**CL1726 Greek Language & Reading 2016-17**

Open to all years, but requires a pass at *Intermediate Greek* or A level Greek.

One unit value = 30 credits.

**Delivery**: one two-hour class + one one-hour class per week, taught over the first two terms. Students are expected to work several hours each week outside class in advance for the classes.

The two-hour class usually comprises:

* Vocabulary consolidation (all year);
* Grammar & syntax revision (chiefly in autumn term);
* Practice at translating unseen passages of Greek, taken from a wide range of authors and genres (all year).

The one-hour class is devoted to reading our set text. We usually read parts of three texts over the year: we start with a prose text, then we move onto some Homer and some Euripides, so by the end of the course you can feel that you’ve read and could cope with tackling ‘real’ ancient Greek, armed with your grammar and lexicon.

**Course director**: Dr. Richard Hawley.

**Course content**

This course will develop upon students’ previous experience of Greek by combining a variety of exercises to confirm existing knowledge and to introduce them to a wider range of texts in ancient Greek. This will comprise preparation of “set texts” in both prose and verse for translation into English and detailed discussion in class; grammar and syntax consolidation exercises; lexicon-using and vocabulary-building exercises. The work will be done both independently as individuals and in small groups in class, to develop personal study skills and group communication. Students may suggest topics or authors for further study, if they are appropriate to the level, which may enhance their appreciation of other topics on other courses: this will help integrate their Greek language study into the rest of their degree. It is also hoped that it will better prepare and encourage students to pursue the study of the ancient Greek language further (e.g. “author units” within the department’s BA programmes, or, for finalists, at Masters level).

**Assessment**

* Four in-course assessment tests, equally weighted, each taken during one class hour, spread over the two teaching terms. The average mark of the best three test marks contributes 20% towards the course total.
* The remaining 80% comes from a three-hour exam in the summer term.

**Books required**

* The Liddell & Scott *Intermediate Greek Lexicon* (OUP) is allowed for all assessment tests and the exam. You should have your own copy for the start of the course to get used to using it each week.
* In addition you should have an ancient Greek grammar. Whichever one you have already will probably suffice.
* You will be expected to buy J.R. Cheadle *A Basic Greek Vocabulary*, Bristol Classical Press (new £9.99) for the start of the course. We shall be using this each week for vocabulary learning. It also contains really useful lists of prepositions and irregular verbs’ principal parts.
* We shall start by reading parts of Lucian’s ‘True Story’ in the edition *Lucian’s True Story: an intermediate Greek reader* by E. Hayes & S. Nimis, published by Hayed & Nimis on demand, revised edition 2012. It is easiest to order it via Amazon, where you can find copies under £9.00. This contains the Greek text, with helpful notes, grammar/syntax revision text boxes, and a vocabulary.

**Suggested vacation work**

The key thing is to carry on reading some ancient Greek. A good text is the Greek adventure/romantic novel *Callirhoe* by Chariton. It is a good level of ‘real’ Greek, with an exciting story. You can easily dip into reading parts of the story that take your interest. The easiest and best text to get is the Loeb edition, which has a facing English translation and notes (Harvard University Press, new £16.95).

If you don’t fancy that, then you could dip into any ancient Greek text, which might relate to one of your other modules next year, maybe some Thucydides or Xenophon’s *Hellenika* for Greek history, or maybe Xenophon’s *Oikonomikos* (*On household management*) for social history, or the first speech by Lysias *On the murder of Eratosthenes* for Greek law. I would stick to prose, unless you want the challenge of trying to tackle verse! If you do, why not try looking at a Greek tragedy you like (comedy is much harder, so probably to avoid at this stage)? For any of these the Loeb editions (published by Harvard University Press) with text and translation are great value for money.

**Course Moodle page**

This will not be ready for you to access until just before the start of the academic year, when all course registrations are finalized and the Moodle pages are ‘rolled over’ by College ready for the next intake.

If you have any questions, please do email me, and I look forward to seeing you in the autumn.

RGH 5/2016