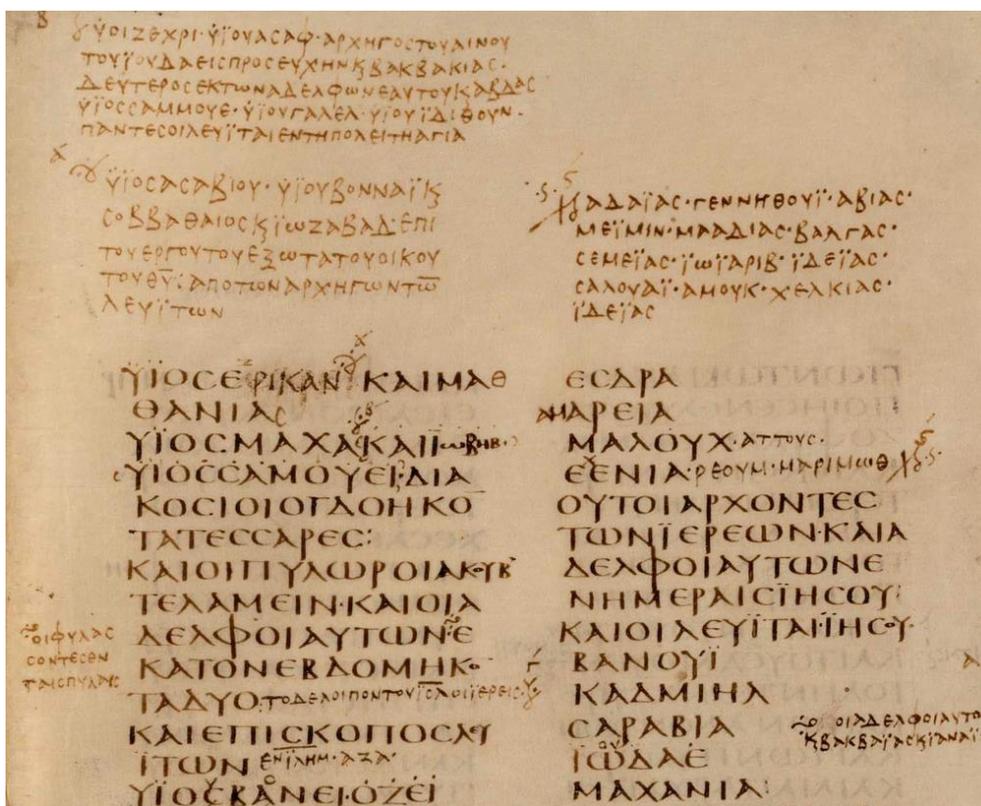


The University of Warwick  
Department of Classics and Ancient History

CX 105/205/305 – Greek Language  
2017/18

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detail from Codex Sinaiticus, fourth century C.E.

Office Hours  
Tuesdays, 12-1, Wednesdays 12-1  
during term time

## The module

This module offers the opportunity to learn the basics of the classical Greek language and is designed for students who have little or no previous experience of the language. The department believes that language is at the heart of the discipline and all students should, at the minimum, have a basic knowledge of one of the classical languages.

This module will be taken by:

- 1st Year Q800 students who have no qualification in Greek.
- 2nd year students who want to add to try Greek after a year of Latin, or begin Greek alongside further study of Latin
- First year students who can demonstrate that they are likely to be able to learn Greek. Evidence might be an A level in a modern language or a good GCSE in Latin. Otherwise, first year students generally take Latin which provides a better foundation for taking up Greek in their second year
- Third (or fourth) year students who have been studying Latin for two years

**Before arriving at Warwick, all students proposing to take this course need to have learnt the alphabet and worked up to Exercise 1.9 of *Greek to GCSE* by John Taylor. They will be tested on their fluency in the first week of the academic year. Please drop in to my office to get a copy, or email me.**

**Please also note that we will be using the course *Reading Greek* by JACT, not Taylor.**

The department welcomes enquiries from students outside the Classics Department. Potential non-classicists should email the module convener to signify their interest. Because Classical Greek is a difficult language, we will need to see evidence that you will be able to meet the demands of the course so we will discuss your previous language learning experience.

### Attendance

There are three hours of teaching each week. Attendance is required at all classes. If you are ill, you should contact your lecturer by email as soon as possible giving an indication of why you could not be expected to attend. In the absence of any such email, your absence will be noted as unauthorised. Our experience is that regular attendance is the single most important factor for success on this module.

### Assessment

There are four exams during the course and one at the end.

Please note:

- If you do not sit the exam at this time, you cannot sit it at a later date.
- If you are too ill to sit the exam, university regulations require you to provide a medical note from your GP confirming that you were unfit to sit the exam on that day.
- All exams require you to bring your university card to confirm your identity.

## Language Clinics and Office Hours

Office hours are an important part of the module, offering students the opportunity to sort out areas of uncertainty as the module progresses. Each module tutor has their hours displayed outside their office.

## Aims and objectives

This module aims to introduce a complete beginner to the main elements of the structure of Classical Greek in a logical and systematic way and so enable them to read and translate passages of adapted Greek with accuracy and confidence.

By the end of this module, all students should expect to:

- know all the designated learning vocabulary and grammar
- have developed considerable translation skills, involving an appreciation of the different linguistic structure of this inflected language
- have cultivated their capacity for analytical and logical analysis
- have improved their understanding of English grammar
- appreciate the continuing influence of Greek on the English language

Students are encouraged to use the help that is always available to sort out any points of difficulty that arise and not get behind.

This module provides the necessary basis for those who continue their study of the language in 2017/18. Many students go on to the module Greek Language and Literature and read four classical authors (Herodotus, Lucian, Euripides and Homer).

## Organisation

### Text book

The course uses the course *Reading Greek (second edition)*, published by Cambridge University Press. Both volumes (Text and Vocabulary; Grammar and Exercises) will be required from the start and are available at the University bookshop.

### Classes

Taught sessions

We intend to run two groups in parallel. Students are assigned to a group at the start of an academic year, taking into account any other commitments. Each group has three classes per week throughout the 23 weeks of teaching. Please note that classes continue through Week 6 in the Autumn and Spring terms, unlike some other modules in the Department. 2nd and 3rd years are expected to attend throughout Week 6 even though it is a reading week.

## Independent working

Students are expected to do the majority of their work for this module outside taught classes. Class time will be devoted to introducing new concepts and to addressing areas where students have encountered difficulty. Students are advised that they should reckon on spending an average of at least 2 hours of private study between each class and will also need to spend some time during vacations to consolidate material.

Independent learning will typically involve:

- written exercises set on topics introduced in the session
- learning vocabulary
- learning new endings and sentence structures
- consolidation of recent material.

You may also wish to word-process in Greek. If so, you must have the facility to input breathings which are integral to classical Greek (but not modern Greek). You will have to investigate a bit, but it is generally straightforward, more so on Apple products. The *Ancient Greek* section of the Cambridge Schools Classics Project gives more detailed guidance.

<http://www.cambridgescp.com/Upage.php?p=ag^typing^intro>

There are two aspects:

1. **Font.** You must use a Unicode font which includes a full set of Greek characters ('Polytonic Greek'). Fonts installed on Windows systems include Lucida Sans, Palatino Linotype, Tahoma and Arial Unicode MS. Macs also have Lucida Grande, Helvetica and Times.
2. **Input.** You also need to have a way of inputting the text. If you have a Mac, it is a just matter of changing the keyboard layout, done via 'country' options. Be careful to use Polytonic Greek, not 'Greek' ('polytonic' refers to the accents and allows breathings, which is essential). Life is a little more complicated in Windows, where Polytonic Greek needs to be enabled using Control Panel/Regional and Language Options/ and setting input language and keyboard to Polytonic Greek.

## Assessment

### Four interim exams

There will be four interim exams of 40 minutes. These will focus on (but not be restricted to) the vocabulary and grammar introduced since the previous exam (but will contain material previously encountered). Students should be aiming to achieve upwards of 70% in these exams.

### Final exam

The two hour exam will contain passages for translation and/or comprehension and specific questions on accidence and syntax.

### Passing the module

For first year students, this is a core module. If you do not achieve a mark of 40% overall in the five exams, then you will be required to resit an examination in the first week of September. If you do not pass in September, you will be required to withdraw from the University.

Non-first years cannot resit but carry the mark that they gain. Their unseen and/or comprehension questions will be marked on the university's 20 point scale.

## Advice on studying

- Find yourself a study buddy. Not only can you test each other on new vocabulary and noun and verb endings, but it is also very revealing to see how well you can explain a topic to someone else.
- Investigate flash cards: make your own using index cards or look on the web – *memrise* and *cram.com* are liked, and can be used on your phone. Better still is the Greek Project, hosted by Eton College.
- In addition to getting on top of new material, EVERY DAY you should devote a small amount of time on going over previous material. Be methodical about this. Keep a record of what you have looked back on and how secure it is.
- Vocabulary: you should keep a note book or equivalent list for words that you have forgotten.
- Noun and verb endings: make sure you can write them out quickly and accurately.
- When you come across an area which is not as secure as you thought, spend time rereading the explanation in the text and look over your notes again. Rework the associated exercises and check your answers from when you did them the first time.
- If you are still unclear seek help from the course tutor. Usually, confusion can be sorted out very quickly on a one-to-one basis.

**It is important that vocabulary and grammar are learnt thoroughly and at the time of setting – not left to the last minute – and that material is consolidated on a weekly basis.**

If your illness means that you have to miss classes for more than one week, we require a medical certificate from your GP. More importantly, you should be in email contact with the module tutor and your personal tutor since it is easy to fall behind in such a situation and catching up becomes progressively harder.

## Bibliography

Reading Greek should prove all you need to learn Greek this year. However, if you are interested in the language and want to find out more about you, the following are a good place to start.

- Colvin, S. A (2014) *A brief History of Ancient Greek* [e-book]
- Horrocks, S. (2010) *Greek: A History of the Language and Its Speakers* [e-book]
- Allen, W.S. (1987) *Vox Graeca* (Third Edition)