CL1726

**Greek Language & Reading**

*Vacation Preparation Summer 2017*

It is always a good idea to keep your Greek ticking over during the long summer break.

**What should I read?**

One thing that works well is perhaps to continue reading further in your set text from *Intermediate Greek*.

If you want to read other texts, I would suggest you think about a prose author, maybe some Thucydides, Lysias or Xenophon: pick a section that interests you and read through it in Greek with a translation (e.g. on the *Online Loeb Classical Library* collection which is an excellent and really useful e-resource on the College Library website, which gives online versions of the famous Greek and Latin text library editions which all have facing English translations). Herodotus can be fun, but you should know that he writes in a dialect form (Ionic, as opposed to the Attic dialect that you are learning) that might look unusual in its use of vowels! Verse can be more of a challenge, so you may want to leave that until we start the course.

However, it really is up to you what you read, as long as you try to read something over the vacation!

**Set Texts**

We'll be starting with reading some parts of Xenophon's *Cyropaideia* (*The Education of Cyrus*), which is a biography of the famous Persian King Cyrus, and is the first full-scale biography in the Western literary tradition. We shall be using the version in the Loeb Classical Library edition, volume 1, edited by W. Miller, Harvard University Press 1989. You may want to purchase your own copy of that in print form, or you may prefer to use the version online in the *Online Loeb Classical Library*, *via* the link on this page of the College Library website:

http://libguides.rhul.ac.uk/az.php?a=l

with the Xenophon text starting here:

https://www.loebclassics.com/view/xenophon\_athens-cyropaedia/1914/pb\_LCL051.3.xml?rskey=PqgMI7&result=6

In the rest of the year we'll look at some Homer (the start of *Odyssey* 19) and some Euripides (the start of Euripides' *Trojan Wo*men), so that you will have had a chance to read some of these famous genres in the original language before you graduate.

**Course Delivery**

The course has two classes each week: one two-hour session and one single hour session. You need to attend all of these.

* In the two-hour class we'll work on consolidating grammar & syntax, building vocabulary, and working at translating unseen passages.
* In the single hour class we shall read our set text.

**Books required**

We shall be using a vocabulary book each week, which you will need to get for the start of term:

**J.R. Cheadle, *Basic Greek Vocabulary*, Bristol Classical Press** pb, new £12.99, but available secondhand too from e.g.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Basic-Greek-Vocabulary-J-R-Cheadle/dp/1853996343/ref=sr\_1\_sc\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1496309483&sr=1-1-spell&keywords=cheadle+basuc+greek

You may want to buy your own copy of the Xenophon (above), if you prefer that to using the online version. New it is £16.95 from Amazon, who will also have secondhand copies

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Cyropaedia-Bks-Loeb-Classical-Library/dp/0674990579/ref=sr\_1\_8?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1496309352&sr=1-8&keywords=loeb+xenophon

You won't need to buy paper copies of the Homer or Euripides text, as we shall again be using the online Loeb text edition.

Otherwise the only other books that you'll need will be your *Intermediate Greek Lexicon* (Liddell & Scott, OUP) that you should already have, and your Greek grammar (whichever you have should be fine).

**Course assessment**

The course is assessed by 20% in-course tests (average mark of the best three of four in-class tests, spread over the two terms), and 80% summer term exam.

If you have any queries, please contact me. I look forward to seeing you in the autumn.

Richard Hawley

6/2017