

HELLENIC STUDIES 2023



OUR VISION AND PROGRAM

Founded by the late Professor Ted Kaltsounis in 1998 with support from the local Greek-American community, our program is an interdisciplinary program designed for students interested in acquiring a comprehensive view of Greece, from antiquity to the present, enabling students to study the Greek world in depth and from a variety of scholarly perspectives.

The Hellenic Studies program's special emphasis on modern and contemporary Greece is mirrored in its placement within the Center for Western European studies and the Jackson School. The program's mission to support and promote the study of modern and contemporary Greece is further reflected in the opportunities it presents students to study the Modern Greek language at all levels, and to gain first-hand experience of Greece by participating in the study abroad program it organizes annually. The program offers a Minor that forms an excellent and convenient complement to a European Studies Major or other majors with the Jackson School or in the humanities.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to UW Hellenic Studies! As program chair my mission is to make sure that UW will always be a place where students, both those of Greek heritage and those with no previous experience of or connection with Greece, can gain a deeper knowledge of Greece and all aspects of its rich and ancient culture and its language in all periods, from ancient to modern. I want to continue to improve and expand our program to meet this mission. I want to make sure that students know about our classes and the financial support that we can offer thanks to generous benefactors from the community.

OUR FACULTY

- > Prof. Alexander Hollmann, Chair and Vidalakis Professor of Culture, Excellence, and Spirituality in Hellenic Studies
- > Dr. Nektaria Klapaki, Modern Greek Studies, Study Abroad Program
- > Dr. Heracles Panagiotides, Modern Greek Language
- > Dr. Taso Lagos, Study Abroad Program

LONG TERM GOALS

Since the founding of the program it has been our goal to create a named and endowed chair in Hellenic Studies. We have gotten a good start on this and created an endowment of \$1.8 million with generous contributions from the community. We seek to make this a reality through community contribution, cultivation of benefactors, and applications for program support from national and international foundations.

To support the named professor of Hellenic Studies we also need to create two full-time lectureships, one in Modern Greek Studies, and the other in Modern Greek Language.

OUR ADVISORY BOARD

- > John T. John, President
- > Paul Plumis, Vice President
- > George Hatziantoniou, Vice President
- > Gus Kravas

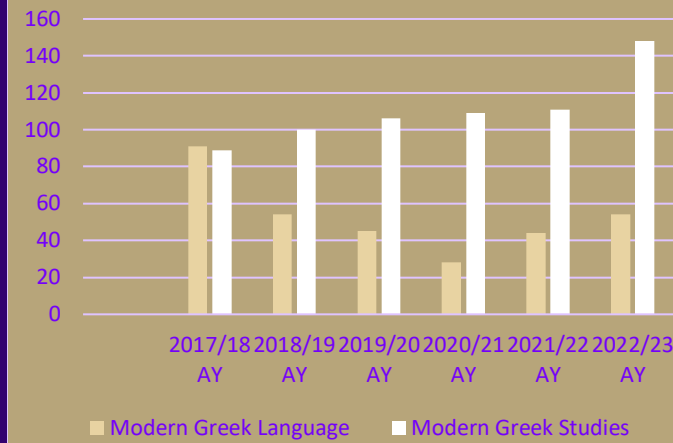
OUR CLASSES

The Hellenic Studies program has four important components:

1. Courses on Modern Greece (history, culture, literature). These courses are taught by Dr. Klapaki and are offered through the Jackson School of International Studies. JSIS/CLAS 239 Greece: Ancient to Modern, examines the idea of the continuity of themes from Ancient to Modern Greece and is team-taught by Professor Hollmann and Dr. Klapaki.
2. Courses on Ancient Greece (literature, mythology, history, culture, art, archaeology). These courses are taught by faculty of the Department of Classics, including Prof. Hollmann.
3. Courses in the Greek language (Ancient and Modern). Courses in Ancient Greek are offered from beginning level through upper level, and are taught by faculty of the Department of Classics, including Prof. Hollmann. Courses in Modern Greek are offered from beginning level through advanced. Beginning and intermediate Modern Greek courses are taught online, using a platform developed by Dr. Panagiotides.
4. The Study Abroad program is currently run by Dr. Klapaki and has both a shorter program (spring break) and a longer program (summer). Participants spend time in Athens at the American College of Greece (Deree), as well as at Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies in Nafplio, with side trips to sites in the Peloponnese.

SOME ENROLLMENT FIGURES

Hellenic Studies Student Enrollments 2017–2023



PROGRAM NEWS

HELLENIC STUDIES MINORS

Our very first minor, **Kate Russell** (Psychology 2020) completed a Master's degree in Comparative and International Education at Oxford University.

Miranda Keene (Anthropology 2021), first recipient of the Kravas Scholarship and one of our first minors, went on to work as a Market Research Consultant for UW.

Sophia Assoumanaki (International Studies: Europe 2021), who went on to represent Greece in the Olympic rowing team, assisted our Study Abroad program in Athens in spring of 2022.

Sophia Moser (International Studies 2021, additional minors in Spanish and Portuguese) traveled to Brazil after winning a Fulbright Award.

Quinn Murray Wilson (Marine Biology) graduated in spring of 2021.

Erik Stone (International/Global Studies 2021), is now Arthur Zankel Urban Fellow in the M.A. program in History and Education at Columbia University.

Henry Vickers (Economics) graduated last summer while working as Student Ambassador Team Coordinator for the Alumni Association.

Blake Bernethy (Biology) graduated this summer after returning from our Study Abroad program. He is applying to graduate programs.

KRAVAS AND SOULANDROS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Kravas Scholarship was set up in honor of Irene Konstantopoulos Kravas (1908-2009), who was born in the village of Kastania and came to Washington State as a bride in her late teens. Though she spent most of her life in the *xenitia*, she always remembered a childhood filled with the love of family and their passion for their Hellenic heritage. In 2022 the winner was one of our minors, Henry Vickers. The 2023 winner is minor Blake Bernethy. The Soulandros Scholarship, created in honor of Nicholas and Aggeliki Soulandros, is awarded to both undergraduate and graduate students who show an interest in Hellenic Studies. In 2020 it was awarded to Owen Harris, a talented graduate student in both

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the Evans School of Public Administration and the Jackson School of International Studies, who was carrying out research on Syrian refugees in Greece with historically Greek backgrounds. Thanks to support from the scholarship, Owen was able to complete Dr. Panagiotides' summer intensive course in the Modern Greek language. With his knowledge of Turkish, Arabic, and now Greek, he is now well-positioned indeed to conduct research and interviews, and has been working in a government office in Washington D.C. for the past year. In 2021, the Soulandros was won by Cass Garrison, who has taken classes in Modern Greek and who is working on a project to translate several women Greek poets from the islands. The 2023 recipient is Ben Tilton, junior in Political Science and Economics.

KALTSOUNIS SCHOLARSHIP

Named after UW professor and founder of the UW Hellenic Studies program, Ted Kaltsounis, the Kaltsounis Scholarship is awarded to students for research and travel. In 2022 the scholarship was given to Hannah Solan, who traveled to Greece with the Hellenic Studies Study Abroad program. The 2023 winner is Tuan Trung Vu.

ROUVELAS PRIZE

The Rouvelas Prize was created in honor of Eleftherios and Mary Rouvelas, enthusiastic supporters of *paideia*, and is given for an outstanding piece of student writing on a theme relating to Hellenic Studies. In 2022 recipient Meagan White wrote on honor culture in the Odyssey and in the American South. Because of the exceptional quality of entries this past year, we awarded the 2023 prize to History and Sephardic Studies graduate student Joana Bürger and graduating senior Sarah McDaniel.

STUDY ABROAD

In the 2022 Spring Break Program 31 students spent two weeks touring Greece and following up on an earlier program's study of the impact of Covid on Greek residents. A highlight of the program was a visit to a Roma settlement in Athens as well as a workshop on Covid hosted at the Harvard Center in Nafplion involving Greek Covid experts. The Covid study continued during the summer program, with 23 participating students focusing on Covid's impact on Greek society. The 2023 Summer Program had 26 students enrolled and was led by Dr. Klapaki, since Dr. Lagos is now interim director of the Jackson School's Executive Master of International Studies program.

EVENTS

UW Hellenic Studies is delighted to be part of the West Coast consortium of Hellenic Studies programs. Members of the consortium will benefit from a pilot program, launched by the SFU and UCLA programs in Hellenic Studies with assistance from the Niarchos Foundation, which will bring scholars, artists, and performers from Greece to Vancouver and Los Angeles, who can then be invited to our program. Our first visitor will be Helena Matheopoulos, London and Athens-based journalist and writer on opera. She will give a talk on Maria Callas ("Maria Callas: The Sacred Flame") on Nov. 14 at 7.00pm in the small hall at St. Demetrios church. Please come!

PLEASE SUPPORT HELLENIC STUDIES!

We need your help to achieve our long term and short term goals and are grateful for all donations, great and small. If you can help us, please contact Damian Peterson in the UW Advancement Office (damianbp@uw.edu).