

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Topics and suggestions below will introduce students to modern Greek culture that form the foundations of Modern Greek identity. The course usually includes an introduction to elementary modern Greek language and participation in a series of lectures and cultural events (tastings, guided tours) integrated into this course. Activities take place once (max twice per week) and some of them require a bus transfer.

Katerina Zafeiri, the Athens Centre Cultural and Learning Coordinator, is organizing the activities and accompanying the group for most of the visits to ensure smooth execution.

EXAMPLES OF COURSE THEMATICS & ACTIVITIES

Politics in modern Greece. The Greek constitution, European Integration and the Modern Greek identity

The Hellenic Parliament

Learn about the Presidential Guards - Visit the Presidential Mansion

Visit to the Offices of the Representation of the European Parliament

Visit to the National Historical Museum - Old Hellenic Parliament

Societal Issues

Economy in Greece

visit to the Museum of the Bank of Greece

meeting with SETE - Greek Tourism Confederation

Environmental issues

Guest Lecture from a WWF Hellas Representative

Visit to the ARCHELON, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece

Talk by representatives of the ENALEIA organization (first school for professional fishing in Greece with the aim to tackle the reduction of fish stocks and marine plastic pollution)

Visit to the Melissa Network - organization for migrant and refugee women in Greece

Other Possible Lectures at the Athens Centre

Art, Architecture and Urban Sustainability in Greece

Visit the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC) (National Library of Greece (NLG), the Greek National Opera (GNO), as well as the 210,000 m² (2,300,000 sq ft) Stavros Niarchos Park)

Gallery Walk in Athens

Visit to the First Cemetery of Athens

Visit to the Hellenikon Project (the largest urban regeneration project in Europe)

Ancient Greek Vase painting workshop

Food, Culture and Folklore

- Visit to honey bee farm, an urban apiary
- Olive Oil Tasting at the Athens Centre
- Traditional Greek Dance Class at the Athens Centre
- Attend an Ancient Greek Theater Play and Mask Making workshop

Science & Technology in Greece

- Guided tour: National Observatory of Athens
- Visit to the Eugenides Foundation & Planetarium
- Visit to the ancient Greek Technology Museum

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Students will be expected to keep a journal of their activities and excursions during this course. At the end of the term, students will present their journal to the class and faculty. Grades are based on attendance and participation in course activities and journal presentation.