

Class: M-F 11-11:50 in WAG 10

Instructor: Steve White (sawwhite@uts.cc.utexas.edu)

Office hours: MW 1-2, Th 2-3, and by appointment, in WAG 123B (475-7457)

Prerequisite: Greek 506 or equivalent (normally the first semester of ancient Greek).

Texts *An Introduction to Greek*, H.L. Crosby & J.N. Schaeffer (1928 etc.)

A Greek Reader for Schools, C.E. Freeman & W.D. Lowe (1917 etc.)

OPTIONAL: *Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon*, H.G. Liddell & R. Scott (1889 etc.)

Χαίρετε: welcome back to ancient Greek, language of gods, heroes, and many other cool characters. This course is a continuation of GK 506 and we'll pick up where you left off last semester: hiking up the rugged slopes of Mt. Parnassus under the venerable guidance of Crosby and Schaeffer's *Introduction to Greek* (aka CSI Athens). As you know by now, our path is a challenging one, demanding steady effort and persistence. But as I hope you have also found, the climb can be rewarding, its vistas inspiring, and even the labor strangely invigorating.

Our itinerary this term will start with a focus on declension (rounding out the third and reviewing the rest), then concentrate on verbs, both conjugation and syntax. The first few weeks we'll stick mainly to the path laid out by CSI. But as we advance, we'll also venture off the path to read selections from Herodotus, Plato, and other authors in Freeman and Lowe's *Greek Reader for Schools*; which selections we read we'll decide as we go. By the end of our journey, then, you'll have dipped into some real "classics"; and the better you prepare along the way, the more you're likely to enjoy our tour, because knowing your grammar makes reading much easier.

Format: Our class meets daily M-F (weekends being sacred to the gods), and we'll spend most of our face-time going over assignments, introducing new material, and doing exercises and drills. There will be daily homework assignments, mainly reading and translation but also other exercises to help you review your progress; and to promote continual review, there will be weekly quizzes and three cumulative tests. The final exam, also cumulative, is on May 14.

Grades will be based mainly on four tests (all cumulative) and attendance, as follows:

1. Daily homework (collected randomly) and weekly quizzes (best 8 will count) = 20%
Quizzes will normally be on Wednesdays; there will be no quiz any week we have a test.
2. Three midterm exams (15% each): provisionally on Feb. 10, March 3, April 7 = 45%
3. Final exam: Friday 9-12, May 14 = 30%
4. Classroom performance (up to 5% extra credit for positive contributions) = 5-10%

No make-up tests except for excused absences; likewise for counting any late work.

Try to get to class on time; arriving late can be costly for homework, quizzes, and tests.

Grades will be plus-minus, e.g. 80-82.9 = B-, 83-86.9 = B, and 87-89.9 = B+.

Notice: Regular attendance is essential, both to your own progress and to helping the rest of the class. But contrary to what Γραμματοδιδάσκαλοι like me might seem to think, there are other things in life besides Greek. So you may miss 3 classes no questions asked. However, any additional absences will lower your overall grade by 1%, unless I excuse it. Legitimate excuses are medical or other emergencies (documentation required), religious holidays (see below), or special personal events (only by prior arrangement at least 14 days in advance). In any case, you'll be accountable for all material covered in your absence, excused or not.

Other policies

UT Honor Code: The core values of UT Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Scholastic dishonesty on any graded assignment will result in 0 credit on that assignment; a second offense will result in an F for the course and a report to Student Judicial Services (SJS). Scholastic dishonesty includes any kind of cheating or collaboration on tests, or submitting work that is not either your own or accurately attributed to its source. For more information, contact SJS at 471-2841, or go to <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php>

Religious holidays: If you need to miss a class due to a religious holiday, you must notify me at least 14 days in advance so we can make alternative arrangements for your absence.

Disabilities: UT Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact SSD at 471-6259, or go to <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

Health: If you or someone close to you gets H1N1 flu or shows symptoms, please be smart and follow good medical advice. For information, go to <http://www.healthyhorns.utexas.edu/>

Κτλ (καὶ τὰ λοιπά): For any other issues or problems associated with campus life, you might find it helpful to contact the Office of the Dean of Students: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/>

Some starting advice

1. Good study habits are a big key to success. Most students need at least 2 hours of study time per class, and studying more now will make your progress smoother hereafter (cf. Aesop's ant and grasshopper). Budget your time wisely, avoid distractions, and concentrate on your work.

2. Study actively. People call Greek a dead language, and it's tempting to deal with it only in your head: reading it silently, scanning it quickly, writing it only when required. But passivity is a ticket to failure. Greek is immortal, and we keep it alive by breathing our own life into it. Some specific tips:

- Read it aloud – at least under your breath (mumblecore?). Then read it again.
- Write out paradigms and test yourself by trying to recite them without looking.
- Make vocabulary cards and study them, sometimes all together, but also in separate groups, e.g. new words, nouns, adjectives, verbs, others. And don't forget to shuffle!
- When you finish translating something, re-translate it. Repeat. Repeat. Re...
- Don't write translations in your textbook; that's what paper is for – doh! Then you can always review and translate again without any prompts.
- Be study partners. Helping one another (aka teaching) is a great way to learn. Trust me!

3. Participate! Active class participation is crucial. That means being willing to try whenever you're called upon, volunteering whenever you're prepared (that's always, right?), and asking questions whenever you're confused (happens to the best of us – ask Socrates...). It doesn't mean you have to be right; it just requires coming to class ready to play. For the record, I won't penalize anyone simply for making mistakes in class; your participation grade will reflect your effort, preparation, and willingness to contribute to our collective mission of mastering the elements of Greek. Θάλαττα, θάλαττα!