



# Arcadia Center for Hellenic, Mediterranean and Balkan Studies

Arcadia University

## GREC ANMO 360/SOMO 360 Contemporary Greek Society

Credits: 3

### Course description

As an honorary anthropologist, you investigate some of the unwritten rules - “common sense” - that makes contemporary Greek society/ies in and outside of Athens work. Forays into coffee drinking, body language, making a living, religion/ethnicity, and migrant experiences, provide insights into socializing, gender, class and family relations, sexuality; use of space; perceptions of time and “proper” manners; European and Greek identity.

### Rationale and Impact of Course

This anthropology-based course provides you the opportunity to rigorously engage with the culture you have chosen to immerse yourself in this semester.

### Learning Outcomes and Expected Student Competences

Requirements	Learning outcomes
<b>Course readings</b>	The classical and contemporary anthropological studies provide insights into the day to day lives of persons living in Greece, and how they make sense of it – including into the intermingling of traditional and modern aspects of Greek culture.
<b>Fieldwork exercises</b>	The six small fieldwork exercises I have designed for you, and the one you will design yourself, are intended to make you take the initiative, to “get out there” and engage in an in-depth - but guided - way, in life in Greece while you are here.
<b>Reflection papers / final research paper</b>	The six small (3-paged) fieldwork reflection papers, and the larger (ten-page) final research paper, will foster your analytical and writing skills – including your ability to integrate theoretical and empirical information.
<b>Qualitative research methods</b>	Your use of participant observation and semi-structured interviews will enhance your qualitative research skills
<b>Seminar style classes</b>	You will become more adept at presenting your understandings of readings, and your testing of the claims they make.
<b>Class presentations</b>	You will hone your presentation skills, while learning from other students’ presentations about additional aspects of Greek culture not covered in the course readings.

## **Course requirements**

### Participation

Fifty percent (50%) of your grade will be based on your participation in class and fieldwork exercises.

- The class is run seminar style. You will be expected to have read the readings, and come ready to discuss them.
- Fieldwork assignments are participant-observation and semi-structured interview exercises – two of the primary methodologies used by anthropologists. These entail getting out there and engaging with Greek society – taking part in activities, while observing and learning from them. Your contributions to class discussions need to demonstrate that you have partaken in, and reflected on, these exercises.

### Written work

Fifty percent (50%) of your grade will be based on your written work. It will consist of:

- Six short reflection papers (three double-spaced pages each):

Each of these will be about one of the six fieldwork exercises - and related readings - I have designed for you. Unless otherwise stated, short/reflection papers must include a minimum of 3 references to the related readings, and to three persons interviewed/observed. These will account for 60% of your written grade.

- Final paper (ten double-spaced pages)

This paper will be based on the independent research project you design and carry out. It must include minimum 10 citations from at least three academic articles on your topic, and ten references to persons interviewed/observed. This accounts for 40% of your written work grade.

No interviewing of Arcadia staff is allowed. You are expected to draw your evidence from persons you take the initiative to meet/observe outside the Arcadia setting.

All papers must be typed, spell- and grammar-checked. Papers must be turned in during class on their due dates. No late papers will be accepted unless there is a serious (medical) reason for it.

All papers and oral and written assignments are to be the work of the student presenting the material. Any use of wording, ideas, or findings of other persons, writers, or researchers requires explicit citation of the source; use of exact wording requires a 'quotation' format.

**Grading scale:**

- A 90 - 100
- B 80 – 89
- C 70 – 79

**Other policies:**

- Participation is not just about talking, giving opinions or exercising critical capacities. It should also involve giving evidence of reading either the material assigned or other sources relevant to the subject matter.
- One unexcused absence is permitted. After that, 2.5 grade points will be deducted for every unexcused absence. If you are ill, you must inform Jan or Joanna before class meeting time for your absence to count as excused.
- Each student is responsible for performing academic tasks in such a way that honesty is not in question. All tests, term papers, oral and written assignments, and other academic efforts are to be the work of the student presenting the material. Any use of wording, ideas, or findings of other persons, writers, or researchers requires the explicit citation of the source; use of the exact wording requires a 'quotation' format.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Related activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Introduction:</b>  <b>Anthropological motivations and methodologies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions</li> <li>• Syllabus</li> <li>• Doing anthropology</li> </ul> <u>Motivations:</u> “The anthropology song: A little bit anthropologist” <u>Topics and Methods:</u> Short Films - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Doing anthropology,” 3 MIT anthropologists</li> <li>• “Boys will be boys”, Brigit Dale</li> </ul>	Tu 1 Feb
	<u>Anthropological Methodologies</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kaplonski, Christopher, “Fieldwork,” Cambridge anthro</li> <li>• “Anthropology Methods”, from Minnesota State University Mankato site</li> <li>• Family Health International, Qualitative Research Methods: A Data Collectors’ Field Guide, Module 2: <i>Participant Observation</i></li> <li>• Family Health International, Qualitative Research Methods: A Data Collectors’ Field Guide, Module 3: <i>In-depth interviews</i></li> </ul>	Th 3 Feb
<b>Coffee:</b>  <b>socializing, gender</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cowan, Jane “Ch. 3: Everyday Sociability as Gendered Space”, in <i>Dance and the Body Politic in Northern Greece</i></li> </ul>	Tu 8 Feb
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Papataxiarchis, E. (1991) “Chapter 7 - Friends of the Heart: Male Commensal Solidarity, Gender, and Kinship</li> </ul>	Th 10 Feb

<b>space class</b>	in Aegean Greece”. In: P. Loizos & E. Papataxiarchis (eds), <i>Contested Identities: Gender and Kinship in Modern Greece</i> . Princeton: Princeton University Press.	Th 10 Feb
	• Fieldwork assignment kafeneio/café due & discussion	Tu 15 Feb
<b>Body language I</b>	• Subway fieldwork assignment due & discussion	Th 17 Feb
<b>Making a living:</b>  <b>The economy, work, kinship gender, public/private divide</b>	• Just, Roger “Chapter 6 - The back to back community”, A Greek Island Cosmos: Kinship and Community on Meganisi, London: James Currey.	Tu 22 Feb
	• Lampousaki, Sophia (2008) Employment Trends in Greece, Labour Institute of Greek General Confederation of Labour/Confederation of Public Servants.	Th 24 Feb
	• Woestman, Lois “” The Economic Crisis and Gender in Greece”	
	• Fieldwork assignment 3: Work / economy fieldwork due /discussion	Tu 1 Mar
<b>Independent research</b>	• Individual / final research projects - guidelines • Initial declarations by students of topics of interest	Th 3 Mar
<b>Religion:</b> <b>Greek Orthodoxy European / Greek identity</b>	• Molokotos-Liederman, L. (2003) “ <i>Identity Crisis: Greece, Orthodoxy &amp; the European Union</i> ”, <i>Journal of Contemporary Religion</i>	Tu 8 Mar
	• Danforth, Loring (1982) Ch. 3: Death as Passage, in <i>The Death Rituals of Rural Greece</i> , pp. 35-70.	Th 10 Mar
	• Dubish, J. (1995) “Ch. 4 “Observing Pilgrimage: Churches, Icons and the Devil”, in <i>In a Different Place: Pilgrimage, Gender and Politics at a Greek Island Shrine (Tinos)</i> , pp. 49-76.	Tu 15 Mar
<b>Independent Research</b>	• Research outlines due – discussed	Th 17 Mar
<b>Religion</b>	• Cemetery fieldwork assignment due / discussion	Tu 22 Mar
<b>Body language II:</b>  <b>kamaki sexuality space</b>	• Cowan, Jane “Chapter 6 – Male Prestige and the Eruption of Conflict”, in <i>Dance and the Body Politic in Northern Greece</i> , pp. 171-87, & “Chapter 7 – Ambivalent Pleasures: Dance as a Problem for Women”, pp. 188-202.	Th 24 Mar
	• Zinovieff, Sofka (1991) Hunters and Hunted: <i>Kamaki</i> and the Ambiguities of Sexual Predation in a Greek Town, in P. Loizos and E. Papataxiarchis (eds) <i>Contested Identities: Gender and Kinship in Modern Greece</i> , 203-220.	Tu 29 Mar
<b>Research</b>	• Final consultations on research progress	Th 31 Mar
<b>Body language II</b>	• Nightclub fieldwork assignment due - discussion	Tu 5 Mar
<b>Immigrant Groups:</b>	• Bacas, Jutta (2002) Greece and its New Immigrants. Features and Consequences of the Recent Immigration to Greece <i>Ethnologia Balkanika</i> , 6:197-208	Th 7 Mar

<b>Shifting national identity?</b>	• Iosifidis, T. and R. King “Socio-Spatial Dynamics and Exclusion of Three Immigrant Groups in Athens Conurbation”, <i>South European Society and Politics</i>	Tu 12 Apr
	• Fieldwork assignment 6: immigrant interviews due / discussion	Th 14 Apr
<b>Research – student presentations</b>	• Student presentations of final research	Tu 19 Apr
	• Student presentations of final research	Th 21 Apr
	• (Easter / Spring break)	26/28 Apr)
<b>Research papers Course Evaluation</b>	• Final research papers due • Course evaluations	3 May

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Cost to Student:** None.

**Select Bibliography** – all course materials are available for download from the course webpage