



# **GREE 112**

## **Introduction to Greek**

**Trimester 1 2012**



**School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies**

School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies  
**Classics Programme**

**GREE 112**  
**Introduction to Greek**  
CRN 1909  
**TRIMESTER 1 2012**  
5 March to 4 July 2012

**Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 5 March to 8 June 2012

Mid-trimester break: 6–22 April 2012

Study week: 11–15 June 2012

Examination/Assessment period: 15 June to 4 July 2012

**Withdrawal dates**

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

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

**Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator:	Dr. Simon Perris
Room:	OK 519
Telephone:	463 8044
e-mail:	<a href="mailto:simon.perris@vuw.ac.nz">simon.perris@vuw.ac.nz</a>
Office hour:	TBA

**Class times and locations**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 12:00–12:50 p.m., Alan MacDiarmid Building, Room 102

**Course delivery**

This course is taught via a seminar format in which the lecturer explains Greek grammar, vocabulary and translation; students participate fully in all activities, including reading and translating sentences and passages and writing answers on the whiteboard. Students are expected to bring all homework exercises, completed in advance, to class.

**Communication of additional information**

Any additional information will be posted on the Classics Programme notice board on the fifth floor of Old Kirk (OK). Final examination timetables will be available to students when posted by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Victoria University. It is the student's responsibility to obtain such information and to respond appropriately.

### **Course Prescription**

GREE 112 is an introduction to ancient Greek for beginners, with emphasis on the acquisition of basic reading skills.

### **Learning objectives**

GREE 112 aims to provide a grasp of the basic elements of ancient Greek. Students passing the course should be able to understand simple Greek sentences, translate simple English sentences into Greek, and pronounce Greek according to the general protocols of classicists.

### **Workload**

Students should expect to spend *ca.* 200 hours in total on GREE 112, including classes and in-class assessments. Because there is no exam, this will be spread over the 12-week teaching period and the mid-trimester break.

### **Assessment**

GREE 112 is 100% internally assessed. It consists of 7 pieces of work:

<b>Friday 9 March</b>	<b>20-minute quiz</b>	<b>(10%)</b>
<b>Friday 16 March</b>	<b>20-minute quiz</b>	<b>(10%)</b>
<b>Friday 30 March</b>	<b>20-minute quiz</b>	<b>(10%)</b>
<b>Friday 27 April</b>	<b>30-minute mid-term test</b>	<b>(20%)</b>
<b>Friday 11 May</b>	<b>20-minute quiz</b>	<b>(10%)</b>
<b>Friday 25 May</b>	<b>20-minute quiz</b>	<b>(10%)</b>
<b>Friday 8 June</b>	<b>50-minute final test</b>	<b>(30%)</b>

Assessments (and non-assessed exercises) are designed to allow both student and lecturer to evaluate the student's progress in accomplishing the objectives of the course. Assessment is designed to help the student and the lecturer evaluate progress in three key areas, as well as to provide a final grade:

- memorisation of vocabulary and grammatical points, tested by questions on morphology (word forms)
- understanding of how vocabulary and grammar are used, tested by the translation of simple sentences of Greek to English or English to Greek.
- reading ability, tested by the translation of passages from Greek to English.

### **Penalties**

All in-term tests must be taken on the day set, unless there are demonstrable extenuating circumstances. Variances will be considered upon application—preferably before the event.

### **Mandatory course requirements**

This course is 100% internally assessed. There are no mandatory course requirements. It is highly unlikely, however, that any student will complete the course satisfactorily without attending and fully participating in at least 80% of all classes and attempting all work set.

## Language learning methods

**PREPARATION FOR CLASS:** Learning languages is a cumulative process. Each step builds on the previous one and is consolidated through practice. It is highly recommended that students attend and participate in all classes and complete all preparation for each class. Do not get left behind! If you ‘take a rest’ for even just half a week, you may not be able to catch up afterwards. If you *do* keep up, of course, you are likely to enjoy success.

The single most beneficial thing you can do in learning a language is to work on it every day. Beginning language courses require constant learning, practice and revision. I recommend that you put in 2-4 hours daily, in addition to class time. The assessment consists of several short tests and assignments, rather than one larger final examination, to encourage you to prepare, practise and revise regularly.

**HOMEWORK:** You must prepare the translations and exercises assigned for each class. It is your responsibility to see that you understand by the end of each class what errors you have made in your preparation and why. Don’t be afraid to ask questions! You are unlikely to be the only one confused, so please ask in class if you don’t get it.

**PRACTICE:** Reading over Greek can only get you so far and it will prove fruitless to hope that information will transfer itself into your brain by osmosis. It always pays to write things down, to draw up lists and tables, to ask and answer questions, to quiz a friend—in short, anything that promotes *active* engagement with the language.

It is a good idea to maintain a reference grammar of your own. Not only will your own Reference Grammar be laid out as you want it, so you can find what you are looking for much more quickly and understand it more easily, but also writing things out helps you learn them. Use a folder subdivided into sections (e.g. ‘Nouns’, ‘Verbs’, ‘Miscellaneous’, etc.) where you can add pages to each section as we cover more material. I know it sounds a bit like primary school, but coloured pens and highlighters really help a lot.

**PREPARING A TRANSLATION:** ‘Preparing’ a passage of Greek means working your way thoroughly through it, looking up any words that you do not know and trying to understand how they fit together and what each sentence means. You should come to class ready to translate the Greek into English.

Preparation can be time-consuming. You will need to make a note of what each unfamiliar word seems to mean. There are different opinions about the best way to keep notes: some people just make a list of the unfamiliar vocabulary, for instance, while others write in the text, in pencil, the meaning of anything they have looked up. Do not write out a separate English translation of the whole passage. Simply reading in class from your translation will do nothing for your grasp of Greek. In fact, you will be expected to translate in class without reading your translation.

It is advisable to make notes on any parts of the Greek you did not initially understand as we go over them in class. Going over previous class translations is a very useful way of preparing for tests, since doing so fixes the grammar and vocabulary in your mind, and helps you to develop a “feel” for the language.

**VOCABULARY LEARNING:** Learning vocab is the part of learning any language that takes the most discipline. It is ongoing, persistent, and inevitable. You can *never* afford to skimp on it. Spend 30-60 minutes after every class learning vocabulary. Learn words from the chapter covered

that day (about 10 words/day) and make sure that you can still remember the vocabulary from a previous chapter, since these words carry on throughout the course. Ensure that you can translate both ways—Greek to English *and* English to Greek. Then you will be learning *actively*, rather than just recognising words *passively*. You will also be tested on your skills in translating from English into Greek. It will help to maintain your own vocab list. Not only will you have a full list of all the words you need to know, but the act of recording them will help you learn them.

**Essential text:**

Balme, M. and G. Lawall, *Athenaze: An Introduction to Ancient Greek Book 1*, 2nd edition (Oxford)

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 13 February to 16 March 2012, 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.

**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.

## **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>

## **Statement on legibility**

Students are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed illegible, the options are:

- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame after which penalties will apply;
- if the student does not transcribe it to an acceptable standard, the work will be accepted as 'received' (so any associated mandatory course requirements are met) but not marked.

## **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).