

**Summer in Lesvos, Greece**  
**July 14 – August 7, 2024**  
**Instructor: Monica McClure**  
**Location: Mytilini, Isle of 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, with an emphasis on Greek Lyric Poetry and the Epic Tradition. As Lesvos is the birthplace of the Archaic Greek poet Sappho (630-570 BC), we will be reading Sappho's work, her contemporaries' work, and the work of modern 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, workshop collaboratively with your peers, and produce a small chapbook of all your revised poems, as well as a final self-reflective essay.

**Outcomes**

- Students will write their own poems/creative texts, using daily prompts, field trips, their own 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 that were vital to the Greek lyric aesthetic, noting down their observations in a travel journal.

**Reading List:**

**Excerpted Poetry Books**

Anne Carson *If not, Winter* (Sappho translation)  
Louise Gluck, *Meadowlands*  
Alice Oswald, *Nobody*  
Homer, *The Odyssey* (excerpts)

**Poems**

Marilyn Hacker, [Didn't Sappho say her guts clutched up like this?]  
James Wright, “Sappho”  
Linda Gregg, “Looking for Each of Us”

**Poetry Craft Essays**

Rachel Blau Duplessis, *Purple Passages* and *Writing Beyond the Ending*  
Alicia Ostriker, *Thieves of Language*

\*Course texts will be provided to students in a bound Course Packet, prior to departure.

## WEEK ONE

Sun 7/14	Arrive in Athens  6PM Welcome Dinner: Location TBD (3hrs)
Mon 7/15	Visit Acropolis Museum and National Archaeological Museum (3hrs)
Tues 7/16	Travel to Lesbos (enter ferry information) Student Lodging: University of the Aegean
Weds 7/17	2-5PM Class (3 hrs)  Discuss museum visit and class/workshop requirements Prepare for Sappho Read from <i>If not, Winter</i>
Fri 7/19	1-4PM Class (3 hrs)  Discuss: Lyric vs Narrative mode Prepare for Lyric Compression Poems Read from <i>If not, Winter</i>  6PM Guided Coastal Landscape Tour (3hrs)

## WEEK TWO

Mon 7/22	1-4PM Class (3hrs)  Workshop Lyric Compression poems Prepare for Poem 2 (voice) Read from <i>Meadowlands</i>
Weds 7/24	2-5PM Tour of Skala Eressou (3 hrs)  7PM Poetry Reading with Donna Masini (3 hrs)  Read from <i>The Odyssey</i>
Fri 7/26	1-4PM Class (3 hrs) Workshop poem 2 Prepare for poem 3 (Conversations)  Read: Hacker, Wright, and Gregg poems

## WEEK THREE

Mon 7/29	1-4PM Class (3 hrs) Workshop poem 3 Prepare for poem 4 (lyric expansion)  Read from <i>Nobody</i>
Weds 7/31	2-5PM Tour of Agiasos Village (3hrs)  7PM Guest Lecture by Daniel Mendelsohn (3 hrs)
Fri 8/2	1-4PM Class (3 hrs) Workshop poem 5 Prepare for poem 6 (series poem)  Read: Rachel Blau Duplessis, <i>Purple Passages</i> and <i>Writing Beyond the Ending</i>

#### WEEK FOUR

Mon 8/5	Visit Roman Aqueduct of Moria, Temple of Messon, and Molivos Castle (full day)  Read: Alicia Ostriker, <i>Thieves of Language</i>
Tues 8/6	Visit Petrified Forest, Moni Ypsilou, and Sigri (full day) 7PM Farewell Dinner (Location TBD) Poem 6 due
Weds 8/7	Departure

#### POST-GREECE

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