

Study Abroad in Greece:
The History, Archaeology and Culture of Greece
History 498: Medieval and Post-Medieval Greece
History 301: Ancient Greece

Program Dates:

June 6, 2020 – June 30, 2020
(Final Assignment Due: July 6, 2020)

Faculty:

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Greece Program Description:

This study abroad program offer students the opportunity to study the history, culture and archaeology of Greece from a diachronic perspective. The program will introduce students to Greece's complex past through site visits, reading assignments, lectures, and exposure to Greek culture. Site visits will occur in Greece's capital, Athens, and other (select) regions in the country. Greece has been a crossroads between east and west since antiquity, and it remains so to this day. The Greek Crisis revealed this simple fact quite directly: would Greece remain a part of the European project or not? Was it proper for Greece to be an EU member state (i.e., part of the club of developed, Western nation-states)? Likewise, Greece's music reflects influences spanning Europe and Asia: Greek folk music is rendered in scales that belong firmly to the eastern Mediterranean and Middle East, yet the instrumentation one finds in Greek music groups certainly reflects strong Western influences (e.g., widespread use of fretted instruments, the violin, and so on). Thus, Greece presents students with a unique case: an EU country that sits astride supposed "civilizational" fault lines. This historical fact has colored and affected the development of the modern Greek nation-state since its founding, and it continues to do so today. This program will allow students to explore this complex dynamic diachronically through the application of different types of evidence (literary, documentary, material) to grounded historical questions. In so doing, students will gain direct exposure to a wide range of issues and problems that historians, art historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, political scientists, and others continue to grapple with today.

Student Learning Objectives:

1. Students will develop an understanding of the basic contours of Greek history diachronically and an appreciation of the tremendous scope and diversity of this history.
2. Students will develop an understanding of the complex relationship (political and cultural) between antiquity, archaeology, and modern Greece.
3. Students will hone their ability to produce historical interpretations from archaeological/material evidence.
4. Demonstrate the ability to communicate historical knowledge, interpretations, and arguments clearly in writing.
5. Students will internalize the basic contours of contemporary Greek cultural practices and norms. In so doing, they will become better, more engaged global citizens.
6. Students will develop an awareness of the contemporary refugee and economic crises in Greece, and learn about the numerous minority communities (Vlachs, Albanians, Turkish Muslims) that call Greece home today.

HIST 301: Ancient History: Greece

This study abroad course focuses on the history of the Greek world from the Bronze Age through the Roman period. Students will have the opportunity to visit some of the finest monuments constructed in classical antiquity in Athens, the Corinthia, and the Argolid. They will visit the Acropolis and see the Parthenon first hand, and they will also tour the new Acropolis Museum. They will visit the Roman Forum in Ancient Corinth, and the city's harbor at Lechaion, among the largest constructed in the Roman period anywhere in Greece. Likewise, they will tour and visit Mycenae, one of the most important Bronze Age sites in the Greek world, and the sanctuary at Epidauros, where one of the finest Greek theaters of antiquity was constructed. It still hosts performances to this day. Throughout this course, students will be asked to think critically and historically about these monuments (and others) and to assess how they may be used to understand ancient Greece and subsequent periods of Greek history.

HIST 498: Special Topics: Medieval and Post-Medieval Greece

This course focuses on the study of the Greek world during the medieval and post-medieval period. It is a study abroad course and, as such, will allow students to study this time period from an "on the ground" perspective. Students will visit and tour Byzantine churches, Venetian fortresses, and Ottoman mosques in Athens, the Corinthia, and the Argolid. Students will be asked to frame these sites and monuments historically, and to consider how the classical legacy affected the development of Greece in the medieval and post-medieval period. A particular focus here will be the development of the modern Greek-nation state, and the role that antiquity played in its creation. Students will also learn about Greece's minority communities in this course.

Readings and Assignments

I will make all necessary materials available to students digitally and also via a hard copy course packet, which they can purchase before departure. Students can select their preferred option. **It would be best, however, if each student brought a laptop or tablet on this trip.**

All students should purchase the following books. They will read the first pre-departure and the second during the program in Greece.

Sofka Zinovieff, *Eurydice Street: A Place in Athens*. You'll read this pre-departure. You can pick up a copy easily on Amazon or elsewhere. Reading assignments are listed on the schedule.

N. Doumanis, *A History of Greece*. Palgrave, 2009.

Combined Assignments:

Pre-departure Assignments: 10%. (very basic) Greek lessons; *Eurydice Street* response essay.

Final Essay: 20%. In this essay, which will be due Monday, July 6, students will be asked to think about Greek history from a diachronic perspective and to integrate course content, themes and materials.

HIST 301:

Museum Assignments: 20%

Assignments tailored to specific museums in the study area. These (brief) writing assignments will ask students think about not only objects in the Museums but also the broader program of display. Museum study will be linked with sites/monuments throughout the program in a direct manner. Museum list: Benaki, Acropolis, Nafplio, National Archaeological Museum, Cycladic Museum.

Site Presentations in the Corinthia: 20%

Each student will conduct (limited) independent research and prepare two site presentations. These will focus on specific (ancient) monuments at the sites. For example, at Isthmia students will be able to select from the following: the Roman bath, the Hexamilion Fortress, the Temple of Poseidon, and the East Field. Other sites offer similar range of options (Isthmia, Corinth, Lechaion, Kenchreai, Nemea, Perachora).

Ancient Athens, Acropolis and Agora Assignment: 20%

Students will conduct tours of these important monuments of the classical period and complete an associated (written) assignment, which will include accessing the online archive of the Agora Excavations. We will hold a class discussion thereafter, at which we will contextualize these archaeological sites and monuments within a diachronic perspective.

Response Essay to play at Epidaurus Theater: 10%

The ancient theater at Epidaurus is still used today and hosts the annual Epidaurus Festival every summer, beginning in June. We'll see a performance of a Greek tragedy or comedy from the classical period. Students will produce a brief reflection thereafter.

HIST 498:**Museum Assignments: 20%**

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Analysis of Church Architecture: 10%

Students will write one (detailed) descriptive analysis of a Byzantine church, either in Athens or the Argolid. This assignment will ask students to make use of appropriate art historical terminology and methods. The idea here is to give students a sense of the general contours of ecclesiastical architecture in the Byzantine world, which was quite different from its Western counterpart. Options will be available in Athens and the Argolid.

Greece Today Reflection Essay (Minorities in Greece and the Greek Crisis): 20%

Faculty will introduce students to minority communities in Greece through site visits and also discussions with Corinthians (many of whom descend from Albanians). We will also read about and hold a class discussion on the Greek crisis. In fact, the crisis will be quite visible throughout the trip, despite Greece's supposed "recovery" from years of austerity. Students will write a short reflection essay on these topics.

Colonial Landscapes: 20%

Students will complete an assignment based on their visit to Acrocorinth and Pendeskoufi in the Corinthia, both of which present the Frankish/Crusader history of Greece, and the Venetian fortress at Palamidi. We will tour these monuments and encourage students to focus on episodes of western imperialism in the Greek world. They will produce a written response based on our tour and discussion and associated readings.

Schedule

Code:

301

498

CA = combined

Pre-departure (3-4 meetings)

Greek lessons: Greek alphabet; basic greetings, helpful vocabulary and phrases

Reading: Sofka Zinovieff, *Eurydice Street: A Place in Athens*.

Assignment: Students will need to pass a (very) basic Greek language exam This will simply involve chatting casually with me for a few minutes. Mainly, I want them to know the alphabet and a few helpful phrases/words (Hello, thank you, where's the toilet, etc.). Students will also write a short response essay to *Eurydice Street*.

Itinerary: Greece

Saturday 6/6: Students fly to ATH

Sunday 6/7: Students arrive in Athens, check in

Part One: Athens

M 6/8: AIFS introductions; basics of Athens (ATMs, transportation, stores, etc.); Faculty-led orientation to Athens (historical walking tour: architecture and neighborhoods of Athens)

T 6/9: Benaki Museum (CA): Introduction to Greek History Diachronically (full day w/ lunch break)
Museums Assignment

W 6/10: Athenian Acropolis (301)
Reading: The Acropolis in History (Drive/Dropbox).

Th 6/11: Acropolis Museum (CA) (full day w/ lunch break)
Reading: The Acropolis in History II (Drive/Dropbox).

F 6/12: Morning: Student writing/work time
Afternoon: Folk Instrument Museum and visit to workshop of D. Rapakousios or P. Moustakas or P. Kafetzopoulos. 498. Museum Assignment.

S 6/13: Visit to the Athenian Agora (301)

Su 6/14: Byzantine Churches of Athens (Kapnikarea, Little Metropolis); 498
Afternoon: Student work/writing day.

M 6/15: Morning: National Archaeological Museum. Museum Assignment. 301.
Afternoon: Student writing/work time
Ancient Athens, Acropolis and Agora Assignment Due

T 6/16: Morning: The Greek Crisis: Causes and Consequences. 498.
Reading: The Greek Crisis (Drive/Dropbox).
Afternoon: One small Benaki Museum (498) or Cycladic Museum (301). Museum Assignment.

Part Two: Corinthia

W 6/17: Travel from Athens to Corinth. Visit the following along the way: Panhellenic Sanctuary at Isthmia. Student Presentations at Isthmia (301).

Late afternoon: check in to hotel in modern Corinth; evening meal.

Th 6/18: Morning: Forum of Corinth. Student Presentations at the Corinthian Forum (301).
Afternoon: Acrocorinth and Pendeskoufi site visits.

F 6/19: Morning: Lechaion Harbor and the Early Christian basilica
Reading: Lechaion Harbors Research Project (Drive/Dropbox)
Afternoon: Kenchreai and Mt. Oneion
Student Presentations at Lechaion and Kenchreai (301)

Sa 6/20: Day trip, Corinthia: Mt. Loutraki and Ayios Patapios (498); Perachora (301); traditional fish meal at Lake Vouliagmeni. Student Presentations at Perachora (301)

Reading: Ayios Patapios (Drive/Dropbox).

Su 6/21: The Village of Examilia and the Roma in Greece; Arvanites in the Corinthia. 498.

Reading: Minorities in Greece (Drive/Dropbox).

M 6/22: Student writing/work time

Greece Today Reflection Essay Due

Part Three: Argolid

T 6/23: Check out of hotel, travel to Argolid. Visit the following along the way: Sanctuary of Nemea and the Dervenaki Pass (498). Student Presentations at Nemea (301).

Early evening: check in, Nafplio

W 6/24: Morning: Mycenae: prehistoric Greece (301)

Reading: Schliemann's letters/journals (Drive/Dropbox).

Afternoon: Churches of the Argolid (498)

Th 6/25: Nafplio: Nafplio Museum (CA), Palamidi Fortress (498)

Museum Assignment.

Afternoon: Student writing/work time.

F 6/26: Day trip, Argolid: Epidauros

Student Presentations at Epidauros (301)

Sa 6/27: The Modern Nemean Games (CA). Students will have the option of registering to participate in the reconstituted Nemean Games, held every two years, as they were in antiquity (sometimes). We will leave early in the morning and return to Nafplio for the night.

Su 6/28: Student writing/work time

Analysis of Church Architecture Due (498)

M 6/29: Check out, travel to Athens; night in Athens

Response Essay to Epidauros Theater Due (301)

Colonial Landscapes Due (498)

T 6/30: Students depart for CA

M 7/6: Final Essay due