

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Summer Abroad 2010, UC Davis

Travelers in Greece:

History, Archeology, Literature, and Cultural Identity

Program Locations: Athens, the island of Hydra, Nafplion and ancient Olympia in the Peloponnese, and the island of Cephalonia

SYLLABUS FOR ENL 149 AND ENL 198—8 UNITS

NOTE: Plan to read your texts in advance and start thinking about the papers. I do not advise you to start writing the papers before you leave for Greece; you will need to have the experiences and the field trips in order to write. However, having the assignments in advance will help you think of your texts in a more focused way.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: I will be staying at the same hotels, so you can always find me if you need me. I will also have a cell phone in Athens: You can call at 6945-964-398. If your parents are calling from the US, they should call 011-30-6945-964-398 and should estimate that Greece is 10 hours ahead of California in terms of time. E.g. 9:00AM in CA will be 7:00PM in Greece of the same day. 11:00PM in California will be 9:00AM in Greece of the next day.

Be sure to give your parents a copy of the guide with all the hotels' phone numbers as well as my cell phone number and the time differences. Please ask them to use the program's cell phone only for emergencies.

CLASS GOALS:

English 149 and 198, "Travelers in Greece: The History, Archeology, Literature, and Cultural Identity of Greece" will give American students the opportunity to study Greece's cultural identity and history in the 19th and 20th centuries through selected writings of well-known British and American authors as well as through the works of major Greek authors (in translation).

The objects of the course are twofold: a) to familiarize American students with Greece's culture and history through the eyes of major literary travelers; and b) to allow the students the opportunity to write about their own impressions and experiences as traveling scholars.

ASSIGNMENTS/GRADING:

ENL 149 will be taken for a grade. Evaluation will be based on four short assignments (400-500 words; each assignment is worth 15%, participation in class (20%), and a final examination (20%). All assignments, except the last one, will be due on the Monday of each week. The final will be given the last week of the course.

Assignments will be distributed to the students prior to the program via email; we will go over them in class in Greece. Papers can be written in longhand.

ENL 198 will be taken for a passed/not passed grade. Evaluation will be based on a detailed reflective class journal and observation/field notes from field trips. Journal prompts (some directed, some open) will be distributed to the students along with assignments via email and students will be asked to read in class from their entries each week. Field notes and journals will be submitted to me at the end of the course.

REQUIRED TEXTS and VIEWING OF FILMS:

I recommend that you do the reading in advance—that way, you can simply re-read while in Greece. You will be also able to enjoy the sites more freely as well as have time to explore on your own without trying to play catch-up with the reading. **Please understand that I will not tolerate unprepared students during class discussions. If I am to run a successful course, I need to be able to rely on you, your understanding of the readings, and your oral contributions during class discussions.**

Films

I also require that you view Captain Corelli's Mandolin, the movie based on the novel, because I will discuss it extensively in class. Since we will stay in the town of Sami (and at the hotel) where the movie was filmed and visit the sites shown in the movie, it will be illuminating to compare the two and analyze choices the director made that deviate from the novel's narrative. Compare this to Mediterraneo, an Italian movie about pretty much the same topic: the Italian occupation of parts of Greece in World War II (this film might be only on video, not DVD).

I suggest as well that you watch recent movies about Greece such as My Big Fat Greek Wedding, Troy, Alexander the Great, and 300. All three have come out within the last few of years and will play a vital role in the class discussions.

Texts

- de Bernieres, Louis. *Corelli's Mandolin*.
- Zei, Alki. *Achilles' Fiancée*. Trans. Gail Holst-Warhaft.
- Leontis, Artemis, Ed. *Greece: A Traveler's Literary Companion*.
- Miller, Henry. *The Colossus of Maroussi*.
- Storage, Patricia. *Dinner with Persephone*.

The class will read the following short stories and travel essays from the Artemis Leontis anthology:

While in Athens and Hydra:

- Odysseus Elytis, *Funerary Epigrams*
- George Seferis, *Delphi*
- Eva Vlami, *Galaxidi: The Fate of a Maritime Town*

While in Nafplion and Olympia:

- Nikos Kazantzakis, *Pilgrimage through Greece*
- Ilias Venezis, *Mycenae*
- Thanassis Valtinos, *Panayotis*

While in Sami:

- Marios Hakkas, *The Fresco*
- Elli Alexiou, *The Fountain of Brahim-Baba*
- Yiorgos Chouliaras, *America Is No Longer Here*

Recommended Texts

The following texts are highly recommended in order to give you a strong historical background and better understanding of the required readings.

- Clogg, Richard. *A Concise History of Greece*.
- Powell, Barry B. *A Short Introduction to Classical Myth*.
- Martin, Thomas. *Ancient Greece : From Prehistoric to Hellenistic Times* (Yale Nota Bene).
- Norwich, John Julius. *A Short History of Byzantium*.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Class will meet for 2.5 hours a day Monday through Friday. You will be expected to attend class, discuss assigned readings, complete all writing assignments, take the final exam and attend all field trips. All classes will be conducted in the hotels where you will be staying—we typically use their dining room after breakfast, so class time may vary slightly from hotel to hotel. Exact times will be announced in Greece or by email prior to our departure from the US.

The last two and half weeks of the course will be spent traveling from Athens (more specifically, from the port of Piraeus) to the islands of Hydra, to the Peloponnese, and to the island of Cephalonia (with a day-long visit to the island of Ithaca). Students will have double or single accommodations at all hotels and will be picked up from their hotel and delivered back to the hotel or port on field trips. Students will be returned to Athens and their hotel to prepare for their return to the US.

The goal of this last leg of the course is to have students experience traveling in some of the most beautiful islands and the Peloponnese and take advantage of the many exciting forms of transportation considered routine in Greece.

FIELD TRIPS:

Field trips are an essential aspect of this course and a most enjoyable learning tool. The field trips we will take below are all designed to coordinate with the readings and we will discuss them before and after. All field trips will be done by private bus and all archeological sites will include a highly educated certified guide as a guest speaker. Some field trips will include lunch and one field trip will include dinner; we will eat on our own in the other ones.

Full day trips means we leave the hotel as early as 7:30AM and come back around 5:30 or 6:00PM.

Half day trips mean that we will spend no more than four hours per trip (and we will take breakfast at the hotel before we start on our field trips).

Specific times of arrival and departure will be announced on location since I have to coordinate with buses and guides, and confirm boat and museum schedules.

REQUIREMENTS FOR FIELD TRIPS—please observe and follow rules:

Come prepared to hike/walk at the sites. Be sure to bring the following: Hiking shoes/sneakers or sturdy hiking sandals—shoes must have good tread because marble and limestone are

slippery—water bottle, cloth hat, sunglasses, some type of high energy bar, sunscreen, and light-colored, cool clothing. Students wearing flipflops, high heels/platforms, slides and mules, or any shoes I deem as “unsafe” will be asked to change them before a field trip or stay behind.

VERY IMPORTANT: DO NOT FORGET YOUR UNIVERSITY STUDENT ID CARD—WE HAVE TO SHOW STUDENT IDs AT ALL ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES AND MUSEUMS IN ORDER TO BE ADMITTED.

If you have an international student card from STA Travel (located at the MU of UCD—or check the web), be sure to bring it because you can usually use it for student discounts in all sorts of places. A card is about \$22 and is good for a year.

While located in Athens:

1. Acropolis and its Museum, Ancient Agora and its Museum in the Stoa, and the National Archeological Museum—full day. Lunch is not included in this full day field trip, but we will get something quick to eat on the way to the National.
2. Delphi (the full site) and its Museum—full day with **traditional Greek lunch (included)** outside the town of Delphi in a beautiful countryside taverna with a view of the mountains.
3. The temple of Poseidon in Cape Sounion—half day in the early afternoon. Traditional Greek dinner by the beach at the small fishing village of Anavyssos.

While located in Hydra:

4. Hydra: the Historical Archives and Museum. Short visit (1 hour).
5. Hydra: the Lazaros Koundouriotis Historic Residence and Art Gallery. Short visit (1 hour).

While located in the Peloponnese:

6. The ancient theater of Epidaurus—on the way to Nafplion.
7. Mycenae (the site, the Museum, and the bee hive tomb of Agamemnon). Half day with **traditional Greek lunch (included)**.
8. Nafplion: The Museum. Short visit (1 ½ hours).
9. The islet jail of Bourtzi—Nafplion. Short visit.
10. The castle of Palamidi—Nafplion. Short visit.
11. Mystras—the site of medieval Mystra, its citadels, and Museum. Full day with **traditional Greek lunch (included)** in a picturesque taverna.
12. Ancient Olympia, site of the Olympic Games, and its Museums. Half day.

While in Cephalonia:

13. The underwater cave of the nymph Melissani, the Archeological and Ethnographic Museums in Argostoli. Full day. Lunch on our own.
14. Boat cruise to Ithaca. Full day—no lunch included. We will get lunch on our own by the water.

On the way back to Athens from Cephalonia:

When returning to Athens, we will disembark at the port of Patras and stop at the Isthmia by the Corinth canal, [for our last traditional Greek lunch](#).

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