

**Summer Study Abroad in Greece**  
**July 14 – August 7, 2024**  
**Instructor: Monica McClure**  
**Location: Athens and Lesvos, Greece**

**Workshop in Poetry (3 Credits)**  
Undergraduate: ENGL 31400 or 31600

**Description**

This three-week course will build on poetic techniques and strategies students explored in Introduction to Creative Writing and/or Workshop in Poetry 1, emphasizing Greek Lyric Poetry and reverberations of lyric poetry traditions from ancient to current times. As Lesvos is the birthplace of the Archaic Greek poet Sappho (630-570 BC), we will be reading Sappho's and her contemporaries' work as well as the work of modern and contemporary poets inspired by Sappho. Within this framework, we'll examine how the lyric voice operates in poems, discuss lyric poetry's enduring legacy, and explore the relationship between our creative practice and the island's history and landscape. You will write six poems, work collaboratively with your peers, and produce a small chapbook of all your revised poems and a final self-reflective essay.

This course can be used to complete English 314 "Workshop in Poetry I" or English 316 "Workshop in Poetry II".

**Outcomes**

- Students will write poems or creative texts using daily prompts, field trips, journal entries, and "somatic" exercises inspired by the local environment.
- Students will workshop their poems, gaining mastery of the revision process.
- Students will produce a poetry chapbook based on their experiences.
- Students will also experience a range of Aegean landscapes vital to the Greek lyric aesthetic, noting their observations in a travel journal.

**Reading List:**

**Required Text:** [Anne Carson \*If not, Winter\*](#) (Sappho translation)

**Excerpted Books**

Louise Gluck, *Meadowlands*

Homer, *The Odyssey* and *The Illiad*

**Poems**

Marilyn Hacker, [\[Didn't Sappho say her guts clutched up like this?\]](#)

James Wright, "[Sappho](#)"

Linda Gregg, "[Looking for Each of Us](#)"

Catullus, "Sappho 51"

Christina Rossetti, "What Sappho would have said had her leap cured instead of killing her"

John Donne, "Sappho to Philaenis"

Eileen Myles, "[Peanut Butter](#)"

**Poetry Craft Essays**

Edward Hirsch, "[Mere Air These Words, but Delicious to Hear](#)"

\*Course texts will be provided to students in a bound Course Packet before departure. Readings are subject to change.

### WEEK ONE

Sun 7/14	Arrive in Athens  Walking tour (2hrs)
Mon 7/15	Visit Acropolis (3hrs)  6PM Welcome Dinner: Location TBD (3hrs)
Tues 7/16	Visit National Archaeological Museum (2hrs)  Travel to Lesbos by ferry, departing at 8 PM from Port of Piraeus (10 hrs) Student Lodging: University of the Aegean  On the ferry, discuss museum visits and class/workshop requirements. Read from <i>If not, Winter</i>
Weds 7/17	Arrive in Mitillini, 8:15 AM 2-5PM Class (3 hrs) Prepare for Poem 1 (Lyric Compression)  Discuss: Lyric vs Narrative mode Read from <i>If not, Winter</i>
Fri 7/19	1-4PM Class (3 hrs) Workshop Poem 1 (Lyric Compression)  Read: Myles, Gregg, Hacker poems

### WEEK TWO

Mon 7/22	1-4PM Class (3hrs) Workshop Poem 1 (Lyric Compression) Prepare for Poem 2 (Voice)  Read: Rosetti, Donne, Wright poems
Weds 7/24	2-5PM Class Workshop Poem 2 (Lyric Voice) Prepare for Poem 3 (Conversations)  7PM Poetry Reading: Readers TBD Read from <i>The Odyssey, The Illiad</i>
Fri 7/26	1-4PM Class (3 hrs) Workshop Poem 3 (Conversations) Prepare for Poem 4 (Lyric Expansion)  Read: Catullus, Wright, Donne poems Optional visit to Archeological and Byzantine Museums (2hrs)

### WEEK THREE

Mon 7/29	1-4PM Class (3 hrs) Workshop Poem 4 (Lyric Expansion) Prepare for Poem 5 (Series)  Read from <i>Meadowlands</i>
Weds 7/31	2-5PM Class (3hrs) Workshop Poem 5 (Series) Prepare for Poem 6 (Place)  Read from <i>Meadowlands</i>
Fri 8/2	1-4PM Class (3 hrs) Workshop Poem 6 (Place)  Edward Hirsch, "Mere Air These Words, but Delicious to Hear" <a href="#">Optional trip to Theophilus and Eriade Museums (10am-12pm)</a>

### WEEK FOUR

Mon 8/5	1-4 PM Class (3hrs) Workshop Poem 6 (Place) Prepare Chapbook Somatic Exercise during excursion  <a href="#">Visit Roman Aqueduct of Moria, Temple of Messon (Agia Pereskevi), Temple of Klopedia (Agia Pereskevi), and Molivos Castle (full day, 6.5 hours)</a>
Tues 8/6	7PM Farewell Dinner (Location TBD)  <a href="#">Visit Petrified Forest, Moni Ypsilou, Skala Eressou, and Sigri (full day)</a> <a href="#">7 PM Farewell Dinner</a>
Weds 8/7	Departure

### POST-GREECE

Weds 8/15	Due by email: Self-Evaluation Essay and Chapbook
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