



Greek as a New Minor Subject

Details for the Academic Year 2026/27

Why take this New Minor Subject?

You will take Greek as New Minor Subject if you are interested in exploring the language, thought and culture of one of the civilisations that shaped the Western world. To study Greek culture is to study the origins of our political and cultural institutions, and to understand how the classical past has profoundly affected contemporary ideas and values. You will enjoy this subject if you are passionate about the language, the poetic imagination, the depth of thought and the historical value of the ancient Greek world. Whether you are continuing your language studies or taking Greek as a beginner, you will engage with ancient texts both as literature and as a gateway into the culture and thought of ancient Greece.

What will I learn?

On this pathway, you will take 60 ECTS in Greek across Years 2 to 4. Students lay firm foundations in Year 2 when they first join Greek as a Minor pathway. You are introduced to the subject with two 10 ECTS modules that either introduce you to, or consolidate your knowledge of, Greek language and literature. If you are a beginner, you will acquire the skills need to read Greek texts with confidence within the first year of your studies; if you have studied Greek before, you will expand your vocabulary, gain a deeper understanding of grammar and style, and refine your translation skills as well as your ability to write about ancient literature. In each of the Sophister years you will take two 10-ECTS thematic modules, learn how to read Greek texts critically through a close examination and contextualisation of poetry and prose works representative of key aspects of the history of Greek language and literature.

What will I do?

After a solid introduction to Greek language and literature, you will have an opportunity to focus on specific themes and genres of Greek textual culture. Text-based modules will focus on authors (e.g. Herodotus, Plato) or genres (e.g. epic, drama, philosophy). For all your language-based courses the groups will be small, stimulating lively discussion, analytic skills, and the development of independent thinking. All modules are 10-ECTS.

Senior Fresh

Beginners:

CLU11313 Elementary Greek I (10 ECTS) (Semester 1)

CLU11314 Elementary Greek II (10 ECTS) (Semester 2)

Intermediate (Leaving Cert Greek or equivalent):

CLU11311 Greek in Context I (10 ECTS) (Semester 1)

CLU11312 Greek in Context II (10 ECTS) (Semester 2)

Further NMS JS and SS 10 ECTS module options to be confirmed but indicative content can be found in the SF (=NMS JS) and JS (=NMS SS) year content displayed here: <https://www.tcd.ie/classics/undergraduate/tsm/greek-tep.php>

How will this be assessed?

A combination of end-of-semester examination and continuous assessment, e.g. essays, unseen translations and other language tests, textual commentaries, seminar presentations, team and individual projects.

Contact Hours and Indicative Workload

Senior Fresh

Beginners:

CLU11313 Elementary Greek I (10 ECTS) (Semester 1): 3 hrs language classes pw

CLU11314 Elementary Greek II (10 ECTS) (Semester 2): 3 hrs language classes pw

Intermediate (Leaving Cert Greek or equivalent):

CLU11311 Greek in Context I (10 ECTS) (Semester 1): 3 hrs language classes pw

CLU11312 Greek in Context II (10 ECTS) (Semester 2): 3 hrs language classes pw

Thereafter, contact hours will vary depending upon which module combinations students elect to take.

Contacts

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