Course description

Strategically located at the crossroads of three continents, Greece has often become the epicenter of various political and cultural developments with significant international implications. In 2021, Greece celebrated the anniversary of 200 years since the beginning of the 1821 revolution against the Ottoman Empire and the long war of independence which led to the establishment of the Modern Greek State, known today as the Hellenic Republic. This course follows the journey of the Greek people, their leaders, their triumphs, their challenges, and traumas over the course of the last two centuries. Personalities and events that shaped the nation’s trajectory will be studied and critically examined to offer a clear understanding of Greece’s main social, cultural, and political characteristics. Through lectures, selected readings, films & documentaries, class discussions and guest speakers, students will have the opportunity to familiarise with the “National Greek Issues”, will discover some “Great Greeks” and their contribution in shaping and modernizing Greek society, and will learn about the “Greek Diaspora” and its role in strengthening and promoting Hellenism both domestically and internationally. Upon completion of this half year course, participants are expected to be familiarized with the political history of modern Greece and be able to critically explore and, analyze contemporary Greek politics within a European or Mediterranean context. Furthermore, students will be able to make connections between major international, and local challenges and their implications on Greek society as well as to recognize the political, social, and cultural influences of exceptional personalities and events to what Greece is today.

Textbooks


Assessment
Students will be evaluated on the basis of the following measures:

**Midterm Test (20%)** (outline of the test will be posted a week before the test date)

- **Date:** The test will be synchronous and will take place on February 29, 2024
- **Content:** Questions on topics covered in lessons 1-6 (lectures & readings).
- **Format:** Multiple choice and short answers.

**Research/Position Paper (30%)**

*On this assignment you can work with a partner (both will receive the same mark)*

- **Due date:** March 20, 2024 (Late submission penalty: 5% per late day)
- **Length:** 2500 words + abstract (100-200 words) + bibliography (minimum of 10 sources)
- **Reference style:** APA (American Psychological Association)

Success Criteria: Content, Originality, Punctuality, Structure, Research, References

**Topic/Scenario:** “You work as an analyst for the federal government of Canada, and you are asked to submit to the Prime minister’s office a report (brief) about Greece, providing information such as points of interest for Canada, recommendations for Greece, etc., on one of the following areas:

- Economy
- Trade
- Tourism
- Education
- Defense
- Justice
- Housing
- Health
- Migration
- Culture
- Arts
- Agriculture
- Employment
- Natural Resources
- Science
- Industry
- Energy
- Emergency preparedness. (More assessment details will be posted on Quercus)

**Homework/Participation (10%)**

- Ten percent of the grade is based on the synthesis of:
  - 10 lesson quizzes on Quercus (due a week after each lecture)
  - 10 lesson notes, 1-2 pages long per lesson, on Quercus, (due a week after each lecture)
  - Active participation during lectures, guest speakers’ presentations, and in-class discussions is also taken into consideration for this mark.

**Final Assessment (40%)**

- **Date:** TBA
- **Content:** Questions on topics covered in lessons 1-12 (lectures & readings).
- **Format:** Multiple choice and short answers.

Please be advised to keep rough and draft work and hard copies of essays and assignments before handing in to the instructor. Students should keep all essays/assignments until the marked essays/assignments have been returned and the grades are posted on ACORN.

**Academic Integrity**

In all their work students must avoid plagiarism or academic dishonesty including copying or paraphrasing extensive passages from other sources without acknowledgement; submitting a paper or assignment written in whole or in part by someone else; copying the answers of another student in any quiz, test or examination. In any of these cases appropriate penalties will be applied following procedures outlined in the Code of Behavior on Academic Matters. For further
clarification and information on plagiarism please see Writing at the University of Toronto http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources”.

Missed assignments

Students who miss any major assignment need to notify the course instructor as soon as possible and provide a doctor’s note. Make-up tests or assignments are normally scheduled within one week from the original date. For penalties for late submissions, please see the assessment section.

Resources

Each of the colleges on the St. George campus of the University of Toronto operates a Writing Centre, offering a range of services, including workshops, seminars and individual consultations to help you identify and develop the skills you need for success in your studies. For further information on how to use your college’s Writing Centre, visit: http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all lectures. Missing classes and repeated late arrivals as well as disruption of lectures could affect the participation mark.

Accessibility Services

Students who need any kind of accommodation for a disability/health condition should feel comfortable to share their concerns with the instructor. For detailed information on what type of support and accommodation is available, please visit http://accessibility.utoronto.ca/.

Email policy

Please send emails only from your university “UToronto” account and put the course code POL385 in the subject line to ensure receipt of messages. All emails will be responded within 48 hours excluding weekends.

Portal (Quercus)

All course related announcements including homework and test/assignment preparation materials are posted on Quercus. Students need to check the course site regularly for updates.

Classroom courtesy rules

Please try to arrive in class or join the online meeting promptly and give your full attention to lectures. Laptops, tablets or phones should be used only for taking notes. Please refrain from reading extraneous materials during class. All electronic devices must be silenced in class.
COURSE CALENDAR & READINGS

Lectures take place on Thursday between 6:00-8:00 PM. (Room BL 325)

Lesson 1: January 11, 2024

Topics
Introductory, Syllabus, Important Days, Assessment, Guest Speakers
Textbook 1: Ottoman rule and the emergence of the Greek state
People: Introduction to Great Greeks (politicians, artists, authors, scientists, benefactors)
Events: Introduction to Triumphs and Traumas of Modern Greece.

Readings:

Optional/Recommended:

Lesson 2: January 18, 2024

Topics
Textbook 1: Nation building, the ‘Great Idea’ and National Schism
Great Greeks, p.2: Ioannis Kapodistrias, Georgios Seferis

Readings:

Optional/Recommended:
Lesson 3: January 25, 2024

Topics

Textbook: The Asia Minor Disaster; Greece in WWII
Great Greeks, p.3: Eleftherios Venizelos, Vasilis Tsitsanis, Manolis Glezos
Triumphs and Traumas, p.3: Rebetiko (music genre)
Guest Speaker (TBA.)

Readings:


Optional/ Recommended:

Lesson 4: February 1, 2024

Topics
Greece during the “Cold War” era. From Civil War to Dictatorship
Great Greeks, p.4 Mikis Theodorakis, Manos Hatzidakis
Triumphs and Traumas, p.4: The Greek Civil War
Guest speaker: TBA

Readings

Optional/ Recommended:
- Greek military junta of 1967–74. Available at: https://military.wikia.org/wiki/Greek_military_junta_of_1967%E2%80%9374
- Economides, Spyros 2000 The Greek and Spanish Civil Wars: a Comparison. Civil Wars, 3 2, 89-105.

Lesson 5: February 8, 2024

Topics
Transition to and establishment of democracy
Great Greeks, p.5: Papandreou & Karamanlis
Triumphs and Traumas, p.5, The Athens Polytechnic Uprising
Readings


Optional

HHF Podcast Series: EDO POLYTECNIO. The story of the 1973 student protest which took on the Greek military dictatorship.

- Episode Two: The Road to 1967. To understand the student occupation of the Athens Polytechnio, you have to understand Greece in the Post-WWII years. Listen here - https://www.buzzsprout.com/1552246/13736441
- Episode Four: Protest and Resistance. Trying to protest the new military dictatorship was a dangerous thing to do. How the Colonels silenced their opponents... Listen here - https://www.buzzsprout.com/1552246/13824984
- Episode Five: Resistance in the Diaspora. As many Greeks flee the military dictatorship, places like Toronto take on an important role in the resistance. Listen here - https://www.buzzsprout.com/1552246/13876420
- Episode Seven: The Student Occupation. On November 14, 1973, students barricade themselves inside the Athens Polytechnio. In the end, there would be bloodshed, but history was made. Listen here - https://www.buzzsprout.com/1552246/13952200
Lesson 6: February 15, 2024

Topics
Greece in the 21st century. From affluency to austerity. (Economic and refugee crises)
Great Greeks, p.6: Maria Callas, Aristotle Onassis
Triumphs and Traumas, p.6. From affluency to austerity.

Readings

Optional/Recommended

Additional readings TBA (Check lesson’s module on Quercus)

Lesson 7: February 29, 2024, Test: In class or online during regular class time (20%)

Lesson 8: March 7, 2024

Topics:
Hellenic Diaspora, p.1
Great Greeks, p.7: Maria Callas, Aristotle Onassis
Triumphs and Traumas, p.7: Emigration

Readings
- Greek Canadian History Project (2021). Available at: https://archives.library.yorku.ca/gchp/

Optional/ Recommended

Further reading
- Aravossitas T (2016) The hidden schools: mapping Greek heritage language education in Canada [Doctoral Dissertation], Graduate Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, University of Toronto.

Lesson 9: March 14, 2024

Topics
Hellenic Diaspora, p.2
Great Greeks, p.8. Constantine Cavafy, Theo Angelopoulos
Triumphs and Traumas, p.8: The Anti Greek Riots in Toronto
Guest Speaker (TBA.)

Readings

**Lesson 10: March 21, 2024 Research/position paper due (20%)**

Topics:

National Greek Issues
Great Greeks, P.9: Nikos Kazantzakis, Melina Merkouri
Triumphs and Traumas, p.9. Wildfires and other national disasters
Guest Speaker (TBA)

**Readings**


**Lesson 11: March 28, 2024**

Topics:

The Hellenic Heritage Foundation and Greek Vitality in Canada (Presentation)
Great Greeks, p.10: From Spiros Louis to Nikos Galis & Giannis Antetokounmpo
Triumphs and Traumas, p.10. “Greek hoops”

Readings: See lesson’s module on Quercus)

**Lesson 12: April 4, 2024**

Course evaluation; Course Highlights; Final exam outline