

MGKL 101C | Beginning Modern Greek Language and Culture I

Course Description

Elementary Modern Greek for beginners or for those with very little knowledge of the language. The primary aim of this course is to enable students: a) to communicate in the language and handle basic daily life situations; b) to read in the language; c) to acquire daily vocabulary and basic grammatical structures and d) to write simple letters and brief notes.

This course focuses on developing students' oral language proficiency through different activities and daily life interactions inside and outside the classroom (e.g. role-playing, skits, film clips, internet searches, advertisements, signs, graffiti, games, songs, neighborhood walks, treasure hunt, interactions with locals, group projects, short presentations etc.)

Through different aspects of language practice, as well as etymological, historical and cultural information that complement language instruction, students become familiar with the various facets of Modern Greek culture and society, so that they can move comfortably and sensitively within the host society and become an integrated part of it.

This course has a heavier load than the regular language class (MGKL 101) since it requires the completion of the language material and additional readings in English related to the cultural topics of the course, two oral presentations and two papers of 6-8 pages.

Learning Goals

- Know enough Greek to live among Greeks without feeling linguistically isolated
- Read and understand signs, labels, announcements, and easy texts
- Listen, understand, speak, and participate in daily life
- Be able to engage in basic everyday conversations with a Greek, while applying the proper cultural sensitivities relevant to the local society
- Acquire a basic knowledge and understanding of Greek history, current events, and culture
- Move comfortably and sensitively in the host society

Course outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Introduce and give information about themselves
- Describe their family and friends
- Express likes and dislikes
- Order in a café and a restaurant
- Buy things at a kiosk or other small shops
- Ask for the bill, pay and get the change
- Ask for and understand basic directions
- Describe their daily routine

The above follow the [guidelines of the Common European Framework of References for Languages \(Council of Europe, 2020\)](https://rm.coe.int/common-european-framework-of-reference-for-languages-learning-teaching/16809ea0d4)

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In the MGKL-C 101, level students acquire part of the A1 level requirements.

Teaching approach and expectations

Studying the language while living in the country and starting from scratch with an unfamiliar language is a very different process than what most students have experienced back home. It is an eye-opener, if students remain open-minded and curious as they embark in this journey that we undertake together.

This class provides a protected environment and comfortable classroom atmosphere so students can feel confident and safe to practice in the language and express their opinions and views. The teaching style is interactive which means no lecturing, more participation, group work, sharing, and practice. The purpose of this course is to use Athens as an extended classroom.

Textbooks, course materials & other resources

Required language textbooks

1. Triantafyllidou, L., Kokkinidou, M., Takouda, Ch., Sehidou, I. & Stavrianaki, K. (2021) *Ελληνικά στο Πι και Φι 1 (Ellinika sto Pi kai Fi 1 =Modern Greek in no time)*. Athens: Gutenberg.
2. Triantafyllidou, L. & Anagnostopoulou, A. (2011). *Λοιπόν, τι λες; (Lipon, ti les? = So what do you say? (Companion book)*. Athens: Nostos.

Culture Textbooks

1. Leontis, A. (2009). *Culture and Customs of Greece*. Westport, CT & London: Greenwood Press. (Abbreviation as *C+C of Greece*)
2. Lord, M. et al. (2004). *Insight Guides: Greece*. Houghton Mifflin Company. APA Publications. (Abbreviation as *Insight Guides*)

Additional resources and materials

Cultural information is available on the course Moodle and at the library. (see below)

Class trips - Urban walks

- Urban walk 1: to Irodou Attikou, National Garden, Parliament, Syntagma and back
- Urban walk 2: Kolonaki, Panepistimiou str. (The Trilogy Buildings: National Library, University of Athens, Academy of Athens), Omonoia, Athinas st., Central Market, Monastiraki, Ermou and back.
- Urban walk 3: Visit to the Folk Instrument Museum in Plaka or to the National Gallery, Vas Konstantinou Ave. 50. <https://www.nationalgallery.gr/el/>

Proposed visits & projects to choose and do on their own

- Drink coffee and/or dining out: Order in Greek
- Go to an open air movie theater
- Explore a neighborhood and discover its shops and corners
- Visit the garden of the Presidential Mansion and the National Garden
- Visit a Greek school or the university campus
- Watch a Greek movie or read a Greek novel (check at the library)
- Interview a Greek family
- Go to a soccer game or other athletics event
- Go to the open air market (Laiki)
- Visit a Greek orthodox church and/or attend a mess
- Visit the 1st cemetery of Athens
- Visit traditional coffee shops vs. café and cafeterias
- Visit a tourist and a remote island in the Aegean
- Visit a modern art exhibition or gallery

Course Requirements and Assessment

CYA Attendance Policy

CYA regards attendance in class and on-site as essential, so attendance at all scheduled meetings is required. All absences are recorded and have consequences that may affect your grade.

Class participation and performance covers:

- Level of participation and ability/willingness to answer questions in class
- Involvement in class and group work & discussions
- Reading, speaking and pronunciation skills

The language lab may support and help overcome any language challenge throughout the semester.

Homework: Any material/exercises from your book covered in class orally will be written homework (HW) to be completed until the following session. Students are expected to do/write the exercises indicated in class, as well as some practice tests available in the Moodle.

Oral Presentations: Students are asked to do an oral presentation at the mid and at the end of the semester on a topic of their preference which they **ACT** (no reading from written script) in class (skits, sketches, songs). They can work on their own or preferably in small groups.

Grading

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

- Class participation and attendance: 20%
- Midterm written and oral language test: 20%
- Final written and oral language test: 20%
- Midterm cultural powerpoint in class presentation: 20%
- Final cultural powerpoint in class presentation: 20%

Policy on Assignments and Make-up Work

Details about assignments and exams will be given in advance. No late assignments or make-up exams unless discussed by the instructor in advance. If you are unable to come to class, please inform the instructor and administration.

Important dates

Projects & midterm oral presentations: Week 6

Final Oral Presentations: Week 12

Final Exam: TBA

CYA MGKL101-C Language Instruction Weekly Schedule. Part of Level A1 according to CERFL¹

Thematic Units	Communicative tasks/Speech acts	Grammar	Vocabulary	Role playing, presentations, and projects	Cultural elements Brief discussions
Weeks 1-3 Language Greetings Introductions <i>Intro Unit</i> <i>Unit 1</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I greet • I introduce myself • I give information about myself (name and occupation etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Greek alphabet • Auxiliary verb to be in present • Conjugation A verbs in present tense, affirmative and negative • Definite and indefinite articles in nominative singular case • Nouns: masc., fem., neuter, nominative singular, ending in -ος-ας-ης /-α-η/-ο-ι-μα • Numbers (1-100) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greetings • What's your name? • How are you? • Where are you from? • Verbs (to want, to wait for, to know, to study, to have, to live, to work, to go etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students introduce each other exchanging basic information about themselves • Role-playing: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> At a party: I introduce myself and get to know other people. At a kiosk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body language • Signs • Gestures • Greetings
Week 1 <i>Culture</i>	Introduction to Greece: Population, landscape, climate, products, environment				
Weeks 4-5 Language Let's go <i>Unit 2</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I describe myself (name, age, nationality, languages I speak etc.) • I describe my whereabouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbs conjugations B1 (-άω/-ώ) • Irregular verbs (λέω, πάω, ακούω, τρώω κτλ.) • Nouns: accusative of masc, fem, neuter, singular in -ος-ας-ης /-α-η /-ο-ι-μα • Prepositions (με, σε, για, από) + accusative case • Personal pronouns-direct object (τον, την, το) • Indefinite articles in nominative & accusative case (ένας-μια-ένα) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Languages & nationalities • Transportation • Cities, countries and whereabouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do you go? How? • What languages do you speak? • What music do you listen to etc.? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transportation in Athens • Validate your ticket! • On the bus, metro, trolley, tram: Students take public transportation on their own and report in class their trips.
Week 5	Modern Greek Society and Family: Family law and gender roles				

¹ CERF: Common European Framework for Languages, www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/source/framework_en.pdf

Thematic Units	Communicative tasks/Speech acts	Grammar	Vocabulary	Role playing, presentations, and projects	Cultural elements Brief discussions
Culture	Cultural practices, leisure & holidays Hospitality in Greece, travel, tourism, and the environment				
Week 6 <i>Language</i>			<input type="checkbox"/> MIDTERM WRITTEN LANGUAGE EXAM Units 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> MIDTERM ORAL PRESENTATIONS (language & culture)	
Weeks 7-8 <i>Language</i> Family Friends <i>Unit 3</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I describe my family and friends • I ask for basic directions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plurals of nouns -ος-ας-ης /-α-η /-ο -ι-μα • Numbers 1,3 & 4 • Personal pronouns: Direct object • Possessive pronouns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family members • Occupations • Basic directions • Objects in class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students bring a family photo and present their family in class. • Students ask each other questions about their family • Students ask about basic places in town 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the family in the Greek society • Family law in Greece • Friends and “parea” in Greece <input type="checkbox"/> MIDTERM ORAL PRESENTATIONS
Weeks 9-10 <i>Language</i> At the café-tavern-restaurant <i>Unit 4</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I order in a café or in a tavern • I ask for the bill, I pay and get the change • I express likes and dislikes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbs conjugation B2 (-ώ) • Verb I like • Singular and plural of adjectives: masc, fem, neuter endings in -ος, -α-η, -ο • Agreement with nouns • Numbers 100-1.000.000.000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinks • Beverages • Food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students practice in groups ordering in a café and/or a tavern • Order over the phone pizza or souvlaki • Dinner in a tavern: Students order in Greek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tipping in Greece • Who pays the bill? • Sharing food
Week 9 <i>Culture</i>	The language question The Greek educational system				
Week 11 <i>Language</i> <i>Unit 5</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral practice in groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your favorite place in Athens
Week 12 <i>Language</i> <i>Culture</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review 	FINAL ORAL PRESENTATIONS (language & culture)	

Bibliography and additional resources

Additional language resources and materials

1. Maggana, A. (2021). *Αυτό ακριβώς! (Level A) (Exactly this!)* Athens: Grigori
2. Antoniou, M., Astara, B. & Detsoudi, Z. (2014). *Τα λέμε...Ελληνικά!* Athens: Grigori.
3. Dimitra, D. & Papahimona, M. (2002). *Greek Now 1+1 (Ελληνικά Τώρα 1+1)*. Athens: Nostos.
4. Dimitra, D. & Papahimona, M. (2002). *Workbook 1 (Τετράδιο Ασκήσεων 1)*. Athens: Nostos.
5. Greek films and documentaries at the library with English subtitles.
6. Cultural information is available on the Forum of the course in Moodle.
7. Check also a [previous neighborhood walk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8iYn5TDqnM). (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8iYn5TDqnM)

Additional bibliography available at the library for culture

- Amvrazi, A. *111 Places in Athens that you shouldn't miss*. Emons:
- Beaton, R. (2029). *Greece: Biography of a Modern Nation*. London: Penguin Books.
- Broome, B. J. (1996). *Exploring the Greek Mosaic: A Guide to Intercultural Communication in Greece*. Yarmouth, MN: Intercultural Press.
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- Hamilakis, Y. (2009). *The nation and its Ruins: Antiquity, Archeology, and National Imagination in Greece*. Oxford University Press.
- Kalyvas, S. (2015). *Modern Greece: What everyone needs to know*. Oxford University Press.
- Kurth, J. & Petras, J. (1993). *Mediterranean Paradoxes: The Politics and Social Structure of Southern Europe*. Providence/Oxford: Berg.
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- Noris, M. (2019). *Greek to Me - Adventures of the Comma Queen*. WWW Norton & Co.
- Panourgia, N. (1995). *Fragments of Death, Fables of Identity. An Athenian Anthropography*. Madison, WI: The University of Wisconsin Press.
- Paxson, H. (2004). *Making Modern Mothers: Ethics and Family Planning in Urban Greece*. Berkley/L.A./London: University of California Press.
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- Smith, M. L. (2004). *Athens: A Cultural and Literary History*. Cities of the Imagination Series. Northampton, MA: Interlink Books.
- Theodossopoulos, D. (2003). *Troubles with Turtles: Cultural Understandings of the Environment on a Greek Island*. New York/Oxford: Berghahn Books.
- Van Dyck, K. (2017). *Austerity Measures: The New Greek Poetry*. NYRB/Poets.
- Also Greek novels translated into English are available at CYA library.
- Church, B. (1999). *Learn Greek in 25 years: A Crash Course for the Linguistically Challenged*. Athens, Greece: Athens News.