already master.

Apart from the exercises in our textbook, students who will begin ancient Greek at CYA will have the opportunity to develop their language skills through additional quizzes, puzzles and language-games, designed especially for them. We consider active teaching and learning as vital in order to support and boost memorizing and apprehension of this demanding, but also fascinating language. Another innovative element of the course is that the material used will consist not only of literary sources, but also of short inscriptions carved in a variety of media (e.g. stone, ostraca, vases) and simple texts written on coins and papyri.

#### ❖ Language in Context

It is our belief at the CYA that language study should not be detached from other cultural aspects of the ancient world. Classical Greek was spoken and written by people who breathed, thought and acted in a composite environment and, for us, it constitutes an integral part of the learning process to demonstrate the interrelations between ancient Greek language and the culture, society and history of the Greek and Graeco-Roman world. Thus, in each chapter under discussion, apart from dealing with specific linguistic phenomena, we will address a topic based on our subject-matter and at the same time related to life in the ancient Greek polis or metropolis (e.g. marriage and family, kingship and power, intellectuals and art)

## ❖ Language in Action

Learning classical languages at CYA offers students a unique opportunity to learn language in action. We are not concerned only with what you learn but also with *how* you learn it. For this reason we have introduced a series of in-class and on-site activities: *Active Learning Game Activities*

Flash Cards (Greek to English, English to Greek): vocabulary skills, memory abilities, retrieving and processing new knowledge

Shoots and Ladders: grammar theory, intensive implementation of grammar knowledge

Trivial Pursuit: grammar theory, intensive implementation of grammar knowledge

Hangman: vocabulary skills, memory abilities, retrieving and processing new knowledge

Crosswords: vocabulary skills, memory abilities, retrieving and processing new knowledge *On-site Activities*

Our classes will not be confined to the classroom, which is usually reserved for language teaching, but, occasionally, they will take place outdoors. Visits to ancient sites (such as the Theater of Dionysus or the Odeion of Herodes Atticus in Athens) and museums (e.g. the Epigraphical Museum, the Numismatic Museum, the National Archaeological Museum) will enhance and enrich the process of language learning, making the study of ancient Greek a vigorous experience.

## Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Read, translate and analyze into fluent English simple texts of original classical Greek
- Identify the ways in which meaning is conveyed in ancient Greek by analysis of language structures and comparison with English
- Access and evaluate appropriate resources, e.g. dictionaries, word lists, commentaries, grammar and syntax references, websites
- Utilize the acquired knowledge in order to proceed to independent translation of phrases and small passages
- Perceive how classical Greek works as a system of significations
- Explain and discuss key features of the ancient Greek world as learned through the study of language

## Course Requirements

The course assumes no previous knowledge of Greek or other inflected languages. Yet, since ancient Greek is demanding, you are strongly encouraged to allow 2 hours per day for homework. In order to master classical Greek it is important to introduce its study into your daily schedule. Studying every day will enhance your understanding, deepen and consolidate your knowledge and, of course, you will feel more confident as regards the tests and the final exams. Thus, maintaining a systematic learning pace is crucial for the successful completion of this course.

## Tests and Exams

In this course you will have weekly quizzes after the completion of each book chapter, a midterm and the final exam. Quizzes will test your skills in grammar, syntax and translation of phrases and/or small passages from ancient Greek into English and vice versa. In the midterm and final exams you will be asked to demonstrate your knowledge in a series of more composite exercises (translation, prose composition, syntax and vocabulary)

## Grading and Evaluation

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

30% Final  
30% Midterm  
25% Quiz  
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	

**Class Participation:**

You are expected to participate in class, speak up, ask questions and contribute to the discussions. Collaborative discourse is a vital element of this course and thus you are encouraged to be curious, have different interpretations and, of course, share your thoughts. Your active presence in the classroom will be graded.

**Attendance:**

Class attendance is required. Our course is designed to promote teamwork; one of its methodological tools is to create a small community between the co-students and the instructor who all strive to achieve a specific goal, while also having fun. Consequently your attendance is essential to the educational objectives of this course. 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.

**Policy on Original Work:**

Unless otherwise specified, all submitted work must be your own, original work. Any excerpts from the work of others must be clearly identified as a quotation, and a proper citation provided. (Check Student handbook, pg 9)

**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.

**Books**

A.H. Groton, 2013<sup>4</sup>, *From Alpha to Omega: A Beginning Course in Classical Greek*, Newburyport, MA: Focus Publishing

A.H. Groton, J.M. May, 2014, *46 Stories in Classical Greek*, Newburyport, MA: Focus Publishing

**Online Resources**

Packard Humanities Institute, Greek Epigraphy <http://epigraphy.packhum.org/>

Imagining Inscriptions <http://www.csad.ox.ac.uk/CSAD/Catalogue.html>

Attic Inscriptions Online <https://www.atticinscriptions.com/>

L'Année Philologique <http://www.annee-philologique.com/>

The Ancient World Online <http://ancientworldonline.blogspot.gr/>

## Class Schedule

Week	Day/Date	Topic / Readings / Assignments Due
1	Sept 4-6	In Week 1 students will be introduced to the Greek alphabet, the names of its letters and the sounds which represent them. After a short presentation of the historical evolution of Greek, we will discuss the particularities of the Greek alphabet, the various classifications of consonants and vowels, the breathings used and issues of punctuation. We will also deal with the types and position of accents and students will test their knowledge in a variety of exercises. <i>Required reading:</i> From Alpha to Omega ch. 1-2
2	Sept 11	Accents <i>Required reading:</i> From Alpha to Omega ch. 2 Sept 13-16 Field-Study Crete
3	Sept 18-20	During the third week students will explore further aspects of the accenting system. They will learn to distinguish between long and short syllables and they will apply the general principles of accenting in words and small phrases. Furthermore they will delve into the concept of the parts of speech: starting with references and parallels to English, we will survey the Greek parts of speech. First we will focus on the verb and its properties and we will examine the present active indicative of the $\omega$ -verbs. <i>Required reading:</i> From Alpha to Omega ch. 2-3
4	Sept 25-27	In week 4 we will discuss the ways ancient Greeks expressed commands and gave instructions using the $\omega$ -verbs. Moreover we will review the features of the Greek nouns, focusing on the first declension. During this week students will also survey the Greek articles and they will be introduced to some aspects of syntax and sentence formation. <i>Required reading:</i> From Alpha to Omega ch. 3-4
5	Oct 2-4	During week 5 students will expand and consolidate their knowledge of the first declension nouns. They will also master the articulation of the future tense in Greek, with the $\omega$ -verbs serving again as a paradigm. <i>Required reading:</i> From Alpha to Omega ch. 5-6; Forty-six stories in classical Greek ch. 5-6
6	Oct 9-11	Apart from explaining the particularities of the second declension (which are fewer than the first), during this week students will learn how the Greeks ascribed certain attributes to people, objects or ideas. In other words, they will approach the challenging world of adjectives, their declension and their uses in specific contexts. <i>Required reading:</i> From Alpha to Omega ch. 7-8; Forty-six stories in classical Greek ch. 7-8

7	Oct 16-18	<p>During this week we will consider the grammatical formulation of actions happening in the past. We will also address the concept of comparison, contrast and parallelism and its expressions in simple and extended clauses.  <i>Required reading:</i> From Alpha to Omega ch. 10; Forty-six stories in classical Greek ch. 10</p> <p>MIDTERM EXAM</p>
	20-29	FALL BREAK
8	Oct 30-Nov 1	<p>This week we will analyze the formulation and uses of the middle and passive voice, when making a statement and when giving an order, regarding the present or the future. Secondly, we will investigate some of the various significations of prepositions and prepositional phrases.  <i>Required reading:</i> From Alpha to Omega ch. 11; Forty-six stories in classical Greek ch. 11</p>
8	Nov 6	<p>Having learned sufficient features of the <math>\omega</math>-verbs, this week we will proceed to the study of a slightly irregular, but definitively fundamental verb, the verb "to be". Moreover we will survey the ways Greeks singled out something for attention, using either adjectives or pronouns, and we will examine their forms and their position in a sentence.  <i>Required reading:</i> From Alpha to Omega ch. 12-13; Forty-six stories in classical Greek ch. 12-13            Field-Study Peloponnese</p>
9	Nov 13-15	<p>We will examine another category of Greek verbs, the so-called contract verbs. Students will study their formulation and they will learn how to conjugate and use them in Greek-to-English and English-to-Greek sentences  <i>Required reading:</i> From Alpha to Omega ch. 15; Forty-six stories in classical Greek ch. 15</p>
10	Nov 20-22	<p>Leaving briefly the world of Greek verbs, this week we will revisit nouns and specifically a large category which is called the third declension. We will review its special features and subcategories, while students will have the opportunity to test their knowledge in a variety of exercises.  <i>Required reading:</i> From Alpha to Omega ch. 16-17; Forty-six stories in classical Greek ch. 16-17</p> <p>Nov 23-36: THANKSGIVING BREAK</p>
11	Nov 27-29	<p>Our module finishes with the examination of the aorist forms of the <math>-\omega</math> verbs in both active and middle voice. Some aspects of syntax will also be discussed, while students, guided by the instructor, will revisit features of nouns and verbs discussed in previous lessons.  <i>Required reading:</i> From Alpha to Omega ch. 18; Forty-six stories in classical Greek ch. 18</p>
12	Dec 4-6	Review week
13	Dec 11-13	FINALS

**Final Exam:** TBA

*N.B. Course schedule, in terms of subjects and readings, may be subject to change to benefit student learning*

## **Beginning Ancient Greek – Some Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What do I need to bring in this class?**

Your two course books, a notebook and a pen/pencil. Try not to forget your notebook: we will be working much based on your own notes and homework exercises, so, if you leave it at home, you won't be able to integrate fully into the classroom experience.

Since we will be using grammar and syntax charts often, also bring some color markers! It has been shown that the use of colors triggers memory and it can improve your reading and learning comprehension!

A file folder will prove to be really useful, so that you organize better the assignments that I will correct and return to you every week, and also the additional material that I will distribute in class. By keeping organized, you will highly increase your productivity for this class: you will save time looking for things and you will feel more confident!

Most importantly! Come to class with a positive mood and a mind eager to learn! See each class as a unique chance to discover more, to practice your already acquired knowledge and to communicate with your colleagues and your instructor!

### **Can I use electronic devices in class?**

Recent studies have demonstrated that the use of electronic devices might hamper the learning pace for a large number of students and they have related it to poorer class performance. Moreover, research suggests that note-taking on laptops or other devices is less effective than when done by hand. Actually, even having our cell phones on the table in front of us might diminish our learning abilities!

This course encourages active learning and active student engagement via non-electronic means (e.g. games, student presentations and co-operative techniques) and so the use of mobile phones, tablets, laptops and eBooks is not permitted during class.

### **What is the homework for this course?**

#### *Drills*

There will be many short-term drills assigned in class, which I will expect you to return to me in the next class. These exercises will be assigned to each student or to groups of students but either way they should be handed in on time.

The short-term drills will include:

- reading short sentences and/or short texts in Greek
- translating short sentences and/or short texts from Greek to English
- translating short sentences from English to Greek
- memorizing vocabulary
- memorizing grammar theory
- producing your own Greek in terms of conjugating and/or declining parts of speech

#### *Quizzes*

There will be a 20-30 min quiz each week. It will include all the material discussed during the previous week and no material presented during the current week (unless otherwise agreed between students and instructor). Of course we can add as many non-graded quizzes as you wish in order to practice your acquired skills.

Quizzes help you retrieve knowledge from memory, assess what you have learned and measure your overall progress. In other words, they can provide you with strong motivation: try to view them not as a source of anxiety but as a tool to organize and retain successfully what you have learned.

*Practice makes Perfect!*

Plan to spend 10 hours per week on average to complete the assignments. Try to devote some time *every day* to this course. Your everyday practice is important not only for the progress of each one of you individually but also so that you tune in with the rest of the learning team.

### **How can I succeed in this course?**

Although this is your very first contact with ancient Greek, which suggests that lots of information will be directed from me to you, this class is designed to be as highly interactive as possible.

The key to the success for this course is PARTICIPATION. Participation can actually take many different forms:

Ask questions, answer questions, take notes, discuss with the instructor and your fellow students, contribute your ideas and thoughts, play the games that have been designed especially for this course, write on board, cooperate with your fellow students, teach each other, feel inspired and inspire others!

Doing your homework will boost your participation: as you will see, many times the assigned exercises serve as the basis for the next day's discussion; if you have prepared them, you will feel more confident and more eager to participate.

Ancient Greek is an old discipline that needs fresh approaches! Your glimpse is valuable!

### **3 Ways to get the most out of this class!**

- Read the Greek aloud as often as your living/studying condition allows
- Make Greek part of your daily routine! Do an assignment, even a small one, every day!
- Form a study group and meet up with other students to prepare for class

