Summer in Syros  
June 23 – July 15, 2023

3 Credits

The Contemporary Lyric: Roots in/Revisions of the Greek Lyric and Epic Tradition  
Undergraduate: ENGL 25144

Description

This three-week, three-credit course, to meet in Syros, will explore how place (the Aegean landscape) was vital to the origin of lyric poetry, as seen through the work of ancient Greek poets Sappho and Homer. The course will provide a wide-ranging and historically rich understanding of the literary, cultural, and historical context of the Greek lyric, with a focus on revisionary mythology and the influence of lyric and epic on contemporary American and British poetry.

Outcomes

Students will interpret, analyze, and research the work of Sappho and Homer, as well as contemporary American and British poetry.  
Students will read theoretical texts and write a research paper at the end of the program.

Reading List (Tentative):

Students will receive a course packet of the following:

- Anne Carson *If not, Winter* (Sappho translation)  
- *The Odyssey* (excerpts)  
- Sylvia Plath, HD, Olena Kalytiak Davis (excerpts)  
- Rachel Blau Duplessis, *Purple Passages* and *Writing Beyond the Ending*  
- Alicia Ostriker, *Theives of Language*

Students will purchase the following:

- Louise Gluck, *Meadowlands*  
- Alice Oswald, *Nobody*
## WEEK ONE

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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| Fri | 6/23 | **Arrive Athens**  
   | | 6PM Welcome Dinner: Location  
   | | Directions:  
   | | *N.B.:* Bring to dinner this schedule, your small notebook and pen.  
| Sa  | 6/24 | **on your own**  
   | | Museum Day  
   | | Find/post on an object from one of these locations that illustrates lyric qualities (as you define them):  
   | | Acropolis Museum  
   | | National Archaeological Museum (Bust of Sappho)  
| Su  | 6/25 | **Travel to Island**  
   | | [Enter Ferry Information]  
| M   | 6/26 | **Class**  
   | | • Discuss museum visit and class requirements  
   | | • Prepare for *Sappho*  
   | | Read: *If not, Winter*  
   | | 6PM Guided landscape tour  
| Tu  | 6/27 | **Class**  
   | | • Discuss: *If not, Winter*  
   | | • Prepare for/read *The Odyssey* (excerpts)  
| W   | 6/28 | Poetry Reading / Guest Lecture  
| Th  | 6/29 | **Class**  
   | | • Discuss: *The Odyssey*  
   | | • Prepare for/read Sylvia Plath, HD, Olena Kalytiak Davis, Ocean Vuong, Margaret Atwood  
| F   | 6/30 | Individual student conferences  
|     |      | 8PM Poetry Reading  
| Sa  | 7/1  | Guest Lecture/Tour/Activity |
## WEEK TWO

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<td>M</td>
<td>7/3</td>
<td>8PM</td>
<td>Poetry Reading</td>
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| Tu  | 7/4  | 1PM – 4PM | Class  
  • Discuss: Sylvia Plath, HD, Olena Kalytiak Davis, Ocean Vuong, Margaret Atwood  
  • Prepare for/read *Meadowlands* (Louise Gluck) |
| W   | 7/5  | 8PM   | Guest Lecture     |
| Th  | 7/6  | 1PM – 4PM | Class  
  • Discuss: *Meadowlands* (Louise Gluck)  
  • Prepare for/read Sylvia Plath, HD, Olena Kalytiak Davis (excerpts) |
| F   | 7/7  | 1PM – 2PM | Individual student conferences  
  8PM | Poetry Reading |
| Sa  | 7/8  |       | Tour of Venetian ruins |

## WEEK THREE

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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>7/10</td>
<td>8PM</td>
<td>Rebetiko concert (Stavros Xarchakos’ School)</td>
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| Tu  | 7/11 | 1PM – 4PM | Class  
  • Discuss: Sylvia Plath, HD, Olena Kalytiak Davis (excerpts)  
  • Prepare for/read Rachel Blau Duplessis, *Purple Passages* and *Writing Beyond the Ending* |
| Th  | 7/13 | 1PM – 4PM | Class  
  • Discuss: Rachel Blau Duplessis, *Purple Passages* and *Writing Beyond the Ending* |
| F   | 7/14 | 1PM – 4PM | Individual student conferences  
  Farewell Dinner / Reading Celebration |
| Sa  | 7/15 |       | Depart Island |

## POST-GREECE

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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>7/31</td>
<td>by 5PM</td>
<td>Due: Essay</td>
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