



## **Modern Greek for Beginners**

**Spring 2025**

February 17-May 31, 2025

Instructor: Konstantinos Pattakos, M.A. (pattakos@gmail.com)

### **Course Description:**

This seminar is intended to cover levels A1 and A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). By the end of the semester, participants will be able to:

- understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment).
- communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters.
- describe in simple terms aspects of their background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.

This will be approached by a basically structural description of modern Greek, enhanced with communicational examples and exercises, in order to both have a good grasp of modern Greek core structural elements as well as nuances, and be able to communicate with native speakers as soon as possible.

### **Books:**

The ‘Communicate in Greek – Volume 1’ textbook and workbooks by Kleanthis and Froso Arvanitakis will be required for this course. If you choose to use alternative editions, please be aware that page numbers, notes, etc. vary widely from edition to edition and it is your responsibility to deal with any problems that arise. Further readings will be posted online in PDF or other digital format.

You should bring to each class all the books to be used.

### **Expectations and grading:**

Your grade will be based on a combination of written assignments, in-class activities, exams, and class participation. There will be weekly assignments based on the material taught (30%) and a final written exam (60%). Attendance and class participation will account for the remaining 10%.

**Attendance and late work:**

Daily attendance is expected. If you have to miss class for an extra-curricular activity or another good reason, it is your responsibility to notify me **ahead of time** and provide proper documentation.

Unexcused absences will negatively affect your final grade for the course. If excessive absences will make continuation of the course unprofitable, *the student may be required to drop the course with the grade of F.*

Even if you have to miss class, you should still turn your work in on time or early. In extreme circumstances arrangements can be made, but generally speaking late work will receive no credit.

**Students with disabilities:**

To insure that disability-related concerns are properly addressed from the beginning, students with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this class are asked to contact me as soon as possible.

**Academic Integrity:**

Please familiarize yourselves with the university's academic integrity policies:

<http://www.library.illinois.edu/learn/research/academicintegrity.html>

It is your responsibility to know and abide by these policies.

**Schedule of readings and assignments (subject to change):**

Date	Topic	Assignments
<b>WEEK 1</b> <b>Introduction</b>		
Part 1	<b>Grammar:</b> Introduction, the alphabet, basic concepts <b>Language Functions:</b> Greetings, introducing yourself, Ask and give information – names, Ask and give information – countries, names of countries 1/2, Ask and give information – health, introducing others, Say thanks, Numbers – 0-10	Relevant practice from workbook
Part 2	Conversation Table	
<b>WEEK 2</b>		
Part 1	<b>Grammar:</b> Personal pronouns (I, you, they etc.),	Relevant practice from

	<p>είμαι (to be) verb, από preposition, πού (where) questions</p> <p><b>Language Functions:</b> Ask and give information – city, country, region, Names of countries and cities 2/2, Numbers 10-100, Ask and give information – “where do you live?”, positive or negative replies, count and use numbers, ask and give information – Address and phone number</p>	workbook
Part 2	Conversation Table	
<b>WEEK 3</b>		
Part 1	<p><b>Grammar:</b> A type verbs, definite articles, introduction to noun cases and genders, introduction to prepositions</p> <p><b>Language Functions:</b> Ask and give information – profession, Professions, Numbers – 100-1000, Ask and give information – language, family, marital status, Names of languages, Family relations Ask and give information – prices, What do you call this?, What does this mean?, Like/dislike</p>	Relevant practice from workbook
Part 2	Conversation Table	
<b>WEEK 4</b>		
Part 1	<p><b>Grammar:</b> Personal pronouns, από/σε/με (from/to/with) prepositions, negative forms, possessives, A verbs</p> <p><b>Language Functions:</b> Use of numbers, Currencies, Numbers – 1000 – billion, various objects, Ask and give information – other people, Ask and give information – ethnicity, describing people, Describing objects, Ethnic adjectives</p>	Relevant practice from workbook
Part 2	Conversation Table	
<b>WEEK 5</b>		
Part 1	<p><b>Grammar:</b> Neutral nouns, B1 and contracted verbs, types of nouns, πώς (how), questions,</p>	Relevant practice from workbook

	Noun forms <b>Language Functions:</b> Express opinions, Ask and give information – age, Social interaction vocabulary, Ask and give information – time, Ask and give information – days of the week, Ask and give information – how often?	
Part 2	Conversation Table	
<b>WEEK 6</b>		
Part 1	<b>Grammar:</b> Αυτός (this) forms, μου αρέσει (I like) syntax, adjectives, ποιος (who) questions, ή (or) conjunctions, accusative forms <b>Language Functions:</b> Ask and give information – daily activities, Morning/noon/afternoon/evening, Frequency words	Relevant practice from workbook
Part 2	Conversation Table	
<b>WEEK 7</b>		
Part 1	<b>Grammar:</b> C1 verbs, Adverbs that show frequency, Τι (what) questions, revision <b>Language Functions:</b> Ask and give information – is there?, Ask and give information – directions, Ask and give information – coffee orders, Shopping <b>General revision</b>	Relevant practice from workbook
Part 2	Conversation Table	
<b>WEEK 8</b>		
Part 1	<b>Grammar:</b> Μέχρι/ως prepositions, Accusative of time, B2 verbs, C2 verbs <b>Language Functions:</b> Ask and give information – quantity, Ask and give information – waiting in line, Fruits and vegetables, Meats and cheeses, The metric system	Relevant practice from workbook
Part 2	Conversation Table	
<b>WEEK 9</b>		

Part 1	<p><b>Grammar:</b> Indefinite article, υπάρχει (there is) structures, κανένας/καμία/κανένα (none/any) sentences, local adverbs, ordinal numbers 1/2</p> <p><b>Language Functions:</b> Ask and give information – shoes, Express liking or disliking, Colors, Clothing, Future events, Travelling vocabulary, Means of transport</p>	Relevant practice from workbook
Part 2	Conversation Table	
<b>WEEK 10</b>		
Part 1	<p><b>Grammar:</b> Noun plurals, έχει (there is) structures, πόσος (how many) questions, πολύς/λίγος (many/few) sentences, ethnicity adjectives</p> <p><b>Language Functions:</b> Tavern orders, Expressing agreement, Tavern food, Expressions about future plans, Counting and using numbers</p>	Relevant practice from workbook
Part 2	Conversation Table	
<b>WEEK 11</b>		
Part 1	<p><b>Grammar:</b> Που anaphorical structures, simple future – A verbs, simple future – B and C verbs, ordinal numbers 2/2</p> <p><b>Language Functions:</b> Tavern orders, Expressing agreement, Tavern food, Expressions about future plans, Counting and using numbers</p>	Relevant practice from workbook
Part 2	Conversation Table	
<b>WEEK 12</b>		
Part 1	<p><b>Grammar:</b> Simple subjunctive – A, B and C verbs, ο ίδιος (himself) structures, Personal pronouns – weak type, sentences about time, Diminutives</p> <p><b>Language Functions:</b> Housing and rooms, booking a room, Floor levels, Expressing need/request/capability/hesitation, Expressions about the past, Writing a card</p>	Relevant practice from workbook

Part 2	Conversation Table	
<b>WEEK 13</b>		
Part 1	<b>Grammar:</b> General revision <b>Language Functions:</b> General revision	N/A
Part 2	Conversation Table	
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>Details TBA</b>	<b>Independently scheduled</b>