GREEK (GREK)

GREK 0100 Elementary Classical Greek I
Intensive introduction to Classical Greek morphology and syntax. This course includes exercises in grammar, Greek composition, and translation from Greek to English. Emphasis is placed upon developing the ability to read Greek with facility.
Fall
1 Course Unit

GREK 0110 Intensive Elementary Classical Greek
An introduction to the ancient Greek language for beginners, with explanation of basic grammatical concepts and intensive exercises in reading and writing. Ideal for undergraduates or graduate students from Penn or elsewhere with some background in learning other languages, or who need to learn Greek rapidly. The course covers the first year of college-level Greek, equivalent to GREK 0100 + GREK 0200 at more than twice the normal pace. For further information on Penn’s Greek curriculum, visit the Classical Studies department website.
Summer Term
2 Course Units

GREK 0130 Elementary New Testament Greek
This course provides a one-semester introduction to koine, the version of ancient Greek that was shared by many communities around the Mediterranean and was used in the composition of the Greek New Testament and much early Christian literature. Coursework will focus on grammar, vocabulary, and basic readings. The course prepares students for more extensive readings in biblical Greek literature, in the sequel course GREK 0230 Readings in New Testament Greek. Students aiming to learn classical Greek should take instead GREK 0100 Elementary Classical Greek I.
1 Course Unit

GREK 0180 Elementary Modern Greek I
This course is designed for students with no prior knowledge of the modern Greek Language. Instructions are theme based and is supported by a Textbook as well as other written or audiovisual material. It provides the framework for development of all communicative skills (reading, writing, comprehension and speaking) at a basic level. The course also introduces students to aspects of Modern Greek culture that are close to students’ own horizon, while it exposes them to academic presentations of Greek history, arts, and current affairs. Quizzes, finals and short individual work with presentation are the testing tools. The completion of this unit does NOT satisfy the language requirement.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

GREK 0200 Elementary Classical Greek II
Students complete their study of the morphology and syntax of Classical Greek. We begin the semester with continuing exercises in grammar and translation, then gradually shift emphasis to reading unadapted Greek texts.
Spring
Prerequisite: GREK 0100
1 Course Unit

GREK 0280 Elementary Modern Greek II
Continuation of Elementary Modern Greek I, with increased emphasis on reading and writing.
Not Offered Every Year
Prerequisite: GREK 0180
1 Course Unit

GREK 0300 Intermediate Classical Greek: Prose
This course is for those who have completed GREK 0200, Greek 0110, or equivalent. You are now ready to begin reading real Greek! We will read a selection of passages from Greek prose authors, focusing on language and style.
Fall
Prerequisite: GREK 0200 OR GREK 0110
1 Course Unit

GREK 0310 Intensive Intermediate Greek
An introduction to the basic history and conventions of Greek prose and poetry, with continuous readings from classical authors accompanied by grammar review and exercises. Ideal for undergraduates or graduate students from Penn or elsewhere who have completed the equivalent of one year Greek (e.g., GREK 0110). The course covers the second year of college-level Greek, equivalent to GREK 0300 + GREK 0400 at more than twice the normal pace.
Summer Term
2 Course Units

GREK 0380 Intermediate Modern Greek I
This course is designed for students with an elementary knowledge of Demotic Modern Greek, and aims mainly at developing oral expression, reading and writing skills.
Not Offered Every Year
Prerequisite: GREK 0180 AND 0280
1 Course Unit

GREK 0388 Greek/Heritage Speakers I
This course is intended to help Heritage Speakers or student with prior knowledge of conversational modern Greek (or even Ancient Greek) to refresh or enrich their knowledge of modern Greek and who would not be a good fit for the elementary or intermediate classes. A theme based textbook and instructions along with a comprehensive overview of grammar as a whole is presented while original text, songs, video and other media are used in order to augment vocabulary and increase fluency in modern Greek. Students are expected to properly use the language, do theme-based research on the themes examined and provide written work on various subjects and make conversation in class. Presentations on researched topics account for final exam.
Fall or Spring
1 Course Unit

GREK 0400 Intermediate Classical Greek: Poetry
We will read a selection of passages from Greek poetic authors, ranging from Homer to tragedy.
Spring
Prerequisite: GREK 0300
1 Course Unit

GREK 0480 Intermediate Modern Greek II
Further attention to developing oral expression, reading, and writing skills for students with knowledge of Demotic Modern Greek.
Not Offered Every Year
Prerequisite: GREK 0180 AND GREK 0280 AND GREK 0380
1 Course Unit
GREK 0488 Greek/Heritage Speakers II
It is the continuation of GREK 115 with completing Grammar (passive voice as well as unusual nouns and adjectives etc.) and adding more challenging reading and writing material. The completion of this course satisfies the language requirement. ALL students completing the HSI GREK 115 are eligible to enroll. ALL OTHERS will have to take a placement test.
Spring
1 Course Unit

GREK 3001 Hymnic Poetry
In this course, we will read the four major Homeric hymns and five Callimachian hymns, with briefer examinations of the minor Homeric hymns and Orphic hymns. Some of the questions that will arise from our readings include the contexts for which they were composed, the literary and religious relationship of humans and gods, mythopoetics, and the differences in dialect and language between the works. (This course is for those who have completed Greek 0400, Greek 0310, or equivalent.)
Not Offered Every Year
Prerequisite: GREK 0400
1 Course Unit

GREK 3003 Greek Dialogue
TBA
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

GREK 3202 The Myth of Prometheus
In Greek mythology, human beings are indebted for their survival and their way of life to Prometheus, the powerful Titan and clever trickster who defies Zeus to give them the gift of fire and the various arts and technologies of civilization. We will trace the development of the Prometheus myth through a series of works in different genres by Hesiod, Aeschylus, and Plato.
1 Course Unit

GREK 3203 Alcibiades and the Athenian Imagination
Political superstar, demagogue, desperate lover, brilliant general, and traitor, Alcibiades captured the imaginations of his fellow Athenians as well as thinkers and artists for centuries to come. This course offers students an opportunity to study democracy, sexuality, ethics, and youth through the perspectives on Alcibiades presented in comedy, historiography, philosophy, and oratory. In addition to preparing weekly translations, students will write individual papers presenting original close readings or research and will additionally collaborate on a digital project.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

GREK 3204 Alcibiades and the Athenian Imagination
Political superstar, demagogue, desperate lover, brilliant general, and traitor, Alcibiades captured the imaginations of his fellow Athenians as well as thinkers and artists for centuries to come. This course offers students an opportunity to study democracy, sexuality, ethics, and youth through the perspectives on Alcibiades presented in comedy, historiography, philosophy, and oratory. In addition to preparing weekly translations, students will write individual papers presenting original close readings or research and will additionally collaborate on a digital project.
1 Course Unit

GREK 3205 Helen of Troy
Helen of Troy was one of the most debated figures in classical literature, at once overwhelmingly attractive and responsible for the immense suffering and loss of the Trojan War. We will focus on Euripides’ complex, playful presentation of the Helen myth in his tragedy Helen (in which she never goes to Troy at all), but will also look at portrayals of Helen by Homer, Sappho, Herodotus, and Gorgias. Reading knowledge of Greek or permission of instructor is required to enroll in this course.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

GREK 3206 Ancient Ideas on Myth
Ancient readers were puzzled by their myths. The myths conveyed authoritative stories, many thought, but they did this in sometimes baffling ways. Heroes are not all that heroic, gods do things it seems they shouldn’t, and strange creatures and behaviors abound. This course will survey views on the myths among Greek philosophers, historians, and mythographers, and try to piece together what they think myth is and how it works. Texts will be read in Greek. Introductory and Intermediate Greek, or the equivalent, are pre-requisites.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

GREK 3402 Thucydides
In this class we will read excerpts from the Greek historian, Thucydides, whose account of the Peloponnesian War is one of the most influential and compelling examples of history writing from any culture. Thucydides is generally thought of as one of the more difficult Greek prose authors. We will read some basic narrative passages in order to become familiar with Thucydidean style, before moving to the more difficult speeches and editorial passages in which Thucydides expounds upon the goals and difficulties of writing history.
Fall or Spring
1 Course Unit

GREK 3601 Demosthenes
This semester we shall read Demosthenes, On the Crown. This speech, one of the masterpieces of Greek oratory, was delivered in 330 BC towards the end of Demosthenes’ career. It has long been used as a valuable source of information on social, religious and political history, but it is also a pleasure to read for its clarity and vigour. We will read approximately five pages per week, and each Thursday there will be a short student report on a topic relating to the speech and Athenian oratory. These reports will be written up and submitted one week later as the only papers required in the class. Intermediate-level (200-level) Greek for undergraduate students is a pre-requisite for this class.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

GREK 3801 Greek Prose Composition
This course will provide a systematic review of ancient Greek prose writing, both through the analysis of texts and through exercises in translation and free composition. The course is open to undergraduates beyond the intermediate level and to graduate students. For undergraduates, the course is an opportunity to gain extra clarity and confidence in the language. A common set of exercises will be assigned to all students, but graduate students will also be assigned more challenging exercises.
Not Offered Every Year
Mutually Exclusive: GREK 5801
1 Course Unit
GREK 5003 Greek Dialogue
In this course we will examine the various manifestations of dialogue in ancient Greek literature. We will read some whole dialogues (such as those by Plato and Lucian; some dialogues in drama and dialogue episodes in historiography). We will also study, and experiment with, the linguistic and discursive phenomena associated with dialogue. (Prior completion of intermediate 200-level Greek sequence or high-school Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

GREK 5203 Alcibiades and the Athenian Imagination
Political superstar, demagogue, desperate lover, brilliant general, and traitor, Alcibiades captured the imaginations of his fellow Athenians as well as thinkers and artists for centuries to come. This course offers students an opportunity to study democracy, sexuality, ethics, and youth through the perspectives on Alcibiades presented in comedy, historiography, philosophy, and oratory. In addition to preparing weekly translations, students will write individual papers presenting original close readings or research and will additionally collaborate on a digital project.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

GREK 5204 Alcibiades and the Athenian Imagination
Political superstar, demagogue, desperate lover, brilliant general, and traitor, Alcibiades captured the imaginations of his fellow Athenians as well as thinkers and artists for centuries to come. This course offers students an opportunity to study democracy, sexuality, ethics, and youth through the perspectives on Alcibiades presented in comedy, historiography, philosophy, and oratory. In addition to preparing weekly translations, students will write individual papers presenting original close readings or research and will additionally collaborate on a digital project.
1 Course Unit

GREK 5402 Thucydides
In this class we will examine the various manifestations of dialogue in ancient Greek literature. We will read some whole dialogues (such as those by Plato and Lucian; some dialogues in drama and dialogue episodes in historiography). We will also study, and experiment with, the linguistic and discursive phenomena associated with dialogue. (Prior completion of intermediate 200-level Greek sequence or high-school Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

GREK 5801 Greek Prose Composition
This course will provide a systematic review of ancient Greek prose writing, both through the analysis of texts and through exercises in translation and free composition. The course is open to undergraduates beyond the intermediate level and to graduate students. For undergraduates, the course is an opportunity to gain extra clarity and confidence in the language. A common set of exercises will be assigned to all students, but graduate students will also be assigned more challenging exercises.
Not Offered Every Year
Mutually Exclusive: GREK 3801
1 Course Unit

GREK 6600 The Greek Text: Language and Style
What do we need to read texts in ancient Greek? In this course we read just one prose text and one poetic text, or a very limited number of texts and passages, with a focus on language and formal analysis (such as diction, grammar, stylistics, metrics, rhetoric, textual criticism). A range of exercises will be used to develop these skills, including composition, lexical studies, recitation, memorization, exegesis, written close-readings, and sight-translation.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

GREK 6601 Greek Literary History
Through selected readings from both poetry and prose, we will survey the range and evolution of ancient Greek literary practice and will identify some of Greek literature might be constructed.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

GREK 7201 Troy and Homer
An interdisciplinary seminar focusing on the city of Troy both as an archaeological site and as the setting of the legendary Trojan War. We will consider Homer’s Iliad (with selected sections read in Greek) together with the topography and archaeology of the site of Troy in order to address a series of interrelated questions: What are the points of continuity and discontinuity between the stories told by the literary tradition and the material record? How do both types of evidence contribute to our understanding of political relations and cultural interactions between Greece and Anatolia in the Bronze Age? How do Hittite sources bear on our reconstruction of the events behind the Troy legend? How have the site and the poem contributed to each other’s interpretation in the context of scholarly discovery and debate? We will give some attention to modern receptions of the Troy legend that deliberately combine material and textual elements, such as Cy Twombly’s “Fifty Days at Iliam” and Alice Oswald’s “Memorial: An Excavation of Homer’s Iliad.” The seminar will include a visit to the site of Troy during the Spring Break.
1 Course Unit
GREK 7202 Plato and Aristotle on Human Nature
The place of humans in the order of things was a perennial question for ancient philosophers. The puzzle typically begins with questions of humans’ place within a hierarchy, setting them between inanimate things and non-human living things on the one side, and the divine on other. These categories, along with others like metabolism, growth and decay, death, sentence, cognition, and knowledge, will form the background against which we look closely at Plato’s and Aristotle’s views. We will read sections of Phaedo, Republic, and Timaeus, along with On the Soul, On the Motion of Animals, and On Divination. The course will invite both broad synthetic thinking, and focused textual analysis. Students will be responsible for a class presentation, a stint as lead questioner, a presentation of work toward a research paper, and a final research paper.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

GREK 7203 Ancient and Medieval Theories and Therapies of the Soul
This seminar focuses on premodern conceptions of the ‘soul’, the force felt to animate and energize a human body for as long as it was considered alive, and to activate virtually all aspects of its behavior through time. Premodern concepts of the soul attempted to account for a person’s emotions and desires, perceptions, thoughts, memory, intellect, moral behavior, and sometimes physical condition. The course will trace the various ancient theories of the soul from the Presocratics, Plato, Aristotle, Stoic thought in Greek and Latin, medical writers (Hippocrates, Hellenistic doctors, Galen), and Neoplatonists, to the medieval receptions and transformations of ancient thought, including Augustine and Boethius, Avicenna’s interpretation of Aristotle and its medieval influence, and Aquinas and other later medieval ethicists. These premodern conceptions of the soul have a surprisingly long afterlife, reaching into the literary cultures and psychological movements of early modernity and beyond. Knowledge of Greek or Latin not required, but see the following: The seminar will meet for one two-hour session per week, and a separate one-hour ‘breakout’ session during which students who have registered for GREK 608 will meet to study a selection texts in Greek, and students who have registered for COML/ENGL will meet to discuss medieval or early modern texts relevant to their fields of study.
Not Offered Every Year
Also Offered As: COML 6100, ENGL 7060
1 Course Unit

GREK 7402 Aristophanes and Old Comedy
This advanced graduate seminar in ancient Greek literature will focus in detail on several plays of Aristophanes and selections from his contemporaries in Old Comedy, Cratinus and Eupolis. Special attention will be paid both to questions of genre and comic dynamics, and to the historical and political contexts in which these plays were first performed.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

GREK 7403 ARISTOPHANES AND LUCIAN
This seminar will explore the comic drama of Aristophanes and its influence on the comic prose of Lucian in the Imperial period. Aristophanes was an important literary model for Lucian, but Lucian read Aristophanes in his own way and for his own literary agenda. We will consider each author both in their own historical contexts, and comparatively, as parodists, satirists and cultural critics within a long and varied literary tradition.
Fall or Spring
1 Course Unit

GREK 7404 Herodotus
An overview of Herodotus’ Histories with attention both to its place in Greek literary history and to its uses and limitations as an historical source. We will consider the Histories in relation to questions of ethnic identity, cultural contact, and the construction of East and West. In their individual projects, students will explore the relevance of this protean, polyvocal text to their particular interests and scholarly perspectives.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

GREK 7707 The Iliad and its Receptions
We will read selections from the Greek poem together, alongside some modern scholarship on it. We will also read Plato’s Ion and the Battle of the Mice and Frogs, as evidence for Homer’s ancient philosophical, rhetorical and poetic receptions. We will discuss the history of the poem’s translation into English, focusing on earlier translations (Chapman, Hobbes, Pope) and discussing the instructor’s goals and challenges in producing a new re-translation. We will also talk about two recent novelizations of the poem, Pat Barker’s Silence of the Girls and Madeline Miller’s Song of Achilles. The course is primarily intended for graduate students in Classical Studies and Ancient History, but it is also open to students in other programs, including those whose Greek might be less advanced. Prerequisite: Students should have a working knowledge of Greek.
Not Offered Every Year
Also Offered As: COML 7707
1 Course Unit

GREK 7802 Greek Epigraphy
An introduction to the principles and practices of Greek Epigraphy. Study of selected Greek inscriptions.
Not Offered Every Year
Also Offered As: ANCH 7202
1 Course Unit

GREK 9999 Independent Study
This course is taken by graduate students doing independent work with a faculty advisor.
Fall or Spring
1-2 Course Units