MODERN GREEK PROGRAM

The Modern Greek Program at the University of Michigan was established in 1990 and covers language, literature, and culture, in addition to offering an introduction to the Greek world of the last 10 centuries, focusing on its contemporary social reality and intellectual achievements. The program promotes contextual study—both local and global—of contemporary Greek culture, placing particular emphasis on literary studies, critical theory, cultural politics, ethnicity, and diaspora (especially the Greek-American diaspora).

MISSION

Teaching | A range of courses provides a broad, liberal arts education for undergraduates and research training for graduate students.

Research | Faculty and students pursue their own scholarly research, actively participate in conferences, serve as editors and on editorial boards of journals, and regularly publish their work.

Events | Each year, the program organizes or co-sponsors lectures, conferences, performances, film screenings, concerts, art exhibits, and readings of Greek literature in a variety of venues.

Collections | In cooperation with the University Library, the program acquires books, archives, and other materials in Greek and other languages to develop a collection of modern Greek sources and add to an already rich collection of English language books on Greek society, history, and the arts.
A disconcerting outcome of the last two parliamentary elections in Greece has been the rise of the far-right party Golden Dawn into third position and its entry into parliament. While this mirrors parallel developments in France, Austria, Belgium, the U.K., Hungary, and elsewhere, Golden Dawn is unique among European parties in its rejection of parliamentarianism, openly embracing violence as a means of realizing its political goals, and definition of the Greek nation on biological and racial grounds. Analysts have identified a range of endemic causes that underlie its recent electoral success: the economic crisis and record levels of unemployment; the clientelism of the Greek political system that could not be sustained once the economy collapsed; and the long historical roots of authoritarianism, patriarchy, and social conservatism among a segment of the population. In this talk, I explore some further potential explanations of this phenomenon. Drawing on the findings of the *Youth and History*

**THE LECTURE SERIES**

A gift agreement, negotiated between the Foundation for Modern Greek Studies and the Regents of the University of Michigan for the benefit of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, established the Dr. Dimitris and Irmgard Pallas Annual Lecture in Modern Greek Studies. Its purpose is to provide an annual lecture “to promote greater awareness of modern Greek history and its artistic, scientific, philosophical, ethical, political, and other contributions to civilization.” Drawing on its ancient (classical) and Renaissance (Byzantine) traditions, Greek culture has continued to explore and disseminate the values of logos, cosmos, polis, episteme, technè, philia, phronesis, metron, and above all anthropos. These values are of central importance to the contemporary quest for a shared, meaningful world. The lecture will bring annually to Michigan an eminent speaker of international reputation who offers new views on significant phenomena by drawing on the Greek experience since the end of the Byzantine era.

**THE DONORS**

Dr. Dimitris Pallas, a native of Greece, studied at the University of Athens and did graduate work in the United States. He was senior staff cardiologist at the division of cardiology in the Henry Ford Health System at Fairlane. He is a founding member of the American Hellenic Congress and founder and president of the Foundation for Modern Greek Studies. Irmgard Baier Pallas is a native of Germany and fluent speaker of Greek. She has taught German language and literature at the Goethe Institute in Athens and at Wayne State University.