



MODERN GREEK

The interdisciplinary examination of Greek literature, history, thought and culture

From its inception, the U-M Modern Greek Program—part of the Department of Classical Studies—has combined language instruction with culture immersion. Our courses and study abroad opportunities all demonstrate our commitment to engaging our students in the learning process using the latest methods and technologies in language pedagogy. Our program focuses on Modern Greek—Greek after 1452, especially Greek of the past two centuries—and covers everything from language to culture to geography to religion and more. Greece today is a product of cultural mixing, the streaming together of ideas, customs, languages, knowledge and people in Southern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean. Located at the confluence of civilizations since antiquity, Greece has always benefited from this blending. Greek culture is also the product of Greek migrations and, therefore, Greek diasporas are an important subject of Modern Greek Studies.

To acquaint students with modern Hellenism, particularly focusing on Greece and the Greek communities of the U.S., the Modern Greek major builds on the great strengths of the Department of Classical Studies and the Department of Comparative Literature, as well as on traditional West European, Balkan, and Mediterranean study areas across the college. During the course of their study, students are exposed to a number of disciplines and gain experience in distinct methods used in the study of civilizations. Knowledge of modern Greek provides students with additional tools for exploring many subjects that use Greek terms and ideas. Medicine, biology, architecture, philosophy, physics, political science, geology, and mathematics are among the fields that rely on Greek vocabulary and concepts. The Modern Greek minor is designed to provide a basic, but contextual and broad, familiarity with modern Greek language, literature, and culture. It requires students at the intermediate and advanced levels to study Greek and its major authors, while at the same time acquainting them with the broader historical, social, and cultural context in which they lived and worked. Graduates of the program build successful careers in business, commerce, finance, technology, journalism, education, and law.

Gifts to the Modern Greek Program make it possible for more students to travel to Greece and increase cultural awareness as well as proficiency in language acquisition. And to compete with Greek programs at peer institutions, Michigan's Modern Greek Program must remain at the cutting-edge of training and curricular material development for teachers of Modern Greek and its affiliated courses. As a leader in the field, we need support to take our pedagogical development to the next level to continue to influence the discipline and maintain our tradition of excellence.

“After traveling to northern Greece to study Greek at the Institute of Balkan Studies in Thessaloniki (IMXA), I now have a far more expansive view of the depth, beauty, and struggle of Greece today.”

–Lily Talmers, A.B. '20

STUDENT FUND FOR STUDY AND RESEARCH

The very best way a student can gain a thorough knowledge of a language and a culture is to spend time studying abroad to experience full linguistic and cultural immersion. Research and travel grants are particularly valuable for our students since they provide opportunities to improve practical language and cultural skills and develop pedagogical sophistication by interacting with people on a daily basis in a variety of settings. Gifts of \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually for a variety of experiences will make it possible for more of our students to grow in language development and cultural awareness and to be able to participate in enriching research opportunities.

FUND FOR TEACHING ENHANCEMENT

The fund will support the acquisition of materials (such as textbooks), the organizing of events (such as workshops), and the implementation of collaborations (such as the one with the University of Thessaloniki) that improve the teaching of Modern Greek courses on campus. Over the last ten years, our program has been playing a leading role in pedagogical initiatives in North America, and we hope to further expand this endeavor through contributions of \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

CONTACT INFO

LSA Advancement // College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
101 N. Main Street, Suite 850 // Ann Arbor, MI 48104

P. 734.615.6333 // F. 734.647.3061 // lsa.umich.edu/modgreek