



**SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
CLASSICS PROGRAMME**

**GREE 216: GREEK LITERATURE**

**TRIMESTER 2 2011**

11 July to 13 November 2011

**Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 11 July to 14 October 2011

Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2011

Study week: 17 – 21 October 2011

Examination/Assessment period: 21 October to 12 November 2011

**Withdrawal dates**

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

**Lecturer and Course-Coordinator**

Dr Judy Deuling (course organiser, OK 517), ph. 463 7407, email [Judy.Deuling@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Judy.Deuling@vuw.ac.nz).

**Class times and locations**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:00 noon– 12.50 pm, OK 526, VUW Classics Museum

**Course delivery**

The course will be taught in language classes, which will combine translation of the text with discussion of the issues raised by it, including social, literary, historical and other contextual matters as well as questions of grammar and style. Students will be expected to have translations prepared for class and occasionally to do further reading for class as well.

**Communication of additional information**

Any further information, such as announcements and unofficial final results, will be posted on noticeboards in Old Kirk, level 5.

**Class representative**

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

**Expected workload**

Students should expect to put an average of 14 hours work per week into this course. There is no requirement on attendance as such, but it is highly unlikely that any student will be able to manage satisfactorily with the 'seen' elements of the assessment without attending at least 85% of classes. It is recommended that students spend at least an average of 200

hours comprehensively over the twelve-week trimester, break, study week and the examination period of this course.

### **Course Prescription**

Literary and/or historical texts for translation, comment on subject matter, language and literary setting.

### **Course content**

The course examines literary texts for translation and study of subject matter, language and literary setting. We focus on Lucian's *True Histories*, and Euripides' *Alcestis*.

Reading literary authors shifts the focus away from simply learning grammar and vocabulary, and to some extent this means adopting different work habits. The following are points on which you will need to make policy decisions, and which you should remind yourself to think about repeatedly:

- **Use of cribs.** You should make a policy decision on whether or not to use a 'crib' (a published translation to aid you in deciphering the Greek text). On the one hand, your familiarity with the Greek language and with the style of the author will improve much more if you avoid using cribs; on the other hand, reading the Greek text without a crib can be more time-consuming. **Some lecturers may actively prohibit the use of cribs.** Of course, you should not use a crib in class, only, if at all, for your preparation at home.
- **Writing out a full translation.** This can be a little bit time-consuming, but it makes revising for the final exam enormously faster. If you do make a full translation, you should correct it while going through the text in class. (When translating in class you **must not** simply be reading from your translation.) If you do not make a full translation, you should still make very thorough notes in class, and organise your notes carefully.
- **Translation style.** When making a translation, should you try to write a literary, 'poetic' translation in good English, as though aiming for publication? Or should you make a very literal translation ('translationese')? Each to one's own, but you should decide one way or the other, and make sure that the translation is not too far away from the Greek text and is written in correct and legible English prose.
- **Look at the commentary.** This is not so much a do-it/don't-do-it question, but rather a reminder that there *is* a commentary in the back of the textbook. The commentary provides an enormous amount of assistance in understanding the text, as well as offering literary comment and pointing to secondary sources. The commentaries will probably be among your main secondary sources for the text analysis assignments. Ignoring the commentary is one of the most common mistakes made by students beginning GREE 216.

### **Learning objectives**

Students who have successfully passed the course will have improved their fluency in ancient Greek, and reinforced their knowledge of grammatical and morphological points learnt previously; improved their appreciation of niceties of classical Greek prose and verse style; and gained an appreciation of the historical contexts and literary genres of the texts studied.

## Readings

### Essential texts:

- *Lucian: Selections*, ed. K. Sidwell, BCP 1986
- Euripides *Alcestis*, ed. Dale, OUP 1971

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 4 to 22 July 2011, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 4 of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays).  
Phone: 463 5515.

### Recommended Reading:

Grammars for classical Greek may be obtained for free from <http://www.textkit.com>. The relevant books are

- Herbert Weir Smyth, *Greek Grammar* (15.67 MB)
- William W. Goodwin, *Greek Grammar* (8.52 MB)

### Select Secondary Literature:

List to follow early in Trimester 2.

### Assessment requirements

Assessment is by internal assessment (40%) and a three-hour final exam (60%). Assessment is designed to determine students' ability to (1) translate classical Greek into English, (2) express coherent, informative, and insightful comments both on specific passages and in the context of the larger work.

#### Internal assessment (40%)

- **2x essays** (20% each), of ca. 1500 words each, the first on Aristophanes and the second on Plato. These hand-in assignments will take the form of an in-depth analysis of a passage of the set author, or a short essay about a passage. Further details on how to approach the assignment will be given in class.

Due dates: Lucien: **Fri. 12 August** (week 5); Euripides: **Fri 23 September** (week 9).

#### Three-hour final exam (60%)

The exam will feature questions on the following; full details on these questions and how much each is worth will be forthcoming in class near the end of the course. The study and exam period is from 21 October to 12 November 2011.

- gobbets on both Lucien and Euripides (translate a seen passage into good English and then provide comments and analysis on the passage); a choice of passages will be offered
- unseen translation

The assessments will test students' knowledge of ancient Greek, especially as used by the authors studied (including points of grammar and morphology) and of the content, background, style and metre of the texts studied in class. There will be seen and unseen passages to translate in the final exam.

## **Penalties**

If the assignment is submitted late without an extension given *in advance*, may be subject to a penalty of 5 marks out of 100 per workday.

## **Mandatory course requirements**

There are no mandatory requirements for this course.

## **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## **Where to find more detailed information:**

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study). Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress). Most statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy), except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx) (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic).