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Classics Syllabi Fall 2020

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2020

### GREK 101-01 Greek

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# GREEK 101

FALL 2020 | MWF 2-2:50 PM | ALTER 102



So-called "Vatican Amphora," showing Achilles and Ajax playing a board game. Achilles and Ajax are labeled with their names in the genitive, as are their respective scores: τέσσαρα (4) for Achilles and τρία (3) for Ajax. Exekias, c. 540-530 BCE.

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**Zoom office: <https://xavier.zoom.us/j/5865901638>**  
**Office hours: W 4-5, Th 1-3 (and by appointment)**

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This class is the first in a two-course sequence designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of the ancient Greek language. The ultimate goal is to gain direct, unmediated access to the words and ideas of the ancient Greeks—from Homer, Sappho, Plato, and Thucydides, to the Evangelists of the New Testament, to the ordinary people who scribbled and sculpted their thoughts onto curse-tablets and grave markers. At this stage of language acquisition, our focus will be on mastering Greek vocabulary, morphology, grammar, and syntax, but we will also endeavor to learn something about the culture and history of the Greeks and Graeco-Romans who used this language every day.

This course is part of the Xavier Core Curriculum, which aims to develop people of learning and reflection, integrity and achievement, in solidarity for and with others. It addresses the following core learning objectives at the introductory level: students find, evaluate, and logically convey information and ideas in written and oral presentations (objective 2a), students examine the diverse, complex, and interdependent nature of people in the world (objective 5a).

## Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students who have completed the assignments and participated fully in class should possess:

1. Facility in pronouncing and reading ancient Greek.
2. A working, expanding vocabulary of common Greek words and idioms.
3. A thorough understanding of Greek morphology, grammar, and syntax.
4. The ability to compose simple sentences in Greek.



Attic black figure cup with Greek alphabet.  
5th c. BCE.

πάθει μάθος (pathei mathos).

Learning [comes] through suffering (Aeschylus, Ag. 177).

## Course Expectations and Assignments

**Preparation & Participation (30% of your grade):** Mastery of a new language requires **consistent practice**, both inside and outside the classroom. **Preparation (including written homework) and participation in class are therefore heavily weighted.** However, you may **always** choose to participate remotely via Zoom if you feel unwell (or if you have been in contact with someone feeling unwell). The health and well-being of you and your friends, family, fellow-students, and instructors is our highest priority. In the words of Albus Dumbledore, **"I trust you to conduct yourselves, always, with the utmost regard for your own and others' safety."** Please **do NOT** come to class if you are ill or at risk!

Mistakes at this stage of language acquisition are viewed as learning opportunities rather than failures, so **homework will be graded on a complete/incomplete basis.**

**Quizzes (10 at 1% each = 10% of your grade):** There will be 11 in-class quizzes over the course of the semester (**your lowest quiz grade will be dropped**). Quizzes are intended to be low-stakes opportunities to receive formative feedback on your progress and to incentivize regular review of the course material.

**Exams (3 at 20% each = 60% of your grade):** There will be three exams (two midterms and a final) of similar length and format. Exams will focus on the most recent material but will, given the nature of any language as a system of knowledge, necessarily be cumulative. **For both midterms, you will have the opportunity to correct your exam for additional credit.** This class is designed to reward hard work and improvement, so if your grade on the 2nd or 3rd exam exceeds your score on the previous exam, **the higher score will count for both grades.**

## Required Text

C.W. Shelmerdine, *Introduction to Greek* (2nd ed., 2008).

## Course Policies

**Classroom Environment:** The pursuit of knowledge flourishes best in a mutually-supportive community in which all participants respect one another and feel comfortable and safe to learn. All students (and the instructor) are expected to (1) openly share their own views, (2) be open to the views of others, (3) communicate with one another thoughtfully and respectfully, and (4) keep this community's discussions confidential. All students are encouraged to speak with the instructor immediately if they feel these expectations are not being met. Note that I am always happy to honor any student's request to be addressed by their preferred name and/or pronoun.

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ἐν οἷδα ὅτι οὐδὲν οἷδα (hen oída hoti ouden oída).

**One thing I know: that I know nothing (attributed to Socrates).**

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**Late Work:** All assignments are due and all tests must be taken on the dates listed on the syllabus. Unexcused late work will not be accepted, but **extensions** (generally of up to 3 days) **will be granted upon request**. Please be in touch with me as soon as possible (and ideally **before** the due date) if you will need an extension. I reserve the right to deny an extension if I feel this policy is being abused. **Extensions are not offered for exams**, except in case of emergency or illness.

**Scheduling Conflicts:** If you anticipate a conflict between this course's schedule and (1) your participation in an official University event or (2) your religious observance, you may request reasonable accommodations. Please submit your request to me via email **in advance**.

**Electronics: Please bring your laptop or a similar device to every class.** Bear in mind, however, that technology can be both a powerful tool but also a serious distraction. Please be mindful of your own attention and your potential to distract other students. To facilitate your learning, I recommend taking notes with pen and paper (see [this article from Scientific American](#)).

**Academic Honesty:** In this course, as in all your work at this university, you are expected to abide by **Xavier's Academic Honesty Policy**. **All work submitted for academic evaluation must be your own**. Plagiarism or cheating will result both in a zero on the assignment in question and a referral to the Dean. If you find yourself struggling in this class, please **contact me** instead of making a poor decision that will make things worse!

**Grading Scale:** Your work in this class will be graded on the following scale:

100-93: A	87-83: B	77-73: C	67-63: D
92-90: A-	82-80 B-	72-70: C-	62-60: D-
89-88: B+	79-78: C+	69-68: D+	59-0: Failing

## Resources

The following resources are available to help you pursue intellectual inquiry and personal growth free of hindrance:

**Academic Help:** free support is available from Xavier's office of Academic Support in the form of subject-specific tutoring, study skills tutoring, supplemental instruction, and study groups; see <https://www.xavier.edu/academic-support/> for more details. Also bear in mind that **your instructor is always available** by email, in office hours, and by appointment to discuss questions / concerns or to work through an assignment with you.

**Mental/Emotional Health:** free and confidential support is available from McGrath Counseling Services (located in the McGrath Health and Wellness Center) and the Psychological Services Center (located at the Sycamore House); see <https://www.xavier.edu/health-wellness/counseling/> for more details.

**Financial Help:** the Sportula provides no-questions-asked, no-strings-attached microgrants to Classics students. These can be used to help pay for academic necessities (such as textbooks) or basic necessities (such as food, housing, or transportation) without which your academic work would be affected. See [thesportula.wordpress.com](https://thesportula.wordpress.com) or [@libertinopatren](https://twitter.com/libertinopatren) for more details.

### Content Warning

Ancient literature, as we will see, often includes challenging and disturbing material. In this course, we may discuss issues such as violence (including sexual violence), war, suicide, incest, slavery or other potentially upsetting topics. I expect everyone to treat these issues in mature and mutually-respectful ways. If you feel you may be disturbed by the course material, please see me to discuss.



Ostrakon of Cimon (Athenian statesman and general), 5th c. BCE.

## Beginning Language Study: Some Guidelines

- **Work on Greek every day.** Mastery of any new language requires **consistent practice** –“cramming” for tests and quizzes will not serve you well in the long term.
- **Don't fall behind.** Knowledge of any language is **cumulative**; missing class and/or skipping an assignment can therefore have a “ripple affect” that impacts your understanding of new material. Steady, daily progress is the most successful approach!
- **Don't be discouraged.** It is normal (and helpful!) to make mistakes at the beginning level. Learning happens, not when we already know something, but when we work to figure it out.
- **Keep in touch.** I am always available by email, in office hours, or by appointment to discuss questions or concerns. The more you communicate with me, the more I can help!

# COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1		In Class	Preparation (due <b>in class</b> on the day listed)
M	8.17	Welcome & introductions; the Greek alphabet.	View "Introduction to the Alphabet" video (on Canvas): <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wn1LXJIYt0&amp;t=3s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wn1LXJIYt0&amp;t=3s</a>
W	8.19	Continue Ch. 1 (more on the Greek alphabet).	1. Read <b>actively</b> ch. 1 (pp. 1-5). 2. Write out the Greek alphabet (upper & lowercase) 3 times. 3. Inscription worksheet (handed out in class). <b>Optional:</b> Shelmerdine, ex. 1-2, #1-8 for each.
F	8.21	<b>Alphabet quiz in class (ungraded!).</b> Continue Ch. 1 (squiggles).	1. <b>Optional:</b> view the Greek alphabet review video\ ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWT0Jdq21kY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWT0Jdq21kY</a> ). 2. <b>Required:</b> Shelmerdine ex. 3a-3b, #1-8 for each.
<b>Week 2</b>			
M	8.24	Ch. 2 (introduction to verbs).	Worksheet on syllables and accents.
W	8.26	Ch. 2 (more verbs).	1. Read <b>actively</b> ch. 2 (pp. 7-9). 2. Copy out in Greek + read aloud the list of verbs/principal parts from last time. <b>Record yourself reading aloud via Flipgrid!</b> (link on Canvas).
F	8.28	Ch. 3 (introduction to nouns & cases).	Complete ex. 4-8, first column only; ex. 9, #1-5.
<b>Week 3</b>			
M	8.31	Ch. 3 (feminine 1st decl. nouns). <b>Quiz #1.</b>	Worksheet on Greek case uses / noun+verb "alignment."
W	9.2	Ch. 3 (prepositions, future indicative).	1. Read <b>actively</b> ch. 3. (pp. 13-16) 2. Complete ex. 10-11 (all).
F	9.4	Ch. 4 (the definite article, masculine 1 <sup>st</sup> decl. nouns, imperfect).	1. Read <b>actively</b> ch. 3. (pp. 16-17). 2. Complete ex. 12, #1-5, ex. 15 (all).
<b>Week 4</b>			
M	9.7	Ch. 4 (more on the article, verbs with genitive & dative). <b>Quiz #2.</b>	Read <b>actively</b> ch. 4, pp. 19-20. Complete ex. 17 (all).
W	9.9	Ch. 5 (masc/fem 2 <sup>nd</sup> declension nouns; the aorist).	Read <b>actively</b> ch. 4, p. 21. Complete ex. 19 (all), ex. 20, #1-3.
F	9.11	Ch. 5 (word order, possessive genitive).	1. Read <b>actively</b> ch. 5, pp. 23-24. 2. Complete ex. 21-24, #1-3 for each.
<b>Week 5</b>			
M	9.14	Ch. 6 (neuter 2nd declension nouns, the dative). <b>Quiz #3.</b>	1. Read actively ch. 5, pp. 25-26. 2. Complete ex. 26 (all), ex. 27, #1-3.

W	9.16	Ch. 6 (neuter 2nd declension nouns, the dative, infinitives, negation).	1. Read <b>actively</b> ch. 6, pp. 29-30. 2. Worksheet on nouns (handout).
F	9.18	Ch. 7 (1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> declension adjectives, <i>eimi-be</i> ).	1. Read <b>actively</b> ch. 6, pp. 30-31 2. Complete ex. 28, #1-7, ex. 29, #1-3.
<b>Week 6</b>			
M	9.21	Ch. 7 (1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> declension adjectives, <i>eimi-be</i> ).	Read <b>actively</b> ch. 7, pp. 33-35. Complete ex. 30 (all).
W	9.23	Exam review, catch-up.	Read <b>actively</b> ch. 7, pp. 35-37. Complete ex. 31, #1-7, ex. 32, #1-3.
F	9.25	<b>EXAM #1.</b>	

**Schedule for weeks 7-15 TBD based on our pace and progress!**