**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY**

**MODERN GREEK STUDIES PROGRAM**

***Katerina Kourti-Gavalas :*** [***kkourti8@rci.rutgers.edu***](mailto:kkourti8@rci.rutgers.edu)

**Summer 2014**

**TENTATIVE SYLLABUS**

***ISL 489:* ENGAGING WITH GREECE IN TRANSITION *(3 credits)***

**TENTATIVE DATES: June 14-July 19**

**CLASS HOURS: LOCATION:**

**OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

“Engaging with Greece in Transition” is a course that will challenge and transform the students’ global perception. The course is taught in Thessaloniki, a quintessential city which boasts a history that spans from Antiquity to the present and a culture influenced by many factors. The students will have the opportunity to explore and learn within this immersive cultural experience and subsequently enhance and broaden their world view through direct cultural interactions, community service and reflection class activities.

**COURSE OBJECTIVE**

This course concentrates on two areas.

1. **Enable students to experience and develop an understanding of contemporary Greece**. Τhe course will examine the realities and everyday life in Greece in connection with certain socio-economic issues brought upon by migration and a transitional economic state that Greece is undergoing at present. This will be achieved through the following venues:
2. Through direct interaction with the locals: By observing local customs and traditions and interacting with the locals, students will be able to learn the social, economic, cultural, political and religious aspects and viewpoints that make Greek society distinctive. They will engage in a culture that processes information differently than they do. Furthermore, students will not only acquire a deeper understanding of Greek society but they will experience life in another society where many of their concepts about social life will be challenged at a broader level. These activities will increase their appreciation of cultural diversity.
3. Through providing community service in their chosen organizations: This will enhance /supplement their understanding of their chosen study field and expose them to a wider global perspective. In addition, it will provide students with the chance to develop quick thinking and problem solving skills.
4. Through reflection and advising and by engaging actively and purposefully in classroom discussions, projects and readings: This classroom interaction will enable the students to exchange experiences with their colleagues and will benefit them on an individual and group experience level.
5. **Greek language** - Total immersion rapidly enhances absorption and confidence for heritage and non-heritage speakers.

**Heritage Greek speakers**: In order to expand listening comprehension and speaking skills all classroom activities, discussions, projects and presentations will be conducted entirely in Greek.

**Students with no prior or very minimal Greek knowledge:** The entire course will be taught in English. Time will be allotted to give students the chance to acquire some basic understanding and speaking skills in Greek.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Attendance is mandatory**

Students are expected to attend all classes, to appear on time and to remain for the entire session. Even one absence will affect the final grade negatively.

**Participation is mandatory**

Students are expected to read and actively participate and contribute to an inclusive, open and friendly environment for constructive dialogue during discussions and viewings of all videos/movies, readings and classroom materials. Discussion is an opportunity to explore and expand upon ideas and experiences as well as to complement and clarify lecture materials in preparation for projects. When engaging in discussions, presentations and general class activities **students are expected to respect the right of others to voice an opinion that is possibly different from their own**.

**Assignments**

Students are expected to prepare and hand in all assignments, read all articles and reading material-including handouts-on time. In addition to these requirements, each student is encouraged to investigate one aspect of Modern Greek culture and society that interests him/her.

Students are advised to read **The English Edition** of “Kathimerini” on a daily basis and review, for class discussions. (<http://www.ekathimerini.com/>)

Students who are heritage speakers are urged to:

1. Read articles posted online **in Greek** by **ERT (Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation).** (<http://www.hprt.gr/>)
2. Watch different programs online on the Public Television channel from the following site: <http://www.hprt.gr/webtv-live>

**Daily Journal**

Students are expected to keep a journal that reflects:

1. Cultural observations, customs and traditions encountered in Greece on a daily basis. **The Greek customs and traditions that are included in the journal should be those that the students had the opportunity to observe and participate in.** Examples of what to include in the journal are: Greek student lifestyles, Popular Greek cultural events and activities, Food and Drink, Popular Greek Music, Dancing and Films, Religious Observances, Greek Holidays, Greek superstitions and sayings (proverbs), Greek political scene/political parties etc.
2. At least one observation should be included from the Greek newspaper(s)/Greek television channel that are

mentioned above.

1. Daily observations originating from the student’s volunteering/internship program.
2. At the end of the journal there should be a brief summary reflecting your thoughts on Greek culture and society through your personal experience. This summary should demonstrate which factors influenced your perception of Greek culture the most and help you learn from the pre-departure, while abroad and re-entry phases of your Study Abroad experience.

**Interview**

This is an in class project that will engage students in sharing their views and experiences with their classmates.

The report should be centered on the following questions: “How is Greece’s social and economic transition affecting Modern Greek Culture?” and “What are the basic elements that make Greek culture and society unique?”

The report should be 3-4 pages long and it should contain the questions as well as the answers of the interview.

* Each student is expected to investigate one person’s view of Greek culture and society through a personal interview.
* Students are expected to prepare a questionnaire for their research prior to doing this project in class and practice together with the interviewee.
* Students should include incidents and events from their personal experiences from their daily Greek culture interaction and activities.
* The report should conclude with your perception of the basic characteristics of Greek culture.

**EVALUATION**

Class Participation 25%

Journal 25%

Midterm/Interview Report 20%

Final Project/Presentation/Examination 30%

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**Readings:**

A number of articles will be assigned. Those articles will either be distributed in the beginning of the first class or they will be posted on Sakai. The titles of the articles are listed in the Class Schedule section.

**Supplemental Reading:**

Richard Clogg, A Concise History of Greece, 2nd Edition, Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Rouvelas, Marilyn, A Guide to Greek Traditions and Customs, Second Edition, Nea Attiki Press, 2002.

**MOVIES, DOCUMENTARIES & ARTICLES FOR SUMMER PROGRAM IN GREECE**

**REFLECTION ON MIGRATION: MOVIES/DOCUMENTARIES**

1. **Dublin’s trap by Bryan Carter-DOCUMENTARY:**

[**http://vimeo.com/38882993**](http://vimeo.com/38882993)

[**http://www.oneworld.cz/2013/films-a-z/22403-the-dublin-trap**](http://www.oneworld.cz/2013/films-a-z/22403-the-dublin-trap)

1. **No refuge: Migrants in Greece by Human Rights Watch-DOCUMENTARY:**

[**http://www.hrw.org/video/2009/10/09/no-refuge-migrants-greece**](http://www.hrw.org/video/2009/10/09/no-refuge-migrants-greece)

1. **Into the Fire - The Hidden Victims of Austerity in Greece-DOCUMENTARY:**

[**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMOnuD0SQJs&hl=en&cc\_lang\_pref=en&cc\_load\_policy=1**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMOnuD0SQJs&hl=en&cc_lang_pref=en&cc_load_policy=1)

1. **The Battle For Attica Square - Greece By Journeyman Pictures --DOCUMENTARY:**

[**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPl9PW7ONIQ**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPl9PW7ONIQ)

It's the first time that an EU country has seen its treatment of refugees described as a humanitarian crisis by the UNHCR. This report gets to the heart of the escalating tensions in Greece.  
  
"I've seen too many. They cross the river like bees", sighs a local fisherman. With as many as 400 people crossing the Evros River each day, arrests of illegal immigrants in Greece have exploded from 3,500 to 20,000 in a year. Most choose to turn themselves in, but they have no idea what awaits them. Infested with rats, Greece's detention centers are now critically overcrowded. Those who try to avoid this fate end up on the streets, such as in Attica Square, home to hundreds of Afghan refugees. With no government support, crime is rife here, and as frustration builds, racial attacks by local vigilantes are escalating beyond control. Ghulam's family sleep on a bench in the square - his four-year-old son was recently attacked in the middle of the night. "If I'd stayed in Afghanistan I might have been beaten, but they would have at least spared my children. I cannot believe this is Europe."

1. **How Will Greece's Immigrant Backlash End? By Journeyman Pictures -DOCUMENTARY:**

[**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dmPFz5WOWQ**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dmPFz5WOWQ)

As the crisis deepens in Greece immigrants have been facing a harsh crackdown by the government. And with chaos across the country, the far right party Golden Dawn is implementing their own violent backlash.  
  
"Get out! This is my country!”, one angry local shouts. For immigrants, Greece is no longer the land of hope and opportunity it once was. In Athens they're being rounded up by police and thrown into overcrowded detention centers. The system is chaotic and the European Court of Human Rights has recently condemned the centers for their appalling conditions. Meanwhile, the far right group Golden Dawn has sought to capitalize on Greeks' growing discontent with violent attacks, which many Greek police seemingly turn a blind eye to. "They will kill me. I've become afraid for myself", says a terrified business owner from Cameroon. In the push to round up illegal immigrants genuine asylum seekers are also suffering. One such group of refugees fled the fighting in Syria only to be firebombed by local thugs. "If we knew we would have stayed in Syria", they say from the flat they don't dare to leave. With Greece in the grip of increasingly violent conflicts, is the country on the brink of disaster?

**REFLECTION ON MIGRATION: ARTICLES**

**No refuge: Migrants in Greece by Human Rights Watch -ARTICLE:**

[**http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/greece1009.pdf**](http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/greece1009.pdf)

**REFLECTION ON CRISIS: MOVIES/DOCUMENTARIES**

1. **What's wrong with the Greeks? [Swedish documentary - subbed]:**

[**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMQF2rSHnbw**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMQF2rSHnbw)

1. **The Bankrupt State – Greece by Foreign Correspondent:**

[**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkqxQ3qZg90**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkqxQ3qZg90)

**Greece-Thug Politics: Golden Dawn extreme nationalism (Is Greece turning into Nazi Germany?) by Garry MCNAB (producer)**

[**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lOpzRkX3ihU**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lOpzRkX3ihU)

As cuts bite ever deeper in Greece, many Greeks feel that the government can no longer provide the protection and services needed for a strong civil society. And in this frightening power vacuum the people have turned to another power: "If I get burgled or I have a problem and I call Golden Dawn, in zero time they are here," says local shop owner, Matina. But Golden Dawn isn’t just an over-active neighborhood watch: "We are ready to open the ovens! We will turn them into soup." It is statements like these, from a Golden Dawn member running for parliament, that has immigrants in Greece living in fear. And their threats are not idle. Immigrants dragged out of A&E, businesses ransacked and racially-segregated soup kitchens have become commonplace. The checking of people's papers on the streets is scarily reminiscent of Nazi Germany or Stalin's Russia. "Greeks are hungry, foreigners are hungry. In the end one will eat the other," Matina says simply. As more locals like Matina turn to Golden Dawn for support it begs the question; at what cost is Greece's tough economic medicine coming?

1. **Part 1 Greece: Global CRI$I$, Politics and Capitalism, Beyond  Scapegoats and Moralism**

[**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcGsDmw6S6k**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcGsDmw6S6k)

1. **Part 2 Greece: Global CRI$I$, Politics and Capitalism, Beyond  Scapegoats and Moralism**

[**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUBx8eftapk**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUBx8eftapk)

1. **Greek youth and street artists addressing the political and economic crisis in Greece:**

[**http://vimeo.com/55849808**](http://vimeo.com/55849808)

**GOLDEN DAWN RISING:**

**YouTube search results: http://www.youtube.com/results?search\_query=golden+dawn+documentary&page=2**

1. **The Rise of 'Golden Dawn' in Greece - Mini-documentary by “The Guardian”**

[**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afZbNBiMpHU**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afZbNBiMpHU)

1. **The Rise of Fascism in Greece by Direct Act**

[**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gY85RMMx\_78**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gY85RMMx_78)

1. **Golden Dawn MP Ilias Kasidiaris (ENGLISH SUBS)**

[**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUR6Yu0H04w**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUR6Yu0H04w)

1. **(Golden Dawn) Hell is ours**

[**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W64jUEz2uXE**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W64jUEz2uXE)

1. **Standing up to Golden Dawn in Greece**

[**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSmHtebHv90**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSmHtebHv90)

**REFLECTION ON HEALTH ARTICLES:**

[**http://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-02-greece-deepening-health-crisis-nation.html**](http://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-02-greece-deepening-health-crisis-nation.html) **OR**

[**www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-67361362291-6/abstract**](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-67361362291-6/abstract)

**GREECE'S DEEPENING HEALTH CRISIS-STUDY DETAILS SIGNS OF THE NATION'S DETERIORATION IN HEALTH (Also saved as a document)**

**REFLECTION ON GENDER EQUALITY**

**Promoting gender equality in Greek schools -ARTICLE:**

**http://ec.europa.eu/employment\_social/esf/docs/el1\_en.pdf**