Classics 101G: Introductory Greek

The Text


(Optional Texts)

Abbot and Mansfield. Primer of Greek Grammar. Focus. 1-58510-018-8

Audio-Visual Material. Classical Greek Vocabulary Cards. Vis-Ed

Course Description, Objective and Approach

Classics 101G is an introduction to Attic Greek for the student with either general or specific motivations for studying this ancient language. I assume no previous language experience on the part of the student. Nothing is taken for granted; everything is explained. My goal is to offer any and all students the chance to succeed in the course target objective.

The course objective of the first semester is to master the basics both of the morphology of nouns, adjectives and verbs, and of the grammar and syntax of the simple Greek sentence. The emphasis of the course is decidedly on the art of reading Greek. All skills are subordinated to that overarching objective. Historic material, cultural enrichment, and language skills (such as pronunciation, conversation, and composition) will be introduced in the class only when and in so far as they aid the skills involved in meaningful reading. A student who takes both semesters of Greek will be able to go on to read authentic Greek prose and poetry of the classical period.

Course Requirements

A single paperback text, listed above, is required for the course. (This reader will also be the core text of the spring semester: this is a good deal!) Legal pads are indispensable for class work. A note pad will also help you keep class notes organized. I'll inundate you with handouts of great variety: a binder to organize paperwork will do you no harm.

A major portion of your semester grade is based your daily recitation and analysis of daily assignments. Class attendance is essential; class attendance entails preparation for class; preparation for class entails coming to class to find out what and how to prepare. The course (like Classics) is a closed system: you've got to be in the loop to understand what is going on. This is one 9:00 class that will begin on time every day: I intentionally set quizzes and collect homework first thing of the day. I do not allow "make-up" work; this particularly applies to work you miss due to late arrive to class.

Tests will be given generally on Mondays, to give you maximum time to review and revise. There are a variety of ways in which I can and do regularly check the quality
of your nightly studies. Because of the nature of our daily work and the frequency of tests (you will take six hourly exams), there will be no midterm exam. The final covers material from the last three weeks of the term and is little more than a glorified hourly examination.

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily attendance, recitation, quizzes</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Final Examination:**

15 Dec, Wednesday, 8-10

**Intellectual Properties**

All regular course work—graded assignments, quizzes, tests—will be handed back to you in class with your grade discreetly placed upon the top. I will return finals to you in the spring semester. Any unclaimed work will be discarded at the end of the academic year.

Ask my permission to record the class; ask my permission to bring guests to the class. I reserve ownership of the class and the specific right to monitor and adjust course content to aide student progress toward becoming a Hellenist.

**The Classical Scholar’s Desk, Aerial View of the First Semester:**

You will notice immediately in this schematic that the study of an ancient language requires a monumental localization of material. Not pictured, though space has been provided, are the requisite carbohydrate rich brain foods (such as Smarties, Jolly Ranchers or black licorice Nubs) to revive flagging gray matter. The caffeine delivery system pictured here is intended for sinister manipulation and not recommended for the dexterously inclined.