

MGKL 101 | Modern Greek Language and Culture Summer 2025, June 2 – June 28, Island of Spetses

Instructor: Stella Papayanni
Email: Stella.Papayanni@cyathens.org

Course Description

The aim of this course is to familiarize students with the basic structure, grammar, and vocabulary of the Modern Greek language along with the broader sense of Greek culture. Students will feel comfortable to communicate in the Modern Greek context both understanding and expressing every day needs in a simple and clearly articulated way.

Course Approach

In this class:

We use a carefully-designed method for learning how to read from lesson 1.

We develop writing accordingly.

Listening is aiming at a deeper connection with the language Speaking purposes will serve daily communication needs/interactions

More specifically, students will deal with:

- Textbook/ workbook and P.P. Presentations
- Short Texts appropriately chosen in accordance to the level of the class
- Audio material
- Short videos- commercials and songs
- Lyrics and advertisements
- Role-playing activities
- Inviting -interviewing guests
- Experiential activities: Language games-flashcards
- Out-of-class activities – real world interacting. So that students Express everyday needs, address their questions and understand relevant responses

Also, Students enjoy the sun, good weather and relax by studying outdoors

- Group work and self-evaluation. Present part of the material in Class. Engaging in short dialogues all according to the level of knowledge

Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, students will be able to

- Comprehend and identify dialogues about ordinary daily activities.
- Express themselves effectively on a simple communicative basis
- Respond to basic needs: Greetings, presenting / discussing about themselves, others and family, ordering coffee and food, shopping essentials, buying clothes, taking /giving directions, making phone-calls and hotel reservations, expressing simple events-intentions in past-future, calling a doctor, talking about the weather)
- Use and handle simple Greek expressions
- Enjoy songs and lyrics
- Recognize key vocabulary for a broader understanding of Greek Culture
- Read simply structured texts, labels, advertisements
- Write /create simple texts/and or even poems
- Develop a basic vocabulary for daily interactions. Discuss with locals

Course Requirements

Students **study** the material taught in each and every class (see below for daily schedule) Use notes/ textbook/ pp presentation/ grammar charts

Understanding and absorbing is of first priority

Some memorisation may be needed

Repetition for basic grammar concepts is a key component

Work on new vocabulary /workbook exercises

By the end of every unit (namely after 3 classes), you write a small text associated with the unit completed

Texts vary from 50-120 words (gradually). Topics are on Moodle.

There are 7 units to be explored fully and 1 more, no 8, partly. Each unit is being completed into 3 classes

There will be 7 Vocabulary, 7 listening and 7 General Tests (all online) according and relevant to each and every Unit explored. It's highly recommended to be taken after the completion of each UNIT. Students can retake each test 3 times aiming at their higher score. The due date is Mid term exams (for UNITS 1-3) and Final Week (for UNITS 1-7)

Speaking (in class/onsite activities and oral presentations): This is the area for expressing ourselves in Greek: Have fun, creativity, imagination and be comfortable with making mistakes! Topics are the same as the writing/per unit essays).

For midterm/final oral presentations, Instructions will be given in advance.

Class **participation** includes physical and mental presence in the classroom, arriving on time, preparation, participation in class reading/speaking/listening and writing work. Accommodations apply in terms of any physical or mental difficulty. Reading assignments are to be completed before each class session. Class contribution is one of the most important factors for determining the learning outcomes of our class.

This course requires that students walk and/or spend time **in out of class settings** (nearby the sea, at Gardens, at a cafe, at a shopping area..etc as frequent as one in every three classes); the walking is mostly alongside the coast,, sidewalks, and gardens

Few of the places above may have limited access to bathroom facilities.

The spaces above may have a background noise while the professor speaks.

This course suggests that students may give a verbal [group or individual] presentation in front of the class as part of their assessment. Although this is beneficial in regards to the learning experience, accommodations and alternatives may be given to students who wish so

Midterms' grade will be calculated based on all the evaluation criteria (participation 20%, online tests 20%, homework 20%, speaking 20%)

The above will apply to units **1-3**

Prior to midterm exam students present orally a topic (given in advance and fully explored during the class) individually or in groups. This is graded as part of the speaking portion.

Accommodations may apply.

Same for the final week of Classes. An oral presentation will be given. Creativity is being encouraged!

Texts may be shared online (via google docs and/or on paper). Students should, at their own pace, learn to type in Greek (a bonus asset!)

Due dates for homework: Midterm week (units 1-3) and Final Exams Week (units 1-7)

Workload estimation according to: [Course Workload Estimator | Center for Teaching Excellence | Rice University](#): TBA

Class Field Work and CYA Field Study

Many meetings will be taking place **outdoors**: walking in parks, visiting a coffee shop, farm market, open air cinema, shopping, interacting with locals, etc. The specific days-dates are at the course outline below.

Fieldwork is an **invaluable tool** that enhances linguistic skills, cultural understanding, and overall engagement. By providing real-world experiences and practical language application, fieldwork helps students develop a deeper and more nuanced understanding of Modern Greek, making their learning journey more effective and enjoyable.

For this course, class fieldwork is particularly valuable in several ways.

Class Field Work

Fieldwork allows students to practice Modern Greek in real-life situations. This practical use of the language helps to reinforce classroom learning and improves language retention and fluency Moreover:

Immerses students in Greek culture, helping them understand social norms and cultural contexts. Improves comprehension and verbal proficiency through interaction with native speakers.

Provides context for vocabulary and grammar by seeing and hearing Greek used naturally. Boosts students' confidence by successfully navigating conversations in Greek.

Offers dynamic learning experiences, such as role-playing in markets or ordering food. Increases student engagement and motivation through exciting real-world practice.

Enhances pronunciation by hearing and mimicking native speakers.
Provides deeper understanding of Greek history and culture through visits to cultural sites.

Evaluation and Grading

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

- **Participation-attendance** 20%
- **Homework-written texts** 20%
- **Speaking** (discussions/onsite activities/oral presentations) 20%
- **Online tests:** 20%
- **Final written exam:** 20% More specifically:
- **Class participation 20%** – Class participation includes physical and mental presence in the classroom, arriving on time, preparation, involvement in class reading/speaking/listening and writing work Accommodations apply in terms of any physical or mental difficulty Reading preparation is to be completed before each class session. Class contribution is one of the most important factors for determining the learning outcomes of our class.

*Workbook - textbook practice homework and writing-essay assignments: 20%

In each class there are exercises to be completed both in Textbook and Workbook for practice. Much of this work is being completed in class. Each Monday you may give the Workbook for corrections. Self or group evaluations may take place here.

• **Final Exam: 20%** – Material covers UNITS 1-8. A detailed format of what is being expected will be given in advance. A brief oral presentation-individually or in groups- will be given to the class before the final's day. Creativity and fun are encouraged. The oral presentation will be graded as part of the **Speaking** part.

• **Speaking 20%** (in class/onsite activities and oral presentations) This is the area for expressing ourselves in Greek: *Have fun*, creativity, imagination and be comfortable with making mistakes! Topics, (same as the writing/per unit essays) instructions will be given in advance and will be written on Moodle page

• **Online tests 20%** : There will be 7 Vocabulary, 7 listening and 7 General Tests -all online. It's highly recommended to be taken after the completion of each UNIT. Students can retake each test 3 times aiming at their higher score. The due date is Mid term's grade (for UNITS 1-3) and Final Week/exams (for UNITS 1-7)

Evaluation Criteria - Course Assignments

Reading: Understanding key words/cognates from highly predictable texts/fluent reading of texts being taught in class

Writing: Writes in lists and notes using words and phrases/ write with easy small texts (one or two paragraphs about material taught

Listening: Understanding simple questions/statements and frequently used commands

Speaking: Communicates short messages on highly predictable every day topics

The above criteria are in accordance with the ACTFL 2012 Proficiency Guidelines. In class we aim at an additional cohesive and well structured capacity in both Speaking and Writing parts (small meaningful texts)

CYA Regulations and Accommodations Attendance Policy

CYA regards attendance in class and on-site (in Athens or during field study trips) as essential. Absences are recorded and may have consequences.

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.

Summer 2025 Tentative Schedule

- Tests/Homework/other activities are well expected and highly recommended be assigned after the completion of each UNIT (an upcoming weekend included)
- Conversation class will be held twice per week
- extra curricular activities (Walking alongside the beach, visiting museums, hiking, swimming, open air cinema, horse-drawn carriage ride etc) : TBA

| Day # | Date/Day | Topic / Readings / Assignments Due / Place (if applicable) |
|-------|--|--|
| 1 | UNIT 1 (pgs. 21-31) * 2 dialogues, the numbers (greetings and introductions; Personal information; ordering food;) | TEXTBOOK: * Introduction: (pp. 14-19) * Sounds; The Greek Alphabet; Second person questions- singular/plural (-εις, -ω) |
| 2 | UNIT 1 (pgs. 21-31) | pp 21-28 Grammar The verb to be – Present tense (είμαι) * The three genders: masculine, feminine, neuter: * Definite article (nominative case/ singular) (ο, η, το) * Indefinite article (nominative case/ singular) (ένας, μία, ένα) * Masculine nouns (nominative case/singular) (-ος, -ης, ας) * Feminine nouns (nominative case/ singular) (-α, -η) * Neuter nouns (nominative case/ singular) (ο, -ι, -μα) * Role playing / and now we speak |
| 3 | UNIT 1 (pgs. 21-31) | activity pp 29-31 Workbook Unit:1 (pgs. 5-10) numbers 1- 30 Moodle:Tests/ Homework/activities |
| 4 | UNIT 2. (pgs. 33-45) * 3 dialogues, 2 texts, The numbers, personal information; Presenting home and family | pp 33-35 Grammar * Personal Pronouns (subject) (εγώ, εσύ ... etc.) * Present Tense /Active Voice Group A *Role playing / and now we speak |
| 5 | UNIT 2. (pgs. 33-45) | pp 36-39 Grammar *Possessive Pronouns (μου, σου ...etc.) *Μου αρέσει– δεν μου αρέσει (I like – I don't like) |
| 6 | UNIT 2. (pgs. 33-45) | activity pp 40-45 Grammar *Adjectives-ος-η-ο (καλός-η-ο) *numbers *Greek words in foreign languages Workbook Unit 2 (pgs. 11-15) Moodle:Tests/ Homework/activities |
| 7 | UNIT 3. (pgs. 47-55) 3 dialogues, 1 text giving and taking basic directions; eating out; shopping from akiosk; food;utensils; | pp 47-50 Grammar: *Conjugation A – Present Tense: θέλω, μένω *Spelling (verbs endings) *Role playing / and now we speak |
| 8 | UNIT 3. (pgs. 47-55) | PP 51-54 PRACTICE-TEXTS |
| 9 | UNIT 3. (pgs. 47-55) | P 55-REVIEW Modern Greek coffee! A class at a cafe. ...we order in... Greek! Workbook: Unit: 3(pgs. 16-21) Review Unit:1, 2, 3(pgs. 22 – 25) Vocabulary - Grammar review Moodle: Tests/Homework/activities |
| 10 | UNIT 4. (pgs. 57-69) * 5 dialogues giving and taking information (age, work, studies); hotel reservation; shopping clothes; the colors; more directions; opposites; | pp 57-59 Grammar *Nouns: The objective / accusative case (τον, την, το) *Declension and use of masculine, feminine, neuter nouns *nominative and accusative case / singular (ο φίλος, - τον φίλο etc.) *Personal pronouns (subject - object) *Double negation δεν τίποτα/ποτέ *Ποιος –ποιον/ Τι / Πού questions *Role playing / and now we speak Workbook: Unit 4 (pgs. 26-31) |
| 11 | UNIT 4. (pgs. 57-69) | pp 60-64 activity * Answers with direct object pronouns (Δεν την ξέρω) * Prepositions + accusative σε+τον, την, το= στον, στην, στο |

| | | |
|----|---|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Direct object pronoun (singular) με, σε, τον, την, το * Declension and use of Adjectives *Adjectives: -ος-α-ο (ωραίος-α-ο) nominative - accusative Moodle:Tests/Homework/activities |
| 12 | Unit 4 | Midterm Week /Unit 4 pp 65-67 directions/opposites /REVIEW/oral presentations |
| 13 | | Midterm Week - review-role playing |
| 14 | UNIT 5 (pgs. 71-79) * 2 dialogues, 1 text inviting friends; Speaking about friends; | pp 71-74 Grammar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Review UNIT 4 *(Conjugation B1 – Present Tense: μιλάω *Sentence syntax: Subject- Verb-Object *Nominative case(ποιος) - Verb- Objective case (ποιον/ τι) *Elementary syntax (Subject-Verb-Object) Who–Verb-Whom/What Ποιος Ρήμα- Ποιον/τι *Double negation (Δεν.... ούτε ... ούτε) *The Vocative *Role playing / and now we speak Workbook 5: (pgs. 33-38) |
| 15 | UNIT 5. (pgs. 71-79) | pp 75-79 Grammar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The Genitive (sing. masculine and feminine του μήνα, - της μέρας) Prepositions |
| 16 | UNIT 5. (pgs. 71-79) | Shopping in... . Modern Greek /activity Moodle: Tests/Homework/activities |
| 17 | UNIT 6. (pgs. 81 -91) *3 dialogues, 1 text, The days of the week; The Time summer plans; at a Travel agency: | pp 81-83 text/listening/discussing/time/days Grammar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Questions Μήπως/γιατί/negation *Role playing / and now we speak |
| 18 | UNIT 6. (pgs. 81 -91) | pp 84-88 Grammar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Irregular verbs Present tense: πάω, λέω τρώω, ακούω, φταίω *Questions in Past and Future tense; 1st, 2nd person singular *Future : to be |
| 19 | UNIT 6. (pgs. 81 -91) | activity pp 89-91 Grammar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Questions and negative answers with: κανένας-καμία κανένα anyone / none) Workbook 6 (pgs 39-46) Review Units 4, 5, 6 (pgs 47-51) Moodle:Tests/Homework/activities |
| 20 | UNIT 7 (pgs. 93-103) * 2 dialogues, 1 text; The months Shopping from an open air market; calling a doctor; arrival and departure | pp 93-96 Grammar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The plural of nouns and adjectives (ο φίλος –οι φίλοι etc.* Past tense; Future tense of the verb to be (pg. 126) * How Much/How Many –Πόσος-Πόση-Πόσο; * Subject: direct object pron + verb Δεν θα τις περιμένω. Role playing / and now we speak |
| 21 | UNIT 7 (pgs. 93-103) | pp 97-102 GRAMMAR REVIEW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Direct object pronouns με, σε, etc. *Active voice-Conjugation B2- Present tense; αργώ etc. |
| 22 | UNIT 7 (pgs. 93-103) | Shopping local: Fruits and vegetables! Activity Workbook 7 (pgs. 52-60) Moodle: Homework/activities /review |
| 23 | UNIT 8 pgs.105-117 * 1dialogue, 1 text; the weather; illness; professions; the doctor | pp 105-117 (SELECTION) GRAMMAR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *FORMATION AND USE OF PASSIVE VOICE *CONJUGATION A PRESENT TENSE -ΟΜΑΙ (ΕΡΧΟΜΑΙ) • AND -ΑΜΑΙ (ΚΟΙΜΑΜΑΙ) *ADVERBS OF FREQUENCY (E.G. ALWAYS, OFTEN ETC.) ΠΑΝΤΑ, ΣΥΧΝΑ *COUNTRIES – INHABITANTS – LANGUAGE - ADJECTIVES *THE THREE GENDERS OF NUMBERS 1, 3, 4 *OPPOSITES; Workbook 8 (pgs. 61-68) <i>review</i> |
| 24 | | REVIEW / format of the exams/ oral presentations/ |

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

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required Readings

Dimitra, D. & Papahimona, M. (2002). *Greek Now 1+1 (Ελληνικά Τώρα 1+1) and Workbook 1 (Τετράδιο Ασκήσεων 1)*. Athens: Nostos.

Triantafyllidou, L. & Anagnostopoloulou, A. (2011). *Λοιπόν, τι λες; (Lipon, ti les?) So what do you say? (Companion book)*. Athens: Nostos.

Supplementary Readings

Maggana, A. (2021) *Αυτό ακριβώς! (Level A) (Exactly this!)* Athens:

Grigoris Antoniou, M., Astara, B. & Detsoudi, Z. (2014). *Τα λέμε...Ελληνικά!* Athens: Grigori. Greek films and documentaries with English subtitles/on Moodle.

Cultural information (songs etc) on Moodle.