

QUEENS COLLEGE

MODERN GREEK PROGRAM

Newsletter

Spring 2021

WELCOME MESSAGE

When people think of Greece they often conjure up images of sunny beaches, little fishing villages on scenic islands, rugged mountains and ancient temples. But Greece is so much more than its beautiful landscape: it is also a modern European country with a vibrant tradition of arts, literature, music, and culture.

The Program offers a range of courses in Modern Greek literature in translation and in the original Greek, as well as beginning and intermediate language courses. Our dynamic faculty are committed to helping students grow and reach a deeper understanding of both Modern Greek language and the contemporary culture of Greece and the Greek Diaspora. Students and faculty have access to a wide range of resources through the Queens College Library. The Program welcomes and celebrates students of all backgrounds and is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Welcome to the
Modern Greek Program
at Queens College!

Gerasimus Katsan is Associate Professor of Modern Greek and Coordinator of the Modern Greek Program. He also serves as Chair of the Department of European Languages and Literatures. His research interests include contemporary literature and cinema. Contact: gerasimus.katsan@qc.cuny.edu



Melina Merkouri's Portrait in Patras Art Walk 5

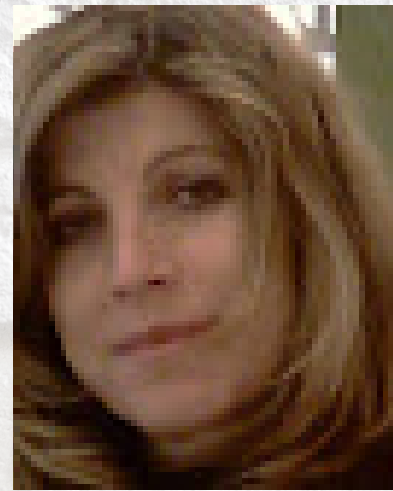
Credit: <https://www.greekstreetart.gr/post/624319428145905664/melina-merkouris-portrait-in-patras-art-walk-5>



MEET THE FACULTY

Maria Athanasopoulou teaches Modern Greek Language and Conversation at Queens College and at Stonybrook University. Her academic credentials include a Bachelor's Degree, a Master's Degree and her Ph.D. in Transcultural Health Science which she received from the University of Athens. Prof. Athanasopoulou began her academic career at the University of Athens. She has numerous professional publications including one book and several chapters. In addition to being certified in Teaching Greek as a Second or Foreign language from the Center of the Greek Language in Thessaloniki, she completed studies on Education and certification in the Teaching of Greek as a heritage language for educators in the diaspora at Democritus University of Thrace, Greece.

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Konstantinos Christoforatos has been teaching Modern Greek for the most part of the last twenty years. He holds a BA in Education from the University of the Aegean in Rhodes, Greece and an MA in Environmental Education from New York University. He also studied Philosophy at the New School. He currently teaches Greek language, history, and culture at various Greek parochial schools in Queens, New York.

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Fevronia K. Soumakis holds a PhD in History and Education from Teachers College, Columbia University and currently teaches Modern Greek literature at Queens College. She is co-editor of *Educating Greek Americans: Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Pathways* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020). Fevronia's next book project examines the history of Greek American women, education, and philanthropy in the twentieth century.

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COURSES

SPRING 2021

Beginning Modern Greek I (M. Athanasopoulou)

Intermediate Modern Greek II (K. Christoforatos)

Modern Greek Conversation (M. Athanasopoulou)

Modern Greek Literature in Translation (F. Soumakis and G. Katsan)

Writing about European Literature and Culture: The Greek Diaspora (F. Soumakis)

SUMMER 2021

Beginning Modern Greek I (M. Athanasopoulou)

FALL 2021

Beginning Modern Greek I (M. Athanasopoulou)

Intermediate Modern Greek I (K. Christoforatos)

Modern Greek Conversation (M. Athanasopoulou)

Modern Greek Literature in Translation (F. Soumakis)

Modern Greek Literature in Greek (G. Katsan)

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE GREEK REVOLUTION



All across the world, events are being held to celebrate the two hundred year anniversary of the Greek Revolution. Embracing the challenges of remote teaching and learning, the faculty of the Queens College Modern Greek Program have made the Greek Revolution a central focus of their classes. Prof. Athanasopoulou conceived of the project: “Portraits of Greek Revolutionary War Heroes of 1821” in her Modern Greek Conversation course. Students will undertake research and discuss the impact of the heroic men and women who sacrificed their lives and fortunes for the Greek people’s freedom. Prof. Soumakis has drawn upon her interest in Greek American Studies to engage her students with primary source documents that demonstrate Americans’ support of the Greek war effort in her course on the Greek Diaspora. Reflecting upon the powerful message of liberty in the national anthems of both the US and Greece is the springboard for studying the literature of the period in Prof. Katsan’s course, while Prof. Christoforatos discusses the significant events and figures of the war with his intermediate language students. The Greek Revolution will continue to receive special emphasis in courses throughout the summer and fall. We hope you will join us!