

*Spring 2008: GREK 1331 and
GREK 1332 online*

Χαίρετε Welcome!

Having taught at an urban university for many years, I am very much aware of the diversity in backgrounds, academic or non-academic goals, and focuses, that any class exhibits. Your main interest may be reading ancient or *koinê* texts; you may master English grammar and/or one or more foreign languages or may have forgotten the English grammar you learned in high school, or perhaps it was never taught...; you may have experience or even expertise in computer technology or may feel threatened by it; you may want to learn Greek for your own satisfaction or may need academic credit as well. The list could go on. I must therefore imagine and address a student or reader who has no background whatsoever in any of these areas. The important prerequisite for this course is a genuine interest in learning Greek. So, first, I hope no one will feel insulted when I make elementary clarifications. Second, I must ask you to adopt the conventions I propose for the analysis and discussion of grammar, so we will understand one another. Third, do not assume that you can learn any language without making mistakes, and instead of being discouraged, rethink the mistakes and correct any misunderstanding. In this I will help you as best I can, especially through the several channels of communication that we will have.

Your questions

a: What do I need?

Computer: To read the Unicode font used for all the Greek texts in this course, you will need to work with Windows 2000 or higher. Macintosh computers read Unicode if they have one of the latest operating systems (at least OSX), and one of the new browsers.

Browser: The pages in this course are best viewed with Internet Explorer 6 or higher.

Email software: Most email accounts will allow you to send and receive attachments.

Textbook: None. This course is not based on any textbook; as a matter of fact, these materials are being structured into an electronic textbook. My debt to scholarly sources, grammars, textbooks, etc. is too vast to acknowledge it specifically. When I use materials available online, I do so with links and acknowledge the authors.

Dictionary: Not necessary for 1331. A page with recommended bibliography, including dictionaries, is offered in the second semester.

Word processing software: You will need Adobe Reader for the printable version of many pages and to print from the electronic book. If you do not have it yet, go to [Downloads](#). *Choose Adobe reader 7 or the highest your system will admit.*

Greek font: readable with Unicode, which is now available both in Windows and in Mac systems. You will not need to type in Greek in the beginning. I will be glad to help the braver learners if they choose to start typing, well into the course. The software needed to type Greek is available online, for free use without downloading.

Technology skills: Only the most basic abilities to use the Internet and email are necessary. On the other hand, those of you who are computer geeks may help me remedy my mishaps.

b: What need I do to learn Greek with this course?

How to study: A sure way to make this study both monotonous and unproductive would be to use rote memory. Yes, you will need to remember forms, but the process must include the following steps: *understand* the concepts by reading the pages attentively and asking each and every question at the time you first tackle a topic; do the drills as many times as necessary to achieve proficiency in each; *finally, review* the charts and paradigms (= models) to consolidate your knowledge both of forms and functions.

Persistence and consistence: Individuals will need to spend various amounts of time studying, but it is important to avoid, if at all possible, long gaps in the process of learning. You cannot "cram" for a test when you are learning a language. An hour a day would be a good trial of your speed the first week. This course is asynchronous, so you may proceed at your own pace. Try, however, to keep a steady rhythm of a lesson per week for lessons 1-7, and save two weeks for each of lessons 8 and 9.

Assessment of your progress: In addition to the "homework" consisting in translation from Greek to English and a variety of other exercises, there will be quizzes at the end of each lesson. These you will fax, scan and email to me or, if everything else is impossible, mail the old fashioned way. Of course if you come to the campus you may place your quizzes in the tray outside my door. You will receive feedback. I give three real tests over the semester. These will be administered, as well as the final exam, with different methods depending on your geographic location and other factors. We will work it out as we go.