



Thessaloniki, February 18, 2015

Re: Hellenic Heritage at the American College of Thessaloniki

Dear Colleague,

As you may know, the American College of Thessaloniki is the largest single destination for study abroad anywhere in Greece receiving 300 or more study abroad students annually.

We've been keen to listen to the preferences of our study abroad cohorts and adapt our undergraduate programming accordingly. With this in mind, we are pleased to inform you about our continuing Hellenic Heritage Program, which was launched in spring 2014 semester.

Two tracks of study, the one focusing on antiquity, the other dedicated to modern manifestations of Hellenism, will allow students to gain a solid immersion in Greek language, history, art and literature, and forms of spirituality. The learning experience will be supplemented, where applicable, with service learning and internship opportunities for qualified students.

This program has been developed in order to offer courses we believe will be attractive to your students, by semester and on an annual basis, to help them to plan ahead for the academic portion of their study abroad experience at ACT. Attached please see a list of courses that are offered under this program. I would be more than happy to send syllabi or answer any questions you, your faculty or students might have.

For the Hellenic Heritage program,

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## HELLENIC HERITAGE PROGRAM AT ACT

### General description

The scope of this program is to give students the opportunity to be immersed in the rich heritage of Hellenism, from ancient to modern times. The location of the program is Greece's second-largest city, Thessaloniki, with its cosmopolitan past, historical diversity and unique present-day culture and setting within the Balkans and the Mediterranean world. Courses are taught throughout the academic year by leading experts. Through study excursions, fieldtrips and the use of contemporary active learning approaches students will also have the opportunity to explore everyday life in a major Greek city. What is truly distinctive in this program is the Learning in ACTion approach, an initiative that the American College of Thessaloniki launched in 2011 in order to bind various disparate activities into a defining component of ACT's educational model and highlight the importance of an active, experiential approach to academic learning. The aim is to link pedagogy and research with activities on and off campus using Thessaloniki as laboratory and involving the city's cultural landscape and the community at large as well as to enrich the learning experience and offer students real-world awareness and skills. A certain number of these courses (at least 4) are scheduled regularly every semester (including the intensive summer session) and attract the interest of many study abroad students.

### COURSE LIST

#### **Anthropology 211: Theory and Techniques of Archaeology**

This course offers a survey of the archaeological discipline with a focus on two themes, the material remains of past cultures and the techniques employed when studying archaeological remains. The course aims to broaden and deepen the students' understanding of past cultures and societies, thus providing enhanced insight into modern ones. Emphasis is placed on the reconstruction of social structure, environment, technology, communication, and cognitive systems of past societies as well as on the analysis of archaeological explanation.

#### **Anthropology 221: Ethnographic Accounts of Modern Greek Culture**

This course examines different aspects of Greek culture and society through the anthropological lens. Ethnographic articles on everyday life expressions in different communities provide the material for the exploration of the inner differences, the complexities, the continuities and the changes that constitute part of contemporary Greek culture and society. Some of the topics discussed in this course include the social and economic life of people in different regions of Greece and in different periods of time, gender relations, presentations of the Greek cultural self, processes of identity formation, the role of the church as well as of the contemporary nation-state.

#### **Anthropology 222: Greek Folklore**

This course provides an overview of the creation, evolution and theory of folklore studies in Greece (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries). It will introduce students to the major folklore categories (oral literature, customs, artifacts of material culture) and their collections (archives and museums). Emphasis will be placed on the study of folksongs and folktales. The course will also address the phenomenon of folklorismus, the revival of traditional customs, and its uses in Modern Greek society.

#### **Art History 220: Ancient Greek Art and Architecture**

This course surveys Ancient Greek art and architecture from the Early Iron Age through the Hellenistic period. Following an introduction to the nature of art, its various uses, and approaches to its interpretation, the course will provide a brief historical background for the major periods in Greek art. Each period will then be examined in detail, with particular attention to defining stylistic features, and to examining representative works in each of the genres (sculpture, painting, architecture, minor arts).

### **Art History 224: Modern Greek Painting**

This course presents a survey of Modern Greek painting starting with the second half of the nineteenth century, when Greek painting acquired the characteristics of a European form of artistic expression. It continues with an examination of Greek painting during the twentieth century. Emphasis is placed upon the artistic movements and various schools formed during these periods, and upon influences from European and American art and their implications for Greek painting. Visits to local galleries and museums will provide first-hand contact with works of art being studied.

### **Greek 101: Beginning Modern Greek I**

The aim of this course is to develop students' familiarity with oral and written Greek through dialogues dealing with everyday situations and written material drawn from the popular media. Emphasis is on oral communication. Grammar is learned through dialogues illustrating everyday communication, while students gain practice by role-playing and acting out numerous everyday situations. The vocabulary used meets basic social needs for an environment where Greek is spoken.

### **Greek 104: Intermediate Modern Greek II**

Greek 104 is a continuation of Greek 101, with further vocabulary and grammar development and improvement of reading and writing skills. It builds the students' functional vocabulary and introduces more grammatical features (future, subjunctive, past tenses) and more communicative situations. Teaching material is taken both from textbook and non-textbook sources. Grammar will be provided through guided and communication exercises. Students practice role-playing, act out everyday situations and interact with locals outside the structured class environment. Educational material also includes language games, Greek movies, song lyrics and multimedia presentations.

### **History 231: Modern Greek History**

This course examines themes in Greece's recent past such as nationalism, modernization, economic development, constitutional government, territorial expansion, foreign intervention, etc. Readings form the basis for critical analysis of the causes and consequences of major events, of contemporary ideas and of leading personalities through classroom discussion and written assignments.

### **History 232: Thessaloniki: A City and its Inhabitants**

Throughout its long history Thessaloniki has been home to many different peoples and cultures. The purpose of this course is to review the history of the city and to focus on the different ethnic communities which have inhabited it, including principally Greeks, Turks, Jews, and Armenians, among others. The course will consider the establishment of the city in Hellenistic times, its Roman and Byzantine periods, the impact of the Ottoman occupation, the coming of the Sephardic Jews, the effects of the Balkan and the two World Wars as well as those of the Holocaust on the city. It will include visits to such important cultural sites as the Archeological Museum, the Museum of Byzantine culture, the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki, Roman antiquities and Ottoman buildings.

### **History 301: History of Ancient Greece**

This course presents a survey of ancient Greek history from the Minoan through the Hellenistic period. The course follows a broad chronological account, but at the same time strongly emphasizes thematic trends and various aspects of social, economic and ideological history, including such institutions and values as political ideas, drama, city states, scientific and philosophical inquiry, trade, colonies, daily life, and gender. A variety of primary and secondary source materials will be employed to explore better who the ancient Greeks were and what their legacies have been.

### **Human 204: Exploring Ancient Greek Language and Culture**

This course introduces students to the history of the ancient Greek language, from its origin to the present, and to some aspects of ancient Greek culture. Students are developing awareness of and some knowledge in identifying the application of ancient Greek to modern languages as well as an understanding of the culture of the ancient Greek world through texts of Classical Greek authors in translation and other material. The course deals with ancient Greek alphabet and pronunciation, language contact and change, the connection between ancient Greek language and other languages (e.g. familiar English words, scientific and technical vocabulary derived from Classical Greek), and the relationship of language and culture. Knowledge of Greek is not required.

### **Humanities 209: Topics in Mythology and Religion in the Classical World**

The course provides a systematic in-depth study of the major mythological characters, deities and myths of (mostly) the Greeks and the Romans through the use of both primary and secondary source material, visual and literary. The approach will be thematic and we will explore the nature and scope of mythology as well as its relation to religion, history and art. Comparisons with associated mythologies of the ancient Mediterranean world will be in place in order to demonstrate the broader historical and cultural framework. The myths and religion will also be studied in terms of their endurance and relevance in the western world as well as in popular culture. Finally, they will function as a setting for the discussion of matters of spirituality in the contemporary world.

### **Music 120: Traditional and Contemporary Greek Music**

The aim of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the historically rich and varied traditions of Greek music as part of Greek culture, through the ethnomusicological and anthropological lens. The principal focus will be on folk music, instruments and dance in rural and urban settings, the urban tradition of the rebetika, church music, popular and artistic songs and the contexts of their performance. Music from and in the Greek cinema from the '50s and on will provide valuable images. The course also aims in providing the background for fieldwork experience and a more intimate knowledge of music in Greek society, through the exposition of students to the musical life of the city of Thessaloniki, the events, places, performers, traditional instruments, music shops, and instrument makers.

### **Politics 207: The Modern Greek Nation State**

This course is organized thematically and some of the idiosyncrasies of the Greek state are investigated in some depth. The thematic areas chosen for examination are: the modern Greek state structure and institutions, the development of ethnicity, public administration and the political parties, the Greek Orthodox identity, minorities, Greece's international policies and foreign affairs choices. Throughout the course the emphasis is on the historical development of the modern Greek nation-state, political parties, the role of the military, civil society, public administration, clientelism, populism, the post-war economy, institutions (the Church, family, community and values), the changing status of women and Greece as plural society (immigration, minority issues). It will also investigate into Greek images of Europe, issues of national identity vs. the Europeanisation process and economic concerns (Greeks and the euro). It will include a study of the relations between Greece and its neighbors (Turkey, the role of Greece in SE Europe after the current socio-political transformations in this region, new challenges and emerging opportunities).