

Prescribed texts

- C. P. Cavafy, selected poems
- G. Seferis, selected poems from *Log Book 2*
- Niki Marangou, selected short stories
- Stratis Doukas, *A Prisoner of War's Story*.

Topic

- Language and identity in Greece, 1900-1976

Literature and culture teaching arrangements

There will be 16 hours of lectures on literature and culture:

Michaelmas Term

- 2 lectures: Introduction to Modern Greek Culture (weeks 1-2)
- 2 lectures on 'Language and Identity' (week 3)
- 5 lectures: Cavafy, selected poems (weeks 4-8)

Lent Term

- 2 lectures: Niki Marangou, selected short stories (weeks 1-2)
- 4 lectures: Seferis, selection from *Log Book 2* (weeks 3-6)
- 2 lectures: Stratis Doukas, *A Prisoner of War's Story* (weeks 7-8)

Supervisions

A total of eight supervisions will be required, to prepare students for the essay and critical commentary questions in the examination: there will be three supervisions in the Michaelmas Term, three in Lent and two in Easter.

Those interested in taking the paper or in obtaining more details should contact Dr Regina Karousou-Fokas, rk354@cam.ac.uk and Dr Liana Giannakopoulou, ag585@cam.ac.uk.

Modern Greek Section

Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages
and Linguistics

Paper Gr. 3

Introduction to Modern Greek Language and Culture (2023-24)



Niki Marangou, *Old Cataract Hotel, Aswan* (1996)
Courtesy of A. and S. Pierides

Paper Gr. 3

Introduction to Modern Greek Language and Culture

This paper offers students a sound and systematic introduction to the Modern Greek language, and the opportunity to acquaint themselves with key aspects of Greek culture from the late nineteenth century to the present. The aim of the “language” part of the course is to equip students with a good reading knowledge of the contemporary language. The “culture” element consists of the study of (a) selected literary texts by major authors and by more recent ones, and (b) a topic relating to the Greek language.

Reading lists will be available on Moodle for each text and topic. In addition, a list of preparatory reading, relating to language learning and to literature, history and culture, which students will be expected to undertake before the course starts, will be also made available. Students interested in learning more about the paper, will be given the opportunity to attend an online information session during the Easter Term.

The paper is available, in Part IB or Part II of the MMLL Tripos. The paper can be borrowed by students taking Part II of the Classical Tripos (Paper O2) and by students taking the History and Modern Languages Tripos.

The course will be taught by Dr Regina Karousou-Fokas (language) and Dr Liana Giannakopoulou.

The examination

The examination takes the usual form of a three-hour paper, consisting of a compulsory unseen translation, and essay questions on the texts and topics, of which **two** must be answered. An optional critical commentary may be set on one or more of the literary texts, as an alternative to an essay question. Past examination papers can be found on Moodle.

The language component

Students need to acquire a good reading knowledge of Greek in a very short time. In the first two terms they attend two hours per week of language classes that concentrate on the essentials of grammar. In the Easter Term we have workshops on translation from Greek. Students will benefit from some preparatory study: at the very least they should familiarize themselves with the Greek alphabet and the rules of pronunciation before the start of the course.

The literature and culture component

Modern Greek literature and culture are exceptionally rich and rewarding to study, partly thanks to the long cultural tradition that lies behind them, partly thanks to Greece’s geographical position between West and East. The texts selected for this course are eminently accessible: the poetry of Cavafy and Seferis is internationally recognised and appreciated; the prose texts are all representative examples of writing by contemporary Greek and Cypriot authors. The topic on “Language and Identity” will appeal to students with specific interests in the subject but will also contribute to a broader understanding of Modern Greek language and history.



Niki Marangou



Stratis Doukas



George Seferis