

MGKL 101 | Beginning Modern Greek 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.

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
- Buy fruits, vegetables, groceries, and other items
- Ask for and understand basic directions
- Make reservations, buy a ticket and ask for information about places to travel
- Describe their daily routine, the weather, and circumstances around time

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 101, regular section, level students acquire 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 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.

OR

1. Dimitra, D. & Papahimona, M. (2002). *Greek Now 1+1 (Ελληνικά Τώρα 1+1)* and *Workbook 1 (Τετράδιο Ασκήσεων 1)*. Athens: Nostos.
2. Triantafyllidou, L. & Anagnostopoulou, A. (2011). *Λοιπόν, τι λες; (Lipon, ti les? = So what do you say?* (Companion book). Athens: Nostos.

Additional resources and materials

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

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

Participation is very important and is graded because it is part of the learning process.

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.

Projects: Projects are proposed during the semester (e.g. neighborhood walks or hunt, travel journal, newspaper, photo/label collection, watching a Greek film etc.). Create your own small newspaper or choose a film with English subtitles from the library, watch it and present it in class. Read about the period and the issues that present and share your opinion and findings with your classmates. You may show parts of the film during your presentation. Students work on their own or preferably in small groups.

Grading

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

- **Tests:** 20% (there will be comprehensive tests after the completion of 2 or 3 chapters in Moodle).
- **Homework** (written exercises, practice tests in Moodle & projects): 20%
- **Class participation and attendance:** 20%
- **Midterm & final oral presentations:** 20%
- **Final written exam:** 20%

CYA Policies and Regulations

Academic Accommodations

Students are required to submit an official letter from the office at their school that handles academic accommodations (generally the Office of Disability Services), or to have that office send a letter. Students who have submitted such a letter to CYA should also talk to their professors individually to discuss how these accommodations will work in each specific course.

Use of Laptops

In-class or onsite use of laptops and other devices is permitted if this facilitates course-related activities such as note-taking, looking up references, etc. Laptop or other device privileges will be suspended if devices are not used for class-related work.

Important dates

Projects & midterm oral presentations: Week 6

Final Oral Presentations: Week 12

Final Exam: TBA

CYA MGKL101 Regular Section Weekly Schedule - 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 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"> a. At a party: I introduce myself and get to know other people. b. At a kiosk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body language • Signs • Gestures • Greetings
Weeks 4 & 5 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.

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
Week 5 & 6 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 <p>➤ WRITTEN EXAM Units 1-3</p>	<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 <p>➤ MIDTERM ORAL PRESENTATIONS</p>
Week 7 & 8 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>Unit 5</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review 	<p>□ WRITTEN EXAM Units 3-5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oral practice in groups 	
Weeks 10-11 Daily routine At the market <i>Unit 6</i> <i>Part of Unit 7</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I describe my daily routine ● I speak about myself ● I buy fruits and vegetables, meat, fish and groceries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reflexive/middle voice verbs in -άμαι and -ομαι ● Adverbs of frequency <p>Intro to subjunctive of verbs A & B</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Time ● Days of the week ● Months & seasons ● Weather ● Fruits ● Vegetables ● Groceries ● Clothes ● Colors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Narrating our life in Athens and in Greece ● Check and talk about the weather in class (meteo.gr) ● Project/Assignment to a farmers’ market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What do people do every day in Greece? Patterns and daily routines. ● How do people shop there? Who are the vendors? ● Shopping in Athens: mall & big stores vs. small stores, Ermou street
Week 12	<p>➤ Review</p>	<p>➤ Review</p>	<p>➤ Review</p>	<p>➤ FINAL ORAL PRESENTATIONS</p>	<p>➤ What is your favorite place in Athens?</p>