

GREK 3801/5801 Advanced Greek Language and Composition: Course Prospectus (Spring 2025: TTh 10.15–11.45)

Catalogue description

Study of Greek grammar, vocabulary, and stylistic features, combining exercises in analysis, composition, and sight translation. Intended for graduate students and advanced undergraduates.

Overview and learning goals

This course will provide a systematic review of ancient Greek prose writing, both through the analysis and reading of texts and through exercises in translation and free composition. The course is intended to provide all students with confidence in using the language, both as users of texts (reading, writing, speaking/reading aloud, listening, translating, interpreting) and as instructors—thinking ahead to future teaching situations.

Level

The course is open to undergraduates beyond the intermediate level (taking the course as GREK 3801) and to PhD students (taking the course as GREK 5801). Qualified postbaccalaureate students are also welcome to take the course, after consultation with the instructor. A common set of exercises will be assigned to all students, but graduate students will also be assigned more challenging exercises throughout the semester.

Instructor

James Ker, Professor of Classical Studies (jker@sas.upenn.edu). Please feel free to write me with questions about the course and whether it is a good fit for your level and your interests!

Books (on order at Penn Bookstore)

Required:

Eleanor Dickey, *An Introduction to the Composition and Analysis of Greek Prose*. Cambridge University Press, 2016. 978-0521184250

D.A. Russell, *An Anthology of Greek Prose*. Oxford University Press, 1991. 978-0198721222

Recommended reference work for undergraduates looking for a concise review of forms and grammar:

Louise Pratt, *The Essentials of Greek Grammar: A Reference for Intermediate Readers of Attic Greek*. University of Oklahoma Press, 2011. 978-0806141435

Recommended reference works for graduate students and aspiring graduate students:

Evert van Emde Boas et al., *The Cambridge Grammar of Classical Greek*. Cambridge University Press, 2019. 978-0521127295

Herbert Weir Smyth, *Greek Grammar*. Martino Fine Books, 2013. [Reprint of 1956 edition.] 978-1614275237 (or other reprint)

Assignments

- | | |
|--|-----|
| ● Preparation of exercises and participation in class activities | 20% |
| ● Completion of 10 take-home sight passages | 10% |
| ● Composition quizzes (3, each 10%) | 30% |
| ● Presentation 1: “How would you teach ...?”: date TBD | 10% |
| ● Presentation 2: Analysis of a selected passage from Russell’s <i>Anthology</i> | 10% |
| ● Take-Home Final | 20% |