

## **DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR**

### **GL 2221 MODERN GREEK POETRY**

**3/0/3**

(Updated Summer 2002)

**PREREQUISITES:** WP 1010 Introduction to Academic Writing  
WP 1111 Integrated Academic Writing & Ethics

#### **CATALOG**

**DESCRIPTION:** Survey of modern Greek poetry from the nineteenth century to the present. Major literary trends: romanticism, symbolism, surrealism. Emphasis on specific poets: Solomos, Palamas, Cavafy, Sikelianos, Seferis, Elytis.

**RATIONALE:** Courses on modern Greek poetry offer an interesting insight into modern Greek intellectual activity and teach students differences in cultural traditions. Modern Greek poetry is both dependent on and independent of European literature. This course examines the contribution of modern Greek poets to European literary trends, discusses the proximity of modern Greek literature to other discourses and traces critical approaches as determined by the quest for a national identity. The definition of Greekness and the question of national language are also discussed. This course should be useful to students who study Greek and European history, literature and culture.

**OBJECTIVES:** As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:

1. Recognize the conventions of the major Greek literary schools.
2. Describe the poetics of different authors and their relation to contemporary theories of art and literature.
3. Identify basic literary terms and concepts of criticism that are relevant for an examination of modern Greek poetry.
4. Assess the arguments of different intellectual communities that resulted in the production of poetry with a specific ideological function.
5. Analyze poems closely and carefully while being sensitive to all nuances and connotations of language.
6. Interpret the works of specific authors within their historical, cultural and ideological contexts.

**LEARNING  
ACTIVITIES:**

Classes will be a combination of lectures and discussions.

The instructor will provide introductory information and will analyze selected texts. Students will be asked to read selective poetry, study relevant criticism, and contribute their responses.

**EVALUATION:**

Class discussion	15%
Mid term	30%
Term paper	20%
Final	35%

**REQUIRED  
MATERIAL:**

Dionysios Solomos. Collected Poems. Translation: Marios Byron Raizis. Minneapolis, MN: Nostos, 1998.

Constantine Cavafy. Collected Poems. Translation: Edmund Keeley and Philip Sherrard. London: Chatto & Windus, latest edition.

Odysseus Elytis. The Axion Esti. Translation: Edmund Keeley and George Savidis. London, Anvil Press Poetry, latest edition.

**RECOMMENDED  
MATERIAL:**

R. Beaton. An Introduction to Modern Greek Literature. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1994.

**WWW RESOURCES:**

<http://users.hol.gr/%7Ebarbanis/cavafy/>  
<http://www.almaz.com/nobel/literature/1979a.html>  
<http://www.uvm.edu/~sgutman/Cavafy.htm>

**SOFTWARE  
REQUIREMENTS:**

Word

**COMMUNICATION  
REQUIREMENTS:**

Written assignments presented in Word Verbal presentation skills using proper English.

**CONTENT OUTLINE:**

1. Romanticism
  - 1.1. Historical background: The Heptanesian intellectual community and the strive for Greek independence
  - 1.2. Dionysios Solomos. Resolving ambiguities about national identity. The privileged position of the demotic language. National poets as an institution

2. Nationalism
  - 2.1. Historical background: Greek expansion, the Balkan wars, WWI, the war in Asia Minor
  - 2.2. Costis Palamas. The poet as representative of the people.
3. Center and Margins debate: Greek intellectual communities of the Diaspora
  - 3.1 Cavafy. The notion of the poet in Cavafy. Symbolism, aestheticism and modernism in the poetry of Cavafy
4. Intellectual communities of the 1930s and the post-war period
  - 4.1 Seferis, Embiricos, Engonopoulos, Elytis, Gatsos, Antoniou
  - 4.2 Pre-war modernist and surrealist trends. Critical response.
  - 4.3 The Axion Esti
  - 4.4 Social concerns: The poet and the people: Ritsos, Vrettakos
  - 4.5 Different approaches: Zoe Karelli, Nikos Kavadhias