GRK 20b: Continuing Ancient Greek
Brandeis University Department of Classical Studies
Fall 2016

M W Th 11.00-11.50 am / Room TBA
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Office: TBA
Office Hours: Th 9-11 am, and by appointment (also over skype)

1. Paris, Louvre G 457, red-figure cup by the Eretria Painter, ARV(2) 1254.80, about 430 BC

Course Description

From Homer and Sophocles, to the Alexander Romance and the Gospels, ancient Greek is a language with a long and fascinating literary tradition, the study of which opens the door to a culture that is both surprisingly familiar and shockingly strange to us. GRK 20b is the second course of a two-semester introduction to the study of the ancient Greek language. The course requires a C or higher in GRK 10; alternatively, students can be admitted with the instructor’s permission, for example when some previous work in ancient Greek can be demonstrated. This sequence aims to provide the student with the skills required for reading and understanding Greek texts in the original language, and this course continues laying the foundations necessary for achieving this goal by introducing the students to the basics of Greek language and grammar. This means that the course requires a substantive commitment on the part of the student: learning any language takes time and persistence, and ancient Greek is no different. The results, however, are immensely rewarding. By the end of this course, students will be able to start reading ancient Greek texts on their own, and thus engage with a culture that continues to inspire and surprise us. The emphasis in this course is on so-called Attic Greek, the language used by Athenian authors in the fifth and fourth centuries BCE, but other types of Greek such as Koine (used in the New Testament) and Homeric Greek (used in the epics Iliad and Odyssey) are encountered as well.
After a quick recap of the Greek skills acquired during the previous semester, the course continues working through the remainder of Hansen and Quinn’s *Greek: An Intensive Course*, with the aim of finishing the book by the end of the semester. The focus will be on grammar, vocabulary, and reading comprehension, and whenever possible and helpful, learning will be situated within the social and cultural context of the ancient Greeks.

**Required Books**


Other materials will be made available by the instructor.

**Course Aims**

By the end of the semester, students should be prepared to pursue successfully an intermediate Greek course (introduction to literature), since they should have gained:
- a thorough understanding of the most important elements of Greek grammar;
- a basic Greek vocabulary;
- the ability to read, translate and comprehend full sentences and short passages in Greek;
- an enhanced understanding of how language functions in general;
- a basic familiarity with Greek language, culture and society in general.

**Assessment**

- **Attendance and participation:** 20%
  
  Presence and participation are essential in learning a language, and so students are expected to attend every session and to have completed their assigned homework by class time. No more than three unexcused absences are permissible.

- **Weekly quizzes:** 20%
  
  Quizzes will be given weekly on a day assigned by the instructor to encourage and reward the student’s progress in the course. A quiz tests the student’s knowledge of vocabulary, morphology, and syntax, with ample opportunity to earn extra credit.

- **Three full-class tests:** 45%
  
  Three in-class tests, taking up the whole period, will be given at key junctures in the semester, based on the progress of the course, including one at the end of the semester. The instructor will announce the exact date well in advance. The material on the tests will be cumulative. Quizzes and tests cannot be made up without proper documentation of illness or emergency.

- **Take Home Exercise:** 15%
  
  Instead of a final exam, there will be a Take Home Exercise, due at the time of the scheduled exam. More details will follow. Individual concerns about this assignment should be brought to the attention of the instructor as early as possible.

*If you have any concerns about the course requirements or you require any additional accommodations for exams, please inform the instructor as soon as possible. On all work, cheating will not be tolerated and will result in a fail for that assignment and will be referred to the Dean of the College under the University’s Academic Code.*