

Summer in Lesvos, Greece

July 1 – 24, 2025

Instructor: Angelo Nikolopoulos

Location: Mytilini, Isle of Lesvos, Greece

3 Credits

Workshop in Poetry

Undergraduate: ENGL 31400 or 31600

Description

This 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 and contemporary poets inspired by Sappho. Within this framework, we'll examine how the lyric voice operates in poems and explore the relationship between our creative practice and the island's landscape. In this course 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 evaluation essay.

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

Outcomes

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.

Students will write their own poems/creative texts, through the use of daily prompts, field trips, and "somatic" exercises inspired by the local environment.

Students will workshop their poems, gaining mastery of the revision process.

Students will produce a small chapbook based on their experiences.

Required Texts (*tentative*):

If not, Winter, Anne Carson

Meadowlands, Louise Gluck

One Hundred Lovers, Richie Hofmann

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