

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: GL 2032 C. P. CAVAFY: IDENTITY, SENSUALITY AND IRONY IN HIS POETRY US CREDITS: 3/0/3									
(Previously: GL 3232 HISTORY, SENSUALITY, AND IDENTITY IN THE POETRY OF C.P. CAVAFY) (Revised Spring 2025)									
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	None								
<b>CATALOG DESCRIPTION:</b>	This course explores the poetry of one of the most renowned poets of Modern Greece and its continuous impact in the work of a number of European and American writers and artists.								
<b>RATIONALE:</b>	This introductory course aims at helping students understand Cavafy's poetry by exploring themes such as identity, sexuality, memory and human experience. Through the close reading of select poems, students will be able to identify the basic elements of craft in Cavafy's poetry, as well as recognize the cultural significance of these texts by studying them within their context.								
<b>LEARNING OUTCOMES:</b>	<p><i>As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Relate the poetry of Cavafy to its historical and cultural context.</li> <li>2. Understand the major themes of Cavafy's poetry.</li> <li>3. Identify the elements of craft in Cavafy's poetry through close reading.</li> <li>4. Recognize the use of fictional speakers and of irony in Cavafy's poetry.</li> </ol>								
<b>METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:</b>	<p>In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures and class discussions including the close reading of C.P. Cavafy's poetry.</li> <li>• Homework assignments.</li> <li>• Office hours held by the instructor to provide further assistance to students.</li> <li>• Use of library facilities for further study and preparation for the exams</li> <li>• Use of the Blackboard course management platform</li> </ul>								
<b>ASSESSMENT:</b>	<p><b>Summative:</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Class participation</td><td>20%</td></tr> <tr> <td>1<sup>st</sup> assessment: Midterm Exam (Explication of 2 poems).</td><td>30%</td></tr> <tr> <td>2<sup>nd</sup> assessment: Final Exam (Explication of 3-4 poems)</td><td>50%</td></tr> </table> <p><b>Formative:</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Reading Journal</td><td>0</td></tr> </table> <p>The Reading Journal aims at helping students prepare for the two summative assessments.</p> <p>The 1<sup>st</sup> summative assessment tests Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3 The 2<sup>nd</sup> summative assessment tests Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4</p>	Class participation	20%	1 <sup>st</sup> assessment: Midterm Exam (Explication of 2 poems).	30%	2 <sup>nd</sup> assessment: Final Exam (Explication of 3-4 poems)	50%	Reading Journal	0
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Reading Journal	0								

	<p><i>The final grade for this module will be determined by averaging all summative (major) assessment grades, based on predetermined weights for each assessment. If the average grade is 40 and above, students pass the module. No resits for non-validated modules.</i></p>
<b>INDICATIVE READING:</b>	<p><b>REQUIRED READING:</b>  C. P. Cavafy: <i>The collected poems</i>, translated by Evangelos Sachperoglou, Oxford University Press, 2007  C. P. Cavafy: <i>Complete poems</i>, translated by Daniel Mendelsohn, Alfred A. Knopf, 2012  C. P. Cavafy: <i>The complete poems of Cavafy</i>, translated by Rae Dalven, Introduction by W.H. Auden, Harcourt, 1976</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED READING:</b>  R. Liddell, <i>Cavafy: a critical biography</i>, Duckworth, 2000  Chr. Robinson, <i>C.P. Cavafy</i>, Studies in Modern Greek, Bristol Classical Press, 1988  Ed. Keeley, <i>Cavafy's Alexandria</i>, Princeton University Press, 1996  G. Jusdanis, <i>The poetics of Cavafy: textuality, eroticism, history</i>, Princeton University Press, 1996</p> <p>Other sources, including journal and newspapers' articles, research papers etc. recommended by the instructor throughout the semester.</p>
<b>INDICATIVE MATERIAL:</b> (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)	<p><b>REQUIRED MATERIAL:</b> n/a</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL:</b> n/a</p>
<b>COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:</b>	Use of appropriate academic conventions as applicable in oral and written communication
<b>SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:</b>	MS Office and Blackboard CMS
<b>WWW RESOURCES:</b>	<p>Modern Greek Studies Association: <a href="http://mgsa.org/">http://mgsa.org/</a>  The Census of Modern Greek Literature: <a href="https://moderngreekliterature.org/about">https://moderngreekliterature.org/about</a></p>
<b>INDICATIVE CONTENT:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to the poetry of C. P. Cavafy: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Life of a Greek intellectual living and working in the periphery of the Greek state – his relation to the intellectual trends of his home country.</li> <li>1.2. The historical and cultural context in which Cavafy lived and wrote – a Greek in Egypt (British colony).</li> <li>1.3. Literary influences: Victorian poetry and the Decadent/Aesthetic movements in 19th century France and England.</li> <li>1.4. Influences from ancient Greek and Hellenistic history and literature.</li> <li>1.5. Influences from Byzantine history and literature.</li> <li>1.6. Memory and time.</li> <li>1.7. Erotic and homosexual themes.</li> <li>1.8 Irony, language, and style.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<p>2. Analysis of specific poems by thematic criteria:</p> <p>2.1. Sensuality: "Orophernes", "Sculptor of Tyania", "Very seldom", "Of the shop", "Painted", "At the entrance of the café", "Chandelier", "Before the statue of Endymion", "One of their gods", "Sensual pleasure", "So long I gazed", "In the street", "Body remember", "Young men of Sidon (A.D. 400)", "That they come", "Their origin", "Craftsman of craters", "Two young men, 23 to 24 years old", "Days of 1901", "A young man of letters – in his 24th year", "Portrait of a 23-year-old man, painted by a friend of the same age, an amateur artist", "The mirror in the entrance", "According to the recipes of ancient Greco-Syrian magicians".</p> <p>2.2. Identity: "Tomb of the grammarian Lysias", "Tomb of Eurion", "Perilous things", "One night", "He vows", "I went", "Tomb of Lanes", "The tomb of Iases", "A town in Osroene", "The tomb of Ignatius", "For Ammones who died aged 29, in 610", "The tobacconist's window", "Has come to rest", "Of the Hebrews", "Imenos", "In an old book", "In despair", "Epitaph of Antiochus, king of Commagene", "Theatre of Sidon (A.D. 400)", "Temethos, Antiochian, A.D. 400", "The 25th year of his life", "Kleitios' illness", "A priest of the Serapeum", "Julian and the Antiochians", "Days of 1896", "Greek since ancient times", "Kimon, son of Learchos, 22 years old, student of Greek letters (in Cyrene)", "Myres: Alexandria, A.D. 340", "Lovely flowers and white such as befitted well", "He was asking about the quality", "Days of 1908".</p> <p>2.3. Irony: "Trojans", "Waiting for the barbarians", "The retinue of Dionysus", "Philhellene", "Morning sea", "Envoys from Alexandria", "If dead indeed", "Darius", "A Byzantine Nobleman, in exile composing verses", "From the school of the renowned philosopher", "Julian in Nicomedia", "In a township in Asia Minor", "A great procession of priests and laymen", "In a large Greek colony, 200 B.C.", "The potentate from Western Libya", "If only they had seen to it", "In the outskirts of Antioch".</p>
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