

GREK 0400: INTRODUCTION TO GREEK LITERATURE

“THE BEST DEFENSE”

Brown University Classics Department
Spring 2014

Meetings: MWF 11:00–11:50 (Location TBA)
Meeting locations may change; please check Banner for updates
Instructor: Mitchell Parks
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Office: Wilbour Hall 004
Office Hours: MR 1:00–2:30, or by appointment
Final Exam: Wednesday, 14 May, 2:00 p.m. (Group 4)

Course Description

From the catalogue: *Prerequisite: GREK 0300 (or the equivalent). Review of grammar of the Attic dialect through rapid reading of texts by Lysias, Plato, or Xenophon. Emphasis on syntax and style.*

The ἀγών (“contest”) occupied a central place in Athenian culture, whether the arena was athletics, drama, philosophy, or law. The Athenians saw competitive speech in particular as their defining characteristic, both their greatest strength and their greatest weakness. This semester’s iteration of intermediate Greek, subtitled **THE BEST DEFENSE**, will introduce you to some of the foundational texts of ancient Greek rhetoric. Through reading three very different defense speeches—Lysias’ *On the Murder of Eratosthenes*, Gorgias’ *Encomium of Helen*, and Plato’s *Apology of Socrates*—we will explore the role played by rhetoric in Athenian civic life and ponder what makes a good argument. You will also have the chance to make good arguments of your own as we engage with additional primary and secondary literature. The main purpose of this course, however, is to refine and reinforce your ability to read Attic Greek. This course will prepare you to continue your studies of ancient Greek both on the 1000-level at Brown and, with care and diligence on your part, for many years to come.

Course Aims

This course will attempt to do the following:

- Fortify your understanding of Attic Greek grammar, syntax, and vocabulary
- Build your skills in the close reading of Greek literary texts
- Introduce you to the cultural contexts of these works, including their historical, social, archaeological, literary, and linguistic backgrounds

Student Objectives

By the end of this semester, you, the student, should be able to do the following:

- Fluidly construe Attic Greek at the levels of sentence, paragraph, passage, and text
- Demonstrate your knowledge of Attic grammar, syntax, and vocabulary
- Argue cogently and concisely about a text with frequent reference to the original Greek

Assessment

Final grades will be issued, under grade option G, in 10% increments (100–90 is an A, 89–80 is a B, etc.); under grade option S, no credit will be awarded for a final grade lower than 70%.

1) Daily attendance, participation, and homework:	25%
2) Quizzes:	2.5%
3) Midterm meeting:	2.5%
4) Micro papers and presentations:	15%
5) Final essay:	15%
6) In-class exam:	20%
7) Final exam:	20%
[8) Graduate Project:	--%]

1) *Daily attendance and participation* are required of all students and are, more importantly, key to successfully acquiring the language. Excessive absence (of more than three sessions) without prior approval or written medical excuse will lead to forfeiture of course credit. No student will be allowed to make up a missed assessment without proper documentation of an emergency or illness. Additionally, coming to class late more than once in one week will count as one absence. Students who miss class are encouraged to check with the instructor or classmates for material missed; lecture slides and handouts will also be posted to Canvas.

While attendance points accrue passively, *participation* is an active phenomenon that requires completion of all homework assignments as well as readiness to engage in daily in-class exercises. It will be the student's responsibility to maintain the habit of regular participation, through contributing to discussions and through volunteering to translate the readings. While opportunities to participate will of course vary from session to session, one may take as a guideline speaking in class three times per week as the minimum requirement. Please do not be afraid to volunteer, especially for translation: the instructor and the rest of the class will gladly assist the translator if requested.

Collaboration in studying is strongly encouraged; however, students are not allowed to work together on written homework assignments, which will be treated as academic dishonesty. For reading assignments, the expectation is that you will render the Greek text into spoken English: you may not bring written translations with you to class, as they do the development of your memory no favors. Brief notes on points of grammar or vocabulary are acceptable, though it is recommended that you make these on a separate sheet of paper, and not directly in your texts, so that you can review the Greek with fresh eyes at a later date.

2) *Quizzes*, both in-class and take-home, will be given whenever the instructor deems them necessary to reinforce and reward your studying. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Most quizzes will be announced in advance; unannounced quizzes will be purely diagnostic.

3) Each student will be required to have one *midterm meeting* with the instructor to discuss the student's progress. The instructor will send around a sign-up sheet as the date approaches (see schedule). In addition, the student must bring to the meeting any passage from the readings, of between eight and ten lines of text, typed up (not copied from the internet or handwritten) by the student. The student will read this passage aloud at the meeting; the expectation is that the student will have rehearsed the passage in order to demonstrate continued practice at reading fluency.

4) “*Micro papers*” will occasionally be assigned to individual students; frequency will depend on the ultimate size of the class. Each assignment will consist of two parts. First, the student will produce a *micro paper* on an assigned topic, drawn from the primary readings and/or secondary literature. This paper is to be submitted by email no later than the start of the session for which it has been assigned; papers longer than 450 words will not be accepted. Second, the student will convey the essence of this paper in an oral *presentation* no more than five minutes long. The student may speak from notes or an outline but must not simply read the micro paper aloud. These assignments will be assessed primarily on the acuity of the written analysis and on the successful adaptation of this analysis to spoken delivery.

5) Each student will produce a *final essay* (1750–2000 words), due on the last day of reading period (Tuesday, May 6, 5:00 p.m.). All students will write on the same topic, or choose from a limited set of topics, which will be selected in consultation with the class no later than April 15. While the papers should include parenthetical citations of some secondary literature, the focus will be on close reading of the Greek text.

6) One *in-class exam* will be given after we have finished our readings from Lysias and Gorgias. This exam will last the entire session; the bulk of the exam will be translation of passages we have read as a class and passages at sight. There will be an associated opportunity for extra credit, to be completed and turned in no later than the start of the exam. You may not collaborate on the extra credit assignment.

7) The *final exam* will be on Wednesday, May 14, at 2:00 p.m. The format will be similar to that of the in-class exam, except that the final will cover our reading of Plato’s *Apology*. The student must pass the final exam in order to earn a passing grade for the course as a whole. Please bring any individual concerns about this exam—or any other part of the course—to the instructor’s attention as early as possible.

[8] As per the registrar’s requirement for courses below the 1000-level, graduate students taking this course for credit will be required to complete a *graduate project* in consultation with the instructor. This project will be due before the final exam is given and will be assigned no later than May 1.]

Required Course Texts (available at the bookstore)

MILLER, PAUL ALLEN, AND CHARLES PLATTER. 2010. *Plato’s Apology of Socrates*. University of Oklahoma Press. [ISBN: 0806140259]

SCODEL, RUTH. 1986. *Lysias: Orations I, III*. Bryn Mawr Commentaries. [ISBN: 0929524195]

A list of other useful, but not required, texts will be distributed with the syllabus. Time allowing, the instructor will distribute other readings appropriate to the needs and interests of the class.

Additional Notes

Students needing special accommodation should notify the instructor as soon as possible. For more information, please email Student and Employee Accessibility Services (SEAS@brown.edu, website: <http://www.brown.edu/campus-life/support/accessibility-services/>).

Any changes to the syllabus will be advertised in class and reflected in the copy of the syllabus posted on Canvas; the Course Preview page may not contain the most up-to-date syllabus.

GREK 0400 Course Schedule

Spring 2014

Please note: these dates and assignments are only *tentative*. The class will move at its own pace, and I may make minor adjustments over the course of the semester as I deem them helpful. More detailed homework schedules will be distributed at regular intervals. I reserve the right to schedule additional meetings during reading period.

WEEK ONE

Wed. Jan. 22: Classes begin
Fri. Jan. 24: Read syllabus and Lysias 1.1–5

WEEK TWO

Lysias 1.6–21

WEEK THREE

Lysias 1.22–42
Tue. Feb. 4: Last day to add a course without a fee

WEEK FOUR

Lysias 1.43–50, Gorgias *Helen* 1–5

WEEK FIVE

Gorgias *Helen* 6–21
Mon. Feb. 17: University holiday; no class
Wed. Feb. 19: Add Course deadline; Grade Option Change deadline

WEEK SIX

Wed. Feb. 26: In-class exam
Fri. Feb. 28: Plato *Apology* 17A1–18A6 (Miller & Paul ch. 1)

WEEK SEVEN

Plato *Apology* 18A7–20C3 (M&P 2–4)
Fri. Mar. 7: Audit and Course Performance Report deadline

WEEK EIGHT

Plato *Apology* 20C4–23C1 (M&P 5–9)

WEEK NINE

Plato *Apology* 23C2–27A7 (M&P 10–14)

[Sat. Mar. 22–Sun. Mar. 30: Spring Break]

WEEK TEN

Plato *Apology* 27A8–31C3 (M&P 15–18)

WEEK ELEVEN

Plato *Apology* 31C4–35D8 (M&P 19–24)

WEEK TWELVE

Plato *Apology* 35E1–39D9 (M&P 25–30)
Tue. Apr. 15: Registration opens

WEEK THIRTEEN

Plato *Apology* 39E1–42A5 (M&P 31–33)
Fri. Apr. 25: Last scheduled meeting

WEEK FOURTEEN AND BEYOND

Sat. Apr. 26–Tue. May 6: Reading Period
Tue. May 6: Final essay due (5:00 p.m.)
Wed. May 14: Final exam, 2:00 p.m.