

MODERN GREEK PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER

QUEENS COLLEGE, CUNY

FALL 2023



Photo of the Yeni Camii in Mytilene, Greece by FK Soumakis.

Holiday Greetings from the Chair

It has been another productive and satisfying semester in the Modern Greek Program at Queens College. Since the pandemic Queens College has been undergoing some very challenging times; while the Program was affected by budget cuts and offered fewer courses than normal this term, it was gratifying to see those courses full of bright, motivated and hard-working students! We would like to encourage all students to come and learn about Greece, whether through a language course or in one of our cultural or literary offerings! As we approach the end of the semester, we are looking forward to the holidays and a well-earned rest after exams and final papers are completed. Wishing one and all Holiday Greetings and a Happy New Year!

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

THE 10TH BIENNIAL MGSA WORKSHOP IN PEDAGOGY



WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS L-R: POLYVIA PARARA, ANGELIKI EVANGELINOS, FEVRONIA K. SOUMAKIS, ELSA AMANATIDOU, ARTEMIS LEONTIS, WILL STROEBEL, STÉPHANIE RAVILLON, FRANK HESS, AMANDA KUBIC, GUEST, AND MARGARET FOSTER.

Prof. Artemis Leontis (University of Michigan) and Prof. Elsa Amanatidou (Brown) spearheaded the coordination of the workshop, titled "Modern Greek Pedagogy Workshop: Translation across the Curriculum." Over the course of two days, distinguished scholars, including Stéphanie Ravillon and Elsa Amanatidou (Brown University), Patricia Barbeito (Rhode Island School of Design), Artemis Leontis, Will Stroebel, Amanda Kubic, Julie Evershed and Margaret Foster (University of Michigan), Christopher Brown (Ohio State University), Frank Hess (Indiana University), Polyvia Parara (University of Maryland), and Fevronia K. Soumakis (Queens College, CUNY), delivered insightful presentations.

The workshop received support from the University of Michigan Modern Greek Program, Department of Classical Studies, Department of Comparative Literature, and the Language Resource Center, as well as sponsorship from the Modern Greek Studies Association. Special thanks were extended to The Calliopi Papala Politou Fund at the University of Michigan, courtesy of a generous gift from Angeliki Evangelinos.

The workshop's central theme revolved around the diverse ways scholars incorporate translated texts into their classrooms. Dr. Soumakis offered her insights into the structure of her "41W Modern Greek Literature in Translation" course at Queens College and the unique opportunities it provides for creative projects.

Fevronia K. Soumakis, PhD
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HOW CAN YOU TALK LIKE A YOUNG PERSON IN GREECE? HERE ARE 10 SLANG WORDS YOU SHOULD KNOW!

When you hear young people talking in Greece, you will be confronted with linguistic phenomena and imaginative colloquial phrases that you will not find in a standard dictionary and certainly will not hear from older generations. Slang is, of course, a phenomenon that appears among the youth of every country and generation. Young people develop slang as a way to communicate with each other, and its basic fundamental characteristic is that it usually has a short life span. The slang used by young Greek people is today mostly influenced by the English language, as you will find below. Here are ten very popular words that you will hear when you talk with Greek youth.

Καριέρα

"Having a career" usually means investing in your professional life and moving forward successfully. In Greek slang, however, you use the word "career" when you are talking about having to deal with something tiring, difficult, and demanding. Example: - Αύριο πρέπει να ξυπνήσω 6 το πρωί. - Πωωω, καριέρα ρε φίλε!

Φλεξάρω, κάνω φλεξ

Showing off to others about what I'm good at, what I own, etc. (from the word "to flex") Example: -Ρε συ, μας τα έχει πρήξει ο Τζίμης! Όλο φλεξάρει με το καινούριο του πανάκριβο αυτοκίνητο!

Κριντζάρω

I feel embarrassed, uncomfortable; I am ashamed on someone else's account (from the word "cringe" +άρω) Example: Έχω κριντζάρει με τα γλυκανάλατα σχόλια της μάνας μου στο Facebook.

Λετζίτ

Cool, super, or perfect (from the word "legitimate") Example: Ο Γιάννης έκανε αυτό. ΟΚ. Λετζίτ! Μετά όμως έκανε εκείνο. Όχι! Μ' έχασε!

Τέπο (ποτέ)

Never (it is the Greek word for “never” but said backwards)

Example: -Περίμενες ότι θα ζούσαμε μια τέτοια πανδημία; -Τέπο!».

Ντελούλου

Describes someone who has unrealistic or overly extravagant beliefs or fantasies (from the word “delusional”). Example: Η Μαρία νομίζει ότι θα παντρευτεί τον Σάκη Ρουβά μια μέρα.-Α, καλά, αυτή είναι τελείως ντελούλου...

Τσιλάρω

To relax or calm down (from the word “chill”) Example: Τσίλαρε! Πώς κάνεις έτσι; Θα τα καταφέρεις!

Μπροκολόκο

A word for greeting a friend (from the words “brother” + “loco”)

Example: Πού ‘σαι μπροκολόκο μου;

Πιστολιάζω

To cancel an appointment or something planned, to decline, to refuse the offer. (from the Greek word “πιστόλι” =gun) Example: - Βγήκατε χθες με την Κική; - Με πιστόλιασε άσχημα, μην μου το θυμίζεις!

Φασαίος, φασαία

An alternative type of youth who travels cheaply , frequents public squares and parks, drinks beer and rejects the mainstream. (from the Greek word “φάση”) Example: Ο Κώστας να πάει Μύκονο; Πας καλά; Αν πάει κάπου, θα πάει Ικαρία, Ανάφη και σε κάτι τέτοια νησιά. Δεν το ξέρεις ότι είναι φασαίος.

Ioanna Glava, MA

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RODERCK BEATON AT THE RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART

On November 2, 2023, the Hellenic-American Cultural Foundation sponsored a presentation by Professor Roderick Beaton at the Rubin Museum of Art in New York, titled "Writing the History of the Greeks." Dr. Beaton, Emeritus Professor of King's College London and Commander of the Order of Honor of the Hellenic Republic, delved into the subject matter, drawing from his most recent publications, "Greece: Biography of a Modern Nation" (2019) and "The Greeks: A Global History" (2021).

The discussion centered on the influence of language and ethnic identity on contemporary Greeks, offering insightful perspectives on the interplay between these elements. The event garnered significant attention, attracting an enthusiastic audience eager to engage with the distinguished speaker. Following the presentation, Dr. Beaton made himself available to sign copies of his books and engage in meaningful conversations with attendees.



Roderick Beaton with Fevronia K. Soumakis at the Rubin Museum of Art in New York. The event was sponsored by the Hellenic-American Cultural Foundation.

ikaros hellenic orthodox club

Are you interested in meeting new people and having fun while learning about Greek culture?

Join Ikaros Hellenic Orthodox Club!

Where to find us

In-person: Student Union Room 219

Instagram: @ikaroshellenicqc

Email: ikaroshellenicqc@gmail.com

Executive Board Members

President: Georgia Liotopoulos

Vice President: Vasiliki Tegerides

Secretary: Despina Boudouris

Treasurer: Kyriakos Katsoudas

Join us at our upcoming events!

November 21st: Ikaros Friendsgiving

December 3rd: Ice skating in Bryant Park

December (date tbd): Christmas Party

COURSE OFFERINGS SPRING 2024

Modern Greek Literature in Translation

GRKMD 41W-01 (Prof. Fevronia Soumakis) M/W 9:15 - 10:30 a.m. (In Person)

GRKMD 41W-02 (Prof. Fevronia Soumakis) M/W 10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (In Person)

Surveys Modern Greek literature (in English 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.

Elementary Modern Greek I

GRKMD 111 (Prof. Maria Athanasopoulou) T/H 10:05 - 11:55 a.m. (In Person)

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.

Intermediate Modern Greek II

GRKMD 204-001 (Prof. Ioanna Glava) T/H 1:40 - 2:55 p.m. (In Person) A continuation of GRKMD 203 with grammar review, conversation, composition, and readings in literary and cultural materials. Selections from prose and poetry.

Modern Greek Conversation

GRKMD 223-001 (Prof. Maria Athanasopoulou) T/H 3:10- 11:55 a.m (Online Synchronous)

Intended for students who have an elementary knowledge of Greek and wish to improve their ability to converse. Recommended especially for students in GRKMD 203 or 204 who come from homes where Greek is not spoken.

Modern Greek Film and Media

GRKMD 250-001 (Prof. Gerasimus Katsan) Room TBA T/H 3:10 - 4:25 pm (Hybrid Synch)

The contributions of Greek filmmakers to the art form of cinema. Students will learn the history of cinema in Greece and will study the forms and genres of Greek film, the terminology associated with film criticism, and how to write a film analysis. The course will examine how Greeks have been portrayed in the cinema of the last half century, both in Greece and in Greek America. Films will also be discussed and analyzed for their specific thematic and film content.

The Byzantine Empire, 324-1025

HIST 209 - 001 (33092) (Prof. Warren Woodfin) Room: TBA M / W 1:40 - 2:55 p.m (In Person)

The history of the Byzantine Empire to the end of the Golden Age; the founding of Constantinople; the transfer of the Imperial Capital to the East; Christianization of the Empire; barbarian invasions; wars with the Persians and the Arabs; expansion and cultural renaissance.

The Greek American Community (see description on next page)

GRKST 102 (Prof. Fevronia Soumakis) Friday 9:10 am-12:00pm (Hybrid)



Spring 2024 GRKST 102 3 credits

The Greek American Community

Friday 9:10am-12:00pm
Hybrid Format

Professor Fevronia K. Soumakis

Email:

fevronia.soumakis@qc.cuny.edu

Course Description

This course explores the Greek experience in the United States from the nineteenth century to the present. We will begin by examining the historical context of immigration to the US and discuss past and current debates around immigration reform, assimilation, and citizenship. We will focus on how and where Greek American communities were created and the extent to which they were affected by and responded to significant political, economic, and social changes within American society. Our discussions will then turn to examining the internal structures of Greek communities: family, gender, and sexuality; religious and cultural expressions; education and ethnic preservation. Reading and writing assignments will be enriched by visits to local New York City institutions and establishments and lectures by scholars of Greek American Studies. Through a semester-long guided research project focused on New York City, students will gain valuable research skills using the digital humanities and contribute to an online exhibit.

GRKST 102 fulfills the requirements for the major and minor in Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

THE ATHENIANS' SOCIETY OF NY &
THE ARCADIAN SOCIETY OF NY GEROS TOU MOREA
IN COOPERATION WITH
THE ACADEMY OF HELLENIC PAIDEIA & THE MIKROKOSMOS ENSEMBLE

PRESENT

A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO NIKOS GATSOS

To honor the 44th and 60th Anniversary
of the NOBEL award presentation to
ODYSEUS ELYTIS and GEORGE SEFERIS

with Vocalist
GRIGORIS MANINAKIS
&

ELENA CHRISTOU - *Guest Vocalist*

GLAFKOS KONTEMENIOTIS - *Piano*

KOSTAS PSARROS - BOUZOUKI - *Vocals*

LEFTERIS BOURNIAS - *Clarinet*

AGGELOS PAPADATOS - *Bass*

STEVE VAVAGIAKIS - *Drums*

and

The Children Choir of the
Academy of Hellenic Paideia

GUEST PERFORMERS

ATHENA ADAMOPOULOS - *Pianist*

NIKITAS TAMPAKIS - *Vocalist*

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10th 2023

@ 5:00 PM

The Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity - CHIOTES HALL
337 East 74th St., NY, NY 10021

For reservations:

Sylvia Adamopoulos 917.596.5360 and Demetris A. Filios 917.202.6376
Atheniansociety@gmail.com | gtmarcadianyc@gmail.com

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Donation: \$40.00
Students: \$20.00