

# GK 1000

## Introductory Ancient Greek



Syllabus

Fall 2025 to Winter 2026

Instructor: Dr. Gino Canlas

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Department of Classical Studies

Western University

## **Course Description**

Χαῖρε! That means hello. You've just learned your first Greek word. GK 1000 provides the essential linguistic foundations for the Ancient Greek language. This was the language of many important literary works, such as those of Homer, Sappho, Herodotos, Thucydides, and Aristotle. We will cover the first three-quarters of Groton's *From Alpha to Omega* and by the end of the course, you will be able to understand quite a lot of this beautifully complex ancient language and hopefully continue to more advanced studies of the language.

Please note that this is not a Modern Greek course. Ancient Greek will not help you survive if you travel to Greece today as it is phonetically, grammatically, and lexically different from Modern Greek.

## **About the Instructor**

I am Dr. Gino Canlas and I am Assistant Professor of Greek Archaeology in the Department of Classical Studies at Western. Please call me Gino in class. I have been a field archaeologist in Greece since 2009 and I don't usually teach Greek 1000 but I have been studying Ancient and Modern Greek since I was 16 years old. My field of research is in the archaeology of ancient Greek religion but I have a particular love for the Greek poetry and inscriptions. Regularly, I teach courses in Greek archaeology and Greek religion at all levels.

## **Time and Place**

Available on OWL. This course will be conducted entirely in person.

## **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course successful students will:

- 1) be able to recognize the basic vocabulary, phonetics, morphology, and syntax of ancient Greek
- 2) be able to read, translate, and analyze simple texts of ancient Greek
- 3) access and evaluate appropriate resources, e.g. dictionaries, word lists, grammar and syntax references, websites
- 4) be prepared for continued study at an advanced level
- 5) have a more solid grasp of English grammar and of the Greek origins of many English words
- 6) be able to explain and discuss key features of the ancient Greek world as learned through the study of language

## **Course Materials**

### *Required Texts*

A.H. Groton, 2025. *From Alpha to Omega: a Beginning Course in Classical Greek*. Hackett Publishing. Fifth Edition. (approx. \$60)

### *Recommended Texts*

J. Morwood. 2001. *Oxford Grammar of Classical Greek*. Oxford University Press. (approx. \$25)

Both texts will be available at the Bookstore. The instructor will also post some readings from comic books and primary sources in ancient Greek on OWL. All course material will be posted to OWL. Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site regularly for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

## **Technical Requirements**

This course will be conducted in person. However, you will need access to a computer and the internet to access the course website on OWL for course materials and notices. You will need to bring a pen and paper to every class as all quizzes/exams and most assignments will be handwritten.

## **Assessment Details**

25% - Final Exam (scheduled by the Registrar)

15% - Test 1 (Nov. 20)

15% - Test 2 (Feb. 12)

20% - Participation and Attendance

10% - Homework

15% - 24 Quizzes (every Friday, starting 11 September); I will not count the lowest 4 quizzes

### *Participation and Attendance*

I won't lie to you; learning a language is sometimes difficult. But I am a firm believer that there is no such thing as a person who is inherently bad at learning languages. There is an infinite number of ways to learn a language, and more often than not, you just need to find what works for you. I will help you to find ways of learning Ancient Greek (and learn to love it in the process), and let you know what works for me. But you also need to actively engage in your own independent learning process to find what works for you. Your success in this class will be equivalent to your level of engagement. Learning a new language requires constant repetition and review. You will need to memorize a lot of new words and concepts (and I will help you learn ways of tricking yourself into remembering things). For this reason, class participation and attendance are essential to your success in this course. It is very easy to fall behind. By making participation a graded element, I can reward the effort that you put into the class. If you show consistency and improvement throughout the year, it will be reflected in your participation grade.

I expect you to be engaged both in class and outside class. You need to dedicate time outside of class to do regular practice and review as it is impossible to succeed in a language class without putting some effort outside of class. Sometimes this can be just a few minutes every day—every little bit helps! In class, we will be taking turns reading Greek out loud. It is okay if that makes you scared; you just have to jump in the water and do it anyway. Part of successful language-learning is making mistakes and learning from them. Participating in class by volunteering to read, answering or asking questions, as well as general attendance will all count towards your

participation grade. Attending class every day and participating actively is the easiest way to get an A in this class.

### *Homework*

There will be regular homework in this class, usually from the textbook, and they should take between 30 mins to an hour per class. To encourage you to make mistakes, only 25% of your homework grade will be based on how much you answered correctly; the other 75% of the grade will be for completion. Every time you submit something, that is already most of the grade so don't neglect your homework! Students are expected to submit each assignment by the deadline given. Should extenuating circumstances arise, they do not need to request Academic Consideration; they can just email the instructor and will be permitted to submit their assignment up to 72 hours past the deadline without a late penalty. Submitting assignments past the 72 hours incurs a late penalty of 3% per day, including weekends. Academic Consideration requests will only be granted for extenuating circumstances that started before the deadline and lasted longer than the 72-hour period.

### *Quizzes*

There will be a quiz on the last class of every week (usually Friday), starting 12 September, except for weeks when we have in-class tests, totalling 24 quizzes throughout the year. The top 20 quizzes will be counted towards your grade. The quizzes will happen at the start of the class and will take up to 15 minutes long. These quizzes serve to reinforce vocab and grammatical concepts that we learned that week.

### *Tests*

There will be two in-class tests (50 mins) that will test you on all areas that we have covered up to that point. Each test will consist of four sections: vocabulary, conjugation/declension, parsing, translation/composition. More details will be provided in class.

### *Final Exam*

There is no exam in December; the final exam for the course will be in April. More details on the final will be announced in class.

## **POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

### **Email Policy**

Please be professional in all your emails. In the subject headings of all your emails, please include **GK 1000**. This will make it easier for me to keep track of all your emails. I will aim to answer your emails within two business days but sometimes your professors get super busy and we can't always get to your email in time so if that happens, please just send a reminder email to make sure your email hasn't gotten lost in the ether.

### **Electronic Devices and AI**

No electronic devices of any kind will be permitted for the exams or the quizzes.

I do not foresee any situation in which you will need to use Generative Artificial Intelligence tools for this class (e.g. ChatGPT, Grammarly, etc.) as there is no essay. But, all use of AI tools

is prohibited for any of the coursework in this class as they hinder the aims of this course. ChatGPT sucks for Ancient Greek anyway so I honestly wouldn't bother. All uses of AI tools will be treated as cases of academic dishonesty.

## **Absences and Assessment Policies**

### *Absences*

Please see the Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs:

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf).

The in-class tests are designated as assessments that require formal supporting documentation in requests for Academic Consideration.

Students do not need to request Academic Consideration for the first two missed quizzes; you can just email me. Academic Consideration requests may be granted when students miss more than three quizzes and these missed quizzes will be reweighted to the final exam.

### *Policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays*

Students should review the [policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but **not later than two weeks** prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Religious Accommodation requests for final exams should be submitted via the Student Absence Portal.

## **Academic Accommodation and Accessible Education**

**Academic Accommodation** is “a means of adjusting the academic activities associated with a course or program of student in order to permit students with disabilities to participate in those activities at the University and to fulfill the essential requirements of a course or program.”

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodationdisabilities.pdf>. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with **Accessible Education** at the earliest opportunity. “Accessible Education plays a central role in Western's efforts to ensure that its academic programs are accessible for all students”

[https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)

### *Special Examinations*

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances

resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](#).

## **Support Services**

### *Academic Advising*

Your Home Faculty's Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/facultyacademiccounselling.html>

### *Mental Health Support*

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### *Gender-based and sexual violence*

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/studentssupport/survivorsupport/get-help.html>.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

### *Learning Development and Success*

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre <https://learning.uwo.ca> are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

### *USC*

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

## Tentative Schedule

This schedule is subject to change.

<b>Week 1</b> Sep. 5	Introduction to the Course Lesson 1 - The Greek Alphabet
<b>Week 2</b> Sep 8, 10, 12	Lesson 2 - The Greek Accents Lesson 3 - Ω-Verbs (Present Active) <b>Quiz 1</b>
<b>Week 3</b> Sep 15, 17, 19	Lesson 4 - First Declension Feminine, Part 1 Lesson 5 - First Declension Feminine Part 2 <b>Quiz 2</b>
<b>Week 4</b> Sep 22, 24, 26	Lesson 6 - Ω-Verbs (Future Active) Lesson 7 - Second Declension Masculine <b>Quiz 3</b>
<b>Week 5</b> Sep 29, Oct 1, 3	Lesson 8 - Second Declension Neuter; First and Second Declension Adjectives <b>Quiz 4</b>
<b>Week 6</b> Oct 6, 8, 10	Lesson 9 - First Declension Masculine; Substantives <b>Quiz 5</b>
<b>Week 7</b> Oct 15, 17 (Oct 13 - No class)	Lesson 10 - Ω-Verbs: Imperfect Active Indicative; Correlatives Lesson 11 - Ω-Verbs (Imperfect Active); Correlatives <b>Quiz 6</b>
<b>Week 8</b> Oct 20, 22, 24	Lesson 12 - εἰμί; Enclitics Lesson 13 - Demonstratives <b>Quiz 7</b>
<b>Week 9</b> Oct 27, 29, 31	Lesson 14 - Personal Pronouns Lesson 15 - Contract Verbs <b>Quiz 8</b>
<b>Week 10</b> Nov 10, 12, 14	<b>Reading Week</b> Lesson 16 - Third Declension (Stop, Liquid, Nasal) Lesson 17 - Third Declension (Sigma Stems); Third Declension Adjectives <b>Quiz 9</b>
<b>Week 11</b> Nov 17, 19, 21	Lesson 18 - Ω-Verbs (First Aorist and Middle Indicative, Infinitive, Imperative) Lesson 19 - Ω-Verbs (Second Aorist Active and Middle Indicative, Infinitive, Imperative); Reflexive Pronouns <b>TEST 1</b>
<b>Week 12</b> Nov 24, 26, 28	Lesson 20 - Ω-Verbs (Perfect Active Indicative, Infinitive, Pluperfect Active Indicative) <b>Quiz 10</b>
<b>Week 13</b> Dec 1, 3, 5	Lesson 21 - Interrogative τίς and Indefinite τις <b>Quiz 11</b> <b>WINTER BREAK</b>

<b>Week 14</b> Jan 5, 7, 9	Lesson 22 - Ω-Verbs (Perfect Middle/Passive Indicative, Infinitive; Pluperfect Middle/Passive Indicative) <b>Quiz 12</b>
<b>Week 15</b> Jan 12, 14, 16	Review Lesson 23 - Relative Pronouns; πᾶς; Expressions of Time <b>Quiz 13</b>
<b>Week 16</b> Jan 19, 21, 23	Lesson 24 - Ω-Verbs (Perfect Middle/Passive Indicative, Infinitive; Pluperfect Middle/Passive Indicative) <b>Quiz 14</b>
<b>Week 17</b> Jan 26, 28, 30	Lesson 25 - Ω-Verbs (Present Middle/Passive Participle, Future Middle Participle, First and Second Aorist Middle Participles, Perfect Middle/Passive Participle) <b>Quiz 15</b>
<b>Week 18</b> Feb 2, 4, 6	Lesson 26 - Direct and Indirect Questions; Alternative Questions <b>Quiz 16</b>
<b>Week 19</b> Feb 9, 11, 13	Lesson 27 - Ω-Verbs: Aorist Passive Tense <b>Quiz 17</b> <b>Reading Week</b>
<b>Week 20</b> Feb 23, 25, 27	Lesson 28 - Ω-Verbs (Future Passive Tense; Future Perfect Active and Middle/Passive Tenses); οἶδα <b>TEST 2</b>
<b>Week 21</b> Mar 2, 4, 6	Lesson 29 - Third Declension (Vowel Stems, Syncopated Stems) <b>Quiz 19</b>
<b>Week 22</b> Mar 9, 11, 13	Lesson 30 - Deponent Verbs; Genitive Absolute; εἶς, οὐδείς/μηδείς <b>Quiz 20</b>
<b>Week 23</b> Mar 16, 18, 20	Lesson 31 - Adverbs (Positive Degree); Result Clauses <b>Quiz 21</b>
<b>Week 24</b> Mar 23, 25, 27	Lesson 32 - Adjectives and Adverbs (Comparative and Superlative) <b>Quiz 22</b>
<b>Week 25</b> Mar 30, Apr 1 (Apr 3 – No class)	Lesson 33 - Adjectives and Adverbs (Irregular Comparative and Superlative); -υς, -εια, -υ Adjectives <b>Quiz 23</b>
<b>Week 26</b> Apr 6, 8	Lesson 34 – Numerals Review <b>Quiz 24</b>