Course: The Greek Key: Language in a Cultural Landscape
Modern Greek for beginners (Level 1)

Syllabus

This 4-credit language learning course places emphasis on spoken Greek. It aims to enable the students to handle basic communicative tasks in real life contexts and to develop their oral comprehension and oral expression skills. Reading and writing will be taught as well. By the end of the course, students will be able to extract information from newspapers and magazines and write simple compositions. A basic vocabulary of approximately 600 words as well as the basic grammar/syntax areas of the language will be covered, so that students can meet a satisfying level of fluency and accuracy. The use of Greek outside the classroom will be continuously encouraged.

The ultimate goal of the course is to cultivate students’
1. openness for new experiences,
2. acceptance of diversity,
3. positive attitude toward learning and
4. sense of responsibility to society.

To this end, students will be motivated to interact with Greek people and to develop an interest in Greek society and culture. They will be asked (i) to prepare and present their ‘Semester Project Assignment’ and (ii) to participate in activities, outings or events that characterize the everyday life of the Greeks (i.e. attend a Greek theater performance and/or a Greek film, visit a museum or a gallery etc.). For the ‘Semester Project’ students will work in pairs or in groups to explore some aspect of Greece that is particularly interesting to them. They will interview Greek people to gather information about their subject. The results of their research will be presented in Greek to the faculty and student body.

Course book

The course book is accompanied by two workbooks (1a and 1b) as well as by a cassette that will help the students practice their oral comprehension skills. Extra materials will be used, such as songs, language games etc. In the classroom, students will be encouraged to use as much Greek as they can, depending on their progress.
The course has two parts, an intensive and a regular one.
The following topics will be covered during the two parts of the course:

A. **Intensive part** (daily meetings for one week)

General topics
- greetings, farewells and wishes
- parts of the day, days of the week, months, seasons
- giving personal information (name, age, occupation, address, telephone number, studies, nationality etc.)
- food and drink
- ordering at cafés and restaurants (basic vocabulary)
- using Greek money
- transportation

Grammar
- the Greek alphabet (capital letters, lower-case letters, combinations of vowels, consonant clusters, pronunciation of letters, clusters and syllables, the use of capital and lower-case letters)
- the stress system and the punctuation marks of Greek
- the cardinal numerals
- the definite and the indefinite article
- the personal pronoun
- the present tense of the verb έχω (= to be)
- the present tense of the paroxytone verbs (Conjugation A: ???, μ???, ??? etc.) in the active voice
- the genders (masculine, feminine, neuter), the numbers (singular, plural), the cases (nominative, genitive, accusative, vocative): the differences between English and Greek as far as the inflection is concerned.

Syntax
- omission of the pronominal subject
- free word order
- number and person agreement between the subject and the verb

B. **Regular part** (two meetings every week)

General topics
- review and closer examination of the areas covered during the intensive part
- asking and telling what time it is
- asking and giving street directions
- expressing one’s likes and dislikes (interests, hobbies, preferences etc.)
- phone numbers and phone calls
- family relations
- extracting information on entertainment from newspapers, magazines etc.
- describing people and things (appearance, behavior, personality, clothes, colors, shapes, size, weight etc.)
- houses, apartments, rooms etc.
- talking about the weather
talking about future events (making plans, setting dates, making arrangements etc.)

Grammar

- the possessive pronoun
- the demonstrative pronouns a??, –?? and e??=
- the indefinite pronoun ?a??, –a??a
- the interrogative pronoun p???
- the basic prepositions (ap?, µe, se, ?a)
- the diminutives in –??, –?sa, –??a and –??
- the inflection of nouns (masculine nouns in –??, –a?, –??, feminine nouns in –a, –? and neuter nouns in –., –?, –µa)
- parisyllabic and imparisyllabic nouns
- the inflection of adjectives in –??–?, –??–?, –??–? and –?? –??–?
- the adjective p??–p??–p?? (the adverb p??)
- the three degrees of comparison (positive, comparative, superlative: relative and absolute)
- some basic adverbs in –a (??a, ??a?µ, µa??, ?s??µa, ?????a, a??, a??β, f???, ?s??a etc.)
- the future and the past tense of the verb eµa (= to be)
- the present tense of the oxytone verbs (Conjugation B1: a??a, µ?? etc. and Conjugation B2: µ??, ?? etc.) in the active voice
- the perfective future of the active voice (all Conjugations: a??, aµ??s?, ?a??s? etc.)
- the simple past of the active voice (all Conjugations: ???a, µ??a, ???a etc.)
- the active imperative of some basic verbs (?a – e??te, p??e – p??te, ???e??se – ?a??te etc.)
- the verbs p??, ???, t???, a?? in the present, the perfective future and the simple past tense

Syntax

- the negation
- the basic interrogative sentences (asking who/what, when, where, why, how, how much)
- the structure of an independent sentence (subject, verb, direct object, indirect object etc.)
- the prepositions that are followed by accusative case (µe, se, ?a, ap etc.)
- the verbs that are followed by subjunctive (????, p??pe?, µp??, p??sp?? ?a...)
- the syntax of the adverbs of place (µp??st?, p??s?, p???, ????, d??a, ap??a?? t? ?????, µs??a etc.)

Grading for this course will be as follows:

- Continuous assessment of class participation and performance: 40%
- Mid term exam: 20%
- Final exam (oral and written): 25%
- Semester project: 15%
Factors taken into account for grading:

(a) Fluency  
(b) Comprehension  
(c) Vocabulary  
(d) Grammar and Syntax  
(e) Class participation  

Class attendance (at Arcadia Center or on-site) as well as fulfillment of assignments and attendance of evening outings (theater or cinema) is mandatory. Each unexcused absence lowers the class participation grade, thus affecting the final grade.