

## CLAG 306 | Advanced Ancient Greek II: Attic Poetry Spring 2025

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### Required Text

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

### Recommended Texts

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 these performances 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

This course will primarily teach students to:

- Improve their reading of a known text
- Be comfortable with sight reading
- Recognize grammatical forms
- Analyze the syntax of simple and complex sentences
- Examine the language, meter, and dialect features of the ancient text
- Place the text in its historical and cultural context
- Recognize the role of the text in the history of Greece and the literature produced there
- Read and review modern scholarship and show where they stand with respect to it

### Course Requirements

**Class Contribution** – Class Contribution includes physical and mental presence in the classroom, arriving on time, preparation, and participation in class discussions. Class contribution is one of the most important factors for determining your grade for the semester. You are expected to have all assignments completed (translation, review of modern scholarship, and so on) before you come to class.

Ancient Greek is a difficult language to master. You are encouraged to consult with the instructor on all matters pertaining to the course: difficulties in mastering the language, complications in proceeding through the materials of the course. Do not be afraid to ask questions, volunteer to read or answer questions.

**Quizzes** – There will be six quizzes, of which you drop the lowest one. Each quiz will cover the previous reading assignment translated in class. It will consist of translation (one passage, ca. 15 lines long) and syntax questions.

**Midterm Exam** – 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, and syntax questions.

**Article Review** – Each student is expected to make an oral presentation of an article or book chapter of modern scholarship. Students will demonstrate their clear understanding of the subject of the article/chapter and the main thesis of its author(s) and at the same time will show, with arguments, where they stand with respect to it. The presentation should be 15-20 minutes long, and you should be ready to answer questions and discuss issues pertaining to your material with the instructor and your colleagues. Articles to choose from for this assignment will be

uploaded on the moodle page of the course after the first week of classes. You are expected to select an article by the end of February.

**Final Project** – The final project for this course will give the students the opportunity to “feel” the spirit of the play and be part of it: students will undertake the task of performing the play. The performance will be in English and will take place in front of the entire CYA community at the conclusion of the semester. This experience will also help students “expose” and express themselves before an audience. It is an educative, amusing, and also liberating experience. Since this is a collective effort, it is important that you don’t miss our practice sessions. It is also recommended that students work together in groups to better prepare for the final performance. Students will be graded on the basis of their enthusiasm, participation in our rehearsals, not of their acting skills!

## Evaluation and Grading

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

Class Contribution 15%

Quizzes 20%

Midterm Exam 25%

Article Review 15%

Final Project 25%

## 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.

## CYA Regulations and Accommodations

### Attendance Policy

Ancient Greek is a difficult field to master, and CYA regards attendance in class and on-site (in Athens or during field study trips) as essential, so attendance at all scheduled meetings is required. All absences are recorded and have consequences that may affect your grade.

### Policy on Assignments and Make-up Work

I will accept no late assignments or make-up exams except for valid excuses that will be communicated to me in advance. If you are unable to come to class, please let me know beforehand.

### ePolicy on Original Work

Unless otherwise specified, all submitted work must be your own original work. Any ideas taken from the work of others must be clearly identified as quotations, paraphrases, summaries, figures etc., and accurate internal citations and/or captions (for visuals) as well as an accompanying bibliography must be provided.

### 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.

**N.B. The use of cell phones is prohibited during class time.**

### 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.

### Upgrade to 400-level course

Courses can be upgraded to a 400-level. This constitutes usually 25% additional work on the part of the student. The option to upgrade opens the second week of classes. If you are interested in this option, please talk to your professor.

**Class Schedule**

Class Day	Day/Date	Topics/ Reading/ Assignments
	Jan 23-25	Field Study: Delphi and Ancient Olympia
1	Jan 27	<i>Introduction</i>
2	Jan 29	
3	Feb 3	
4	Feb 5	<i>Quiz 1</i>
5	Feb 10	
6	Feb 12	<i>Quiz 2</i>
	Feb 14-16	Optional Field Study: Venice, Ravenna
7	Feb 17	
	Feb 18-21	Field Study: Peloponnese
8	Feb 24	<i>Quiz 3</i>
9	Feb 26	
	Mar 3	Clean Monday (National Holiday)
10	Mar 5	<i>Quiz 4</i>
	Mar 10	
12	Mar 12	<i>Midterm Exam</i>
13	Mar 17	
	Mar 18-22	Field Study: Northern Greece, Thessaloniki
14	Mar 24	<i>Quiz 5</i>
	Mar 25	Greek Independence Day (National Holiday)
15	Mar 26	
16	Mar 31	
17	Apr 2	<i>Quiz 6</i>
	Apr 4-6	Optional Field Study: Rhodes
18	Apr 7	<i>Article Review Presentations</i>
19	Apr 9	<i>Article Review Presentations</i>
	Apr 11-21	Spring Break
20	Apr 23	
	Apr 25-27	Optional Field Study: Crete
21	Apr 28	
22	Apr 30	
	May 1	May Day (Labor Day) National Holiday
23	May 5	
	May 5-6	Student Conference
24	May 7	
FEW	May 14	<i>Final Project</i>

N.B.: **Class 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.