



MODERN GREEK PROGRAM

Newsletter Spring 2022



Director's Message

This Spring the Modern Greek Program offered its full range of courses in Beginning and Intermediate Greek as well as Literature and Cinema courses. We were pleased to see so many students in our classes and it has been wonderful being back in the classroom in-person after the long period of online teaching that was forced upon us by the Pandemic. Being in class with live students is always the highpoint of my week, a sentiment I am certain my colleagues would agree with. While teaching with social distancing and masks has its difficulties, we look forward to a more normal year in 2022-23.

Those familiar with the Program will know what a difficult semester it has been. In early March, Kostas Christoforatos, one of our most dedicated and beloved faculty members, suddenly passed away. The shock of the events has deeply saddened his students and close colleagues in the Department of European Languages and Literatures. We will miss his wonderful contributions both to the Program and to his courses.

Obviously, while we cannot replace the loss of Kostas, we have been fortunate to have Ioanna Glava step in to cover his courses for the rest of the semester. Ioanna was a good friend of Kostas, and we are grateful for her willingness to help the Program in this troubled moment.

We now look ahead to a summer filled with promise, and new endeavors for the Fall semester.

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Department of European Languages and Literatures
Modern Greek Program - Course Schedule
Fall 2022

GRKMD 41W - 01 Modern Greek Literature in Translation (Prof. Fevronia Soumakis)
Online/Asynchronous

GRKMD 41W - 02 Modern Greek Literature in Translation (Prof. Fevronia Soumakis)
Online/Asynchronous

(3 hr: 3 Cr) Surveys Modern Greek Literature in translation from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present. The authors and their works are examined not only for their individual stylistic and thematic elements but also within the context of European literary and cultural movements. Writing Intensive. (LIT)

GRKMD 111 Elementary Modern Greek I (Prof. Ioanna Glavas) Tue - Thu 10:05 - 11:55 a.m.
Classroom: TBA

(4 hr: 4 Cr) Prereq.: Permission of the department. Intended for students with no previous knowledge of Modern Greek. Designed to establish correct pronunciation, to teach the elements of grammar, to enable students to understand written and spoken Greek, to become familiar with cultural aspects of modern Greece, and especially to establish a good basic vocabulary. (LANG)

GRKMD 203 Intermediate Modern Greek I (Prof. Ioanna Glavas) Tue - Thu 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.
Classroom: TBA

(3 hr: 3 cr) Prereq.: GRKMD 112 or equivalent, or permission of the department. Continuation of GRKMD 112 with grammar review, conversation, and readings in literary and cultural materials at an intermediate level. (WCGI, LANG)

GRK223 - Modern Greek Conversation (Prof. Maria Athanasopoulou) Tue- Thu 1:40-3:00 pm
Classroom: TBA

(3 hr:3cr) Prereq.: GRKMD 112 or permission of the department. For students who have an elementary knowledge of Modern Greek and wish to improve their ability to converse. Recommended especially for students in GRKMD 203/204. (WCGI, LANG)

GRKMD335 - Modern Greek Studies: The Novel (Prof. Gerasimus Katsan) Tue - Thu 3:10 - 4:30 pm
Classroom: TBA

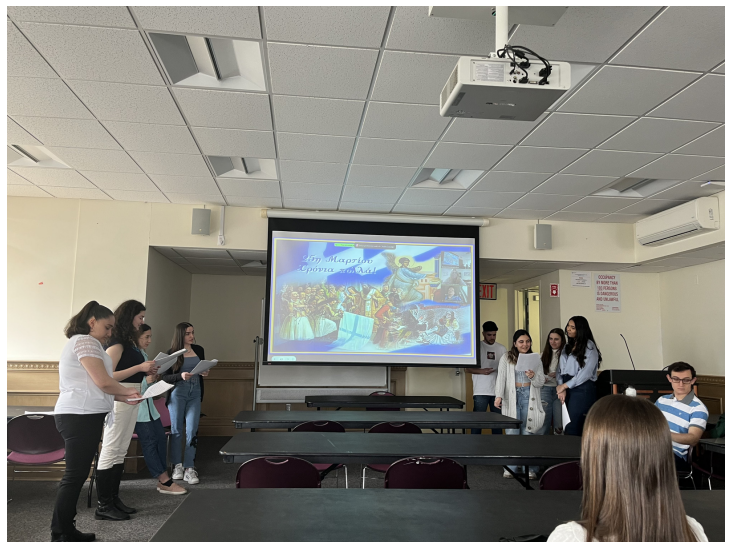
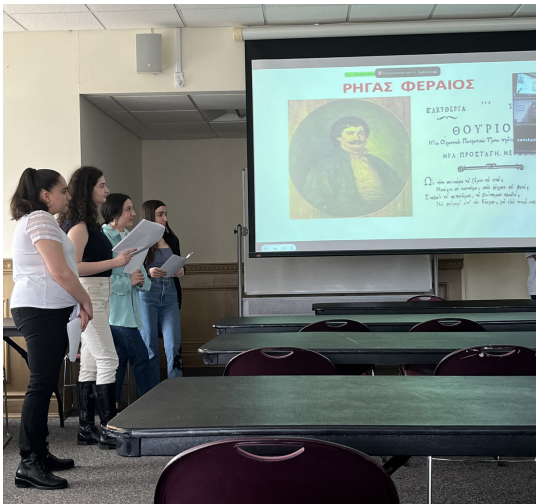
(3 hr:3cr) Taught in Prereq.: Sophomore standing. Cross-disciplinary study of authors and dominant themes in Greek literature and culture. The subject will be announced in advance. May be repeated for credit provided the topic changes. Taught either in Greek or in English as announced by the department. ***Taught in English*** (LIT)

PLEASE see or write to Dr. Katsan regarding placement and/or overriding prerequisites:
gerasimus.katsan@qc.cuny.edu Office: Queens Hall 200
(718) 997-5981 ELL Main Office: (718) 997-5980

IKAROS HELLENIC CLUB News

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The Greek Club "IKAROS"
celebrated the Greek
Independence Day
on 25th March



On March 23rd, 2022, the Ikaros Hellenic Orthodox Club **celebrated March 25th, Greek Independence Day**. This event was a great success with the help and presentation of Professor Maria Athanasopoulou and various members of the Ikaros Hellenic Orthodox Club. They presented in Greek and English, commemorating Greek Independence by showcasing various songs and images of the big players and events. For instance, Kolokotronis, Bouboulina, and more spearheaded the revolution. Also, the "krifa sxoleia," secret schools that Greeks came up with to hide the fact that they were speaking Greek and practicing their religion. The club celebrated 201 years of Greek Independence with traditional lenten food, pride in their country, and their roots. This celebration was **in honor of Professor Christoforatos** - a beloved professor of many - may his memory be eternal.

Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies

Professor Gerasimus Katsan and Dr. Maria Athanasopoulou were recently appointed as Director and Assistant Director, respectively, of the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies.

After two years of the COVID pandemic, we are excited that the doors are open, classes are being held, and a new vision for the Center has emerged. In this first semester of the Center's reopening, there is much progress to report. With the invaluable help of Associate Provost Alicia Alvero and the support of President Frank Wu, we have been working to make the Center's physical space, including its unusually rich collections library, organized and accessible for academic and non-academic researchers alike. We are making substantial progress in ongoing projects, and we invite you to support our efforts.



Scholarships for student achievement in the field of Modern Greek Studies

The Center for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies is pleased to announce that the Center will award as previously a certain number of scholarships for student achievement in the field of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies. The scholarships will be awarded at the Center's 44th Annual Graduation Ceremony on Thursday, May 26th, 2022, at 6:30 pm. To be eligible to apply, you must have taken or are taking two courses offered by the Center. For information, call the Center at 718-997-4520 or come and visit us at Jefferson Hall, Room 302. For more information: Maria.Athanasopoulou@qc.cuny.edu.

**Deadline for application:
Friday, May 6th**

FOR MORE VISIT:

<https://www.qc.cuny.edu/Academics/Centers/ByzantineGreek/Pages/default.aspx>

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The Greek Orthodox Easter

Most years, Western Christian churches and Eastern Orthodox churches celebrate Easter on different dates based on different calendars. The Western churches use the Gregorian calendar (the standard calendar for much of the world) while Orthodox churches use the older, Julian calendar.

Holy Week

The celebration of the Greek Orthodox Easter starts on Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter. Churches are decorated with palm branches and have daily morning and evening services.

Holy Thursday is the day for dying eggs. Eggs are a symbol of renewal, and they are dyed a deep red color, symbolizing the blood of Christ. It is important to make enough for the egg challenge played after the Easter feast. Traditional baked goods such as **koulourakia** (Easter cookies) and **tsoureki** (an Easter bread) are also prepared or purchased. On Holy Friday, churches decorate the Epitaphio (a cloth icon representing the dead body of Jesus Christ) with spring flowers. After the evening service, the Epitaphio is brought out of the church and paraded with the local band. The church chanters chant religious psalms while the church bells toll mournfully, simulating a funeral procession for Christ.



On the morning of Holy Saturday, food preparation begins for the feast the following day. Children receive new clothes, shoes and special candles called labada from their godparents. The candles are usually white, pink, or light blue and decorated with ribbons.

The Easter service takes place at midnight. As the congregation holds unlit white candles, the priest brings out the Holy Light chanting, "Christos Anesti" (Christ is risen) and the worshipper's reply, "Alithos Anesti" (Truly, He is risen). The flame gets passed from person to person until the church and outside the church are filled with light, creating a beautiful sight. After the service, it is time to go home and eat **magiritsa** (an Easter soup) and break red eggs, symbolizing the end of the forty-day fast. Tsougrisma, the traditional egg chacking, is something all ages look forward to playing. Holding your own egg, you lightly tap the end of it against the end of your opponent's egg. The goal is to crack your opponent's egg, without cracking your own. The player who cracks the eggs of the other players is the winner and is believed to have good luck for the coming year.

On Easter Day, families gather to celebrate – roasting lamb on the spit, enjoying traditional side dishes, drinking wine and ouzo, singing and dancing. Easter Monday is a national holiday and is typically spent relaxing and enjoying all the leftover food.

Material adapted from : <https://multiculturalkidblogs.com/2017/03/31/celebrating-pascha-greek-orthodox-easter-traditions/>

