Greeks (GRK)

GRK101 Introduction to Ancient Greek: Semester I
This course is an introduction to the rich and beautiful language of ancient Greek, the language of Homer, Plato, and Euripides. In the first semester students will begin to learn the grammar and syntax of the language and start developing the vocabulary necessary to appreciate and understand Greek with the goal of reading as soon as possible. Throughout the semester we will also explore some inscriptions and dip our toes into both Herodotus and biblical Greek.

This course is a prerequisite for GRK102.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Prereq: None

GRK102 Introduction to Ancient Greek: Semester II
This course is a continuation of GRK101. We will complete the study of Greek grammar and continue to develop vocabulary and reading skills. We will read selections from Sophocles, Euripides, Lysias, Apollodorus, Demosthenes, Aristotle, and Plato, among others.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Prereq: GRK101

GRK201 Reading Greek Prose: Plato’s Crito
We will read the Crito, one of Plato’s dialogues that together with his Apology and the Phaedo constitute some of our major sources about Socrates’ role in Athens, his trial and conviction to death, and his own approach to death and the good life. In the Crito Socrates addresses the essence of law, the limits of tolerance, and the very notion of civil disobedience. Throughout the semester our goal will be to explore these questions while working closely with the original text to increase steadily the facility and speed with which you read and enjoy Greek. We will also read a selection of scholarly articles.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Prereq: GRK101

GRK250 Body, Soul, and Afterlife Journeys in Ancient Greece (CLAC)
The connection between body and soul and their journey in the afterlife were at the center of how the ancient Greeks thought not only of mortality but also of the good life itself. This CLAC course is connected to the Classical Civilization course titled "Death and Afterlife in Egypt and Greece" that will be taught in the fall by Kate Birney. The parent course explores the archaeology of death and burial in Egypt and Greece. It examines how the funerary practices and the very notion of death, the soul, the body, and the afterlife operated in these societies by drawing upon diverse evidence--archaeological, art historical, and mythological.

In this CLAC course students with some background in ancient Greek will read selections of the surviving evidence on death and the afterlife. Sources will be drawn from diverse genres and periods: historiography, Homeric poetry, Platonic philosophy, and religious tablets. This diversity will offer a unique opportunity to identify different registers and to explore how language itself reflects and in turn shapes the ideas and practices for which it is used. We will thus be looking at: how different media and performances are used to express loss, hope, and heroism in the face of death; how social class, gender, and political ideology are reflected in these media and how they influence ideas about death and the afterlife; and, last, how we are to create adequate methodologies as "readers" of such diverse evidence.

The selections of readings will be drawn primarily from what the students read in translation in the parent course. The final selection will be based on the level of the students. This CLAC is conceived as appropriate for students on the intermediate and advanced level of ancient Greek.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Identical With: CGST250
Prereq: GRK102

GRK258 The Greek Novel
In the course we will read selections from Longus' DAPHNIS AND CHLOE and Chariton’s CHAEREOAS AND CALLIRHOE. The former is a story of young love in a pastoral setting on the island of Lesbos; the latter, an incident-packed narrative in which a young husband and wife are separated, but after many vicissitudes, reunited. Subjects covered will include genre and setting, narrative and descriptive techniques, cultural context, and likely readership.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Prereq: None

GRK263 The Homeric Hymns
Students in this course will read the Homeric hymns to Demeter, Apollo, Hermes, and Aphrodite in ancient Greek. They will also read modern scholarship on the structure of the hymns as examples of narrative discourse and on the mythology of the various divinities. Each of these hymns celebrates one of the principal divinities of the Greek pantheon, and each incorporates a story of the god’s adventures. Class sessions will include discussion of the manner in which gender exercises an influence on the structure and content of the hymns.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Prereq: GRK201

GRK275 Homeric Epic
This course involves a close reading of selections in Greek from the ODYSSEY on the wanderings of Odysseus; his encounters with Polyphemus, Circe, and Kalypso; and his return to Ithaca. In addition, we will discuss major scholarly approaches to the Odyssey and Homeric epic more broadly.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Prereq: GRK201

GRK291 "Sexuality" in the Making: Gender, Law, and the Use of Pleasure in Ancient Greek Culture (CLAC)
The parent course (CCIV 281/FGSS 281) examines the construction of gender roles in ancient Greece and approaches gender as an organizing principle of private and public life in ancient Greek society by using literary, scientific, historical, and philosophical sources as well as material evidence. Issues addressed include: the creation of woman, conceptions of the male and female body, the legal status of men and women; what constitutes acceptable sexual practices and for whom (e.g., heterosexual relationships, homoeroticism, prostitution etc.); ideas regarding desire, masculinity and femininity, and their cultivation in social, political, and ritual contexts such as rituals of initiation, marriage, drinking parties (symposia), the law court, and the theater.
The textual sources used in the course cover a spectrum of genres: medical texts, Homer, lyric poetry, tragedy, comedy, law-court speeches, and philosophy among others. In the CLAC connected to this course students with some background in ancient Greek will read selections from these genres and will be able to compare different discourses and registers in the original. In the past, even through brief lexical examples—e.g., pointing at the use of ta Aphrodisia (the things/matters related to Aphrodite) in a culture that has no one term/concept for our notion of "sexuality"—students were intrigued by how different terms and discursive media in the original may offer access to perspectives, visions, and values that differ from and can, in turn, inform our own. The CLAC will create an opportunity precisely for this kind of access and a better informed and nuanced conversation.

GRK365 Greek Tragedy: Euripides
Euripides is well known for being experimental and controversial, in his own time and beyond. Aristophanes famously accuses him of corrupting his audience by bringing too much of a democratic sentiment to his plays—women and slaves having way too much to say. Nietzsche much later will attribute to him the very death of tragedy. In this course, we will explore this legacy by reading one of his plays in the original along with diverse approaches to his work. The selection of the play will be determined by the composition of the student-group and previous exposure to Greek drama.

GRK367 The Great Greek Creation Myth: Hesiod's Theogony
In this seminar, we will read Hesiod's Theogony, the Greek creation myth, in the original ancient Greek and examine this fabulous work in light of other creation stories of the ancient Near East, Egyptian, and Hittite cultures by which it was influenced. Through examination of structural themes and motifs (how the universe was created and ordered, the role of violence, the origins of an application of justice, the creation of mankind, the shaping of women), we will discuss whether and how the Theogony diverges from other creation myths to establish or reflect values that can be said to be uniquely Greek. Discussion will be supplemented by passages from Hesiod's Works and Days, along with other creation myths and secondary scholarship.

GRK401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

GRK402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

GRK407 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.