**INTERMEDIATE GREEK: CLASSICAL GREEK PROSE**

(490:206)/Fall 2015

TTh 3:55-5:15 PM RAB 003

Exam code: C

Instructor: Professor Timothy Power

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Office: Ruth Adams Building 010 (Douglass Campus)

Office Hours: MTh 2-3:30 or by appt.

**Required Texts**

*Lucian’s A True Story: An Intermediate Greek Reader*, by Evan Hayes and Stephen Nimis (2011) [ISBN-10: 0983222800 / ISBN-13: 978-0983222804]

*A Little Greek Reader*, by James Morwood and Stephen Anderson (2015)

[ISBN-10: 0199311722 / ISBN-13: 978-0199311729]

Two other books I *strongly* encourage you to buy physical copies of now: (1) H.W. Smyth, *Greek Grammar*. Harvard University Press. (2) *Liddell and Scott's Greek-English Lexicon, Abridged: Original Edition.* Simon Wallenburg Press.

**Course Description**

In this course, building on what was learned in introductory Greek, we will learn how to read ancient Greek prose literature.

In intermediate Greek courses such as this, Athenian writers of the Classical period (ca. 479–322 BC) are typically read, authors such as Plato, Lysias, Xenophon, or Demosthenes, whose work exemplifies what is known as the “Attic” style of Greek prose—a sort of Classical ideal of the Greek language. In this course, however, our main text of study will be a prose work, *A True Story*, composed by a writer of the later Roman Empire, Lucian of Samosata (ca. 125–180 AD). There are several reasons why I’ve chosen this text. First, the recent commentary by Hayes and Nimis is quite good; second, Lucian’s Greek, like that of many writers in his time, emulates in key respects the Classical “Attic” style practiced hundreds of years before him; third, *A True Story* is simply a lot of fun to read and will provide an entertaining as well as edifying introduction to “real” Greek prose.

Class time will be primarily devoted to translation of this text and discussion of points of grammar, syntax, and prose style. Occasionally, we’ll make time to discuss themes in Lucian’s work and the cultural and literary context in which it was written.

In addition to our study of Lucian’s *A True Story,* we’ll devote time to a dedicated review of specific grammatical and syntactical concepts. That’s where our second textbook comes in, *A Little Greek Reader.* This book offers a review of grammar and syntax through excerpts of “real” Greek, both prose and poetry. Readings from the *Little Reader* will complement our study of *A True Story.*

There will be regular short quizzes on covered material, one midterm, and one final exam. In addition to translations of passages from Lucian (and other authors) we have read, and accompanying questions about grammar, syntax, and vocabulary, the exams will also include short *sight passages* for translation. (More on this later.) There will be a final written assignment as well: a stylistic analysis of a chosen passage from Lucian. (Again, more on this later.)

**Core Curriculum Learning Goals for Classics**

Students will be able to demonstrate mastery of ancient classical languages (Greek, Latin, and, to a lesser degree, Sanskrit) and a broad knowledge of the ancient world. Students will be able to appreciate the interdisciplinary nature of the classics; make connections between the ancient and modern world; read critically; construct an original thesis statement and support it with logical evidence using several classical research databases; and pursue a wide variety of careers, including teaching Latin at the middle and high school levels or graduate work in classics. Honors students will conduct original research and present it orally.

**Grading and Requirements**

Classroom participation = 25% (class attendance, preparation, contribution, quizzes)

Midterm = 30% (translation of seen and unseen passages; questions on syntax and

grammar)

Final = 35% (translation of seen and unseen passages; questions on syntax and grammar)

Stylistic Analysis = 10% (a close analysis of the syntactic features of a short section of

Lucian’s *A True Story*, due at the final exam)

1. Attendance is mandatory. If you miss more than three classes without a good excuse, I will penalize your grade, up to one half (e.g. B+ to B); more than 5 unexcused absences will result in a full grade deduction (B to C). *Missed quizzes or exams may NOT be made up* without a reasonable excuse.

2. As can guess, this course is intensive and time demanding. I expect you all to come to each class having reviewed the text, prepared to ask and answer questions, and, when called upon, to translate Greek into clear English. Written work should be handed in on time.

3. Both exams MUST be taken in order to pass the course.

**Schedule of Readings and Assignments**

Here are the assignments for this and the following three weeks. Thereafter I will distribute assignment schedules every three weeks or so, in order better to calibrate the schedule to our speed of progress.

Tues., Sept. 1: introductions; syllabus

Thurs., Sept. 3: Lucian, *A True Story* [hereafter *ATS*], pp. vii-x and pp. 3-5, A.1-2; *A Little Greek Reader* [hereafter *LGR*] pp. 1-6 (read, in Greek, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and identify the tenses of all verbs)

Tues., Sept. 8: *LGR* 1.6, 1.7 (identify the tenses of all verbs); *ATS* A.3-4

Thurs., Sept. 10: *ATS* A.5-7; *LGR* pp. 7-10 (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4)

Tues., Sept. 15: *ATS* A.8-10; *LGR* 2.5, 2.7, 3.1; FIRST QUIZ (on all readings completed to this point)

Thurs., Sept. 17: *LGR* 3.4, 4.1; *ATS* A.11-12

Tues., Sept. 22: *ATS* A.13-16; *LGR* 4.9, 4.10

Thurs., Sept. 24: NO CLASS MEETING; but there is an assignment, to be done in writing and submitted to me by e-mail by Friday, Sept. 25: translate, into clear English prose, *ATS* A.17-18