

# Winter break in Greece!

## Comm 3110: Greek Intellectual Revolution

Led by Dr. John Nordin, Communication Studies, U. of Minnesota

3 credit class meets Lib Ed. **Arts and Humanities** core and **Global Perspectives** theme.



At a special time and place a truly remarkable community came into being: classical Greece. This community thought long and hard about itself: how should it be governed? How should it tell its own story? How does communication work to change people? From this came a revolution in thought about democracy, drama, rhetoric and art—a revolution that impacts our culture today--and shapes our view of our future.

### Student comments

"Actually being there seeing the sites allowed me to put that knowledge into perspective and finally get a good grip on its significance."

"Every place you visit is unlike anything you've ever seen before."

"An unbelievable way to learn and experience a different culture. You could learn this in the classroom, but being able to physically see historic sites that you are learning about is surreal."

"Taking this class was one of the best decisions I have made during my college career."

"I feel I've made some lifelong friends on this trip."

You'll explore these questions at the very places and with the texts that propelled this revolution in a thought-provoking trip to Athens and key sites in other cities.

We'll study sites and texts to explore the culture that launched early rhetorical theory, deliberative democracy, formal drama and shaped Christianity. These themes are further revealed in how this culture organized sport and their religious practices. We'll consider gender in studying the complex roles of women in this ancient culture.

Throughout our time in Greece we'll encounter those themes again and again and deepen our understanding of how this culture dealt with questions that are fundamental to any community. We'll see how these themes echoed through Greece's subsequent history and our own.

We'll visit the Acropolis, the ancient market where philosophers taught, the Theater of Dionysus to discuss drama and tour world-famous museums. We'll discuss the origin and progress of democracy at the grounds of the world's first democratic assembly.



**Questions?** Contact John Nordin at [nordi062@umn.edu](mailto:nordi062@umn.edu)



Readings include Homer, Plato, Thucydides, Herodotus, Aristophanes, the gospel of Luke, and others.

We'll travel through some beautiful countryside to a well preserved ancient theater, the site of the first Olympic games, and the oracle at Delphi. We'll experience Byzantine culture and a commemoration of a WWII massacre. But there will also be time to explore cities and time for shopping and recreation.

## Logistics

Depart Minneapolis: Tues, December 27, 2015 and return, Sunday, Jan. 15, 2016

Credit: 3 units.

Cost: A program fee of \$3,450 (no additional tuition) that includes lodging, local transport, admissions to sites and a few meals. Students are responsible for most of their meals and personal expenses. Airfare is extra (est. at \$1,700). A late cancellation will incur fees.

Financial Aid: Contact Learning Abroad for information.

Students must commit to attending two pre-course orientation sessions. As a short, group-intensive activity, students must be prepared to participate actively, work cooperatively and keep to a schedule.

At the pre-trip planning meetings we will also discuss packing recommendations, safety and other practicalities.

Note: this class requires a minimum of 16 students.



## How to apply

Students apply through Learning Abroad and must be accepted for the course.

Go to

**[www.umabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/greek-intellectual](http://www.umabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/greek-intellectual)**

Take the "Apply" link at the top of the page and fill out the material. Who can go? Anyone – current, former and future students. You don't even have to be from the University of Minnesota. Preference given to those with a 2.4 GPA or better.



**Caveats and considerations** There will be a fair bit of walking on uneven ground as well as stair climbing. Be prepared to carry your own luggage, including up and down stairs. We're staying in clean, safe places, but don't expect a 5-star tour. We'll actually talk to Greeks. Greece is not a tropical country—be prepared for weather in the 40s and some rain.

**Faculty leader** Dr. John Nordin, Senior Lecturer in Communication Studies, has been traveling to Greece since 1986 and has studied its history, theology, and modern politics. He has led several study abroad classes to Greece. His website on Greece is at [www.theplaka.com](http://www.theplaka.com).

**Come along!** This will be an amazing journey through history: ancient, medieval and modern and some beautiful scenery. The class will stimulate your thinking about philosophy, religion, art, culture and politics. Hope you'll want to join us!

**Interested? Have questions?** Contact John Nordin at [nordi062@umn.edu](mailto:nordi062@umn.edu) or at his office at Ford Hall 288. Also check the course website: [www.tc.umn.edu/~nordi062/greek](http://www.tc.umn.edu/~nordi062/greek)