TENTATIVE SYLLABUS

ENCOUNTERING MODERN GREECE
Service Learning and Anthropology on a Greek Island

College Year in Athens
(Co-sponsored by Indiana University as ANTH E326)
Paros, Greece

June 14 – July 8, 2009
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and Associate Vice President of International Programs
Indiana University

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is a case study in how to understand another way of life and an assertion that the Greek present is as interesting as the Greek past. It is a field-based course that intertwines the anthropology of modern Greece and the principles of cross-cultural understanding with direct experiential learning on the Cycladic Island of Paros. Classroom discussion and required readings are amplified by field trips and service-learning projects. Collaboration and dialogue with the local community are the means through which we will come to understand contemporary Greece on its own terms, moving beyond either the romanticism of travel guides or the negativism of many foreign news stories. While taught from the perspective of anthropology, the course is accessible to students from all academic majors.

As the course proceeds, it is hoped students will:

1. develop an understanding of contemporary Greece
   • acquire broad knowledge of modern Greek life, from residence patterns to religion;
   • become aware of the political, economic, and cultural forces that have shaped the nation and its people;
   • be able to recognize and deconstruct the origins and implications of various images of modern Greece;
   • examine the complex relationship between ancient and modern Greece, as well as various ways this relationship has been conceived;
   • see the relationship between Greece and other nations, including the U.S. in new ways.

2. heighten skills of cross-cultural understanding and collaboration
   • move beyond static, compartmentalized understandings of culture toward ones that recognize variation, change, and interconnectedness;
   • sharpen skills of social observation and analysis, especially in cross-cultural settings;
   • develop an analytical view of tourism, and what it means to be a thoughtful traveler;
   • enhance ability to interact productively with people unlike ourselves;
   • develop greater awareness of the impact of our actions on others, including those outside home country
   • recognize the complex nature of values and judgments in a multicultural world
   • develop expanded concepts of community, service, and citizenship.
**3. Connect with Paros and its residents in a direct, personal, and meaningful manner**

- gain an appreciation for how Greek life is lived on a daily basis;
- develop an understanding of how small communities around the world interact with the global systems that frame all our lives today;
- realize that cross-cultural learning must be collaborative and reciprocal;
- come to value the assets and resources of the island and its communities;
- work together on issues and projects of concern to the island;
- make friendships that will last beyond this course.

**Requirements:**

1. **Attendance**. In a 3.5-week course, every class matters. Attendance at all sessions and field trips, except the few that are marked optional, is mandatory. One point will be deducted from the final grade for each class session missed without a legitimate excuse, communicated to me prior to that session, if at all possible.

2. **Participation**. Active, constructive participation in class activities is essential to your learning and counts 10% of your final grade. This part of your grade will be based on the effort you put into service-learning projects, the quality and frequency of your verbal participation in class and on field trips, and how well prepared you are to discuss the readings on a daily basis.

3. **Class Field Trips**. The opportunity to observe, participate in, and discuss Greek life with those around us is integral to this course. Through such activities, we will develop an understanding of Greece that combines scholarly reflection with direct experience and dialogue. While this is not a field methods class, we will nevertheless spend considerable time learning to look carefully, ask fruitful questions, question our assumptions, and develop trust in the power of cross-cultural interactions to advance our understanding of the world around us. The required field trips built into the course schedule (below) include visiting the agricultural cooperative, exploring the island’s famous marble quarries, hiking a 1000-year old Byzantine road, attending an annual fire jumping festival, and learning how to dance. There will also be a boat trip (with optional snorkeling) to explore the marine ecology of the island and an optional weekend trip to the nearby island of Santorini.

4. **Service-Learning Projects**. Because working collaboratively toward a common goal provokes significant dialogue and insight, all students will engage in service-learning projects with local organizations or groups on Paros. Students will work either individually or in pairs at service placements that match community needs and goals with student interests. All placements will be with organizations in which at least some staff speak English. You will be required to put in 24 hours of service at the organization, spread across the 3.5 weeks of the course. A guiding principle will be that these assignments should provide a supportive environment in which you can meet people and contribute to various activities and programs on Paros, without undue stress or strain on either side.

Previous service placements have included working at the local health center, local museums, the English-language newspaper, an excavation, the island’s website, a diving school devoted to
marine ecology, an art gallery, a cat and dog rescue center, a wildlife hospital, the public library, the mayor’s office, the agricultural cooperative, and groups involved in traditional dancing and other forms of cultural tourism. Placements in other organizations are also possible. During your time at the organization, you will simply do what the organization finds most useful. You will learn certain skills in connection with the task you are doing, but the most important skills you will develop are those of cross-cultural interaction and your most important contribution may be your willingness to learn about the organization and tell its story to your classmates.

Your grade for the service project will be based on the effort and responsibility you exhibit, a reflective journal that you maintain on your activities, and a 4-8 page paper that summarizes what you learned at the end of the project. This paper should cover the following:

- The history and goals of the agency or organization (including the issues to which it is responding and the forces that have shaped it)
- Its structure, personnel, and activities (including what kinds of people participate and why)
- Its role on Paros (what it does for the island, where it fits)
- The nature of your activities at the agency or organization
- What worked well in terms of your work there and why
- What did not work so well, and why (as well as ideas for improving the experience for other students).
- Ways in which your experience affirmed, expanded, or contradicted material from this course, with direct reference to particular readings or lectures
- What you learned about your own views and background from the experience
- What you learned about effective cross-cultural interaction
- What you learned about the global dimensions of citizenship

5. Required Reading. You will be given a binder with the following readings. All students must read all selections, but 2-3 students will be asked to be especially prepared to discuss each reading as it comes up in class.

Travlou, Penny.2002. “Go Athens: A Journey to the Centre of the City” S. Coleman and M. Craig, eds., Tourism: Between Place and Performance, pp. 108-127. New York:
Berghahn.

6. Tests. This course is divided into three units. There will be a closed-book test at the end of Units One and Two and another at the end of Unit Three. Each test will last one hour and be composed of fill-in-the-blank sentences, multiple choice questions, and short answer questions. Each test counts 25% of your final grade.

Grading: Final grades are based on the following.

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<tr>
<td>Tests (25% each)</td>
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<td>Service-learning Project</td>
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<td>Log</td>
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<td>Paper</td>
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<td>Effort</td>
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PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS:
You will have the opportunity to complete an evaluation at the end of the course. Should you experience any difficulties before this, however, either in terms of the course or the program in general, please do not hesitate to let me know (even anonymously).

WEBSITE FOR THE COURSE:
I will post digital photographs and a daily log of class activities on a website for this course. Your friends and relatives can access this site to see what you are doing. Further instructions will be given out as the course proceeds.

DAILY SCHEDULE:
(Unexpected events and felicitous opportunities may alter the timing and quantity of the following. Stay alert for announcements.)

June 14  Arrival at Aegean Village Hotel (Paros) throughout the day.
Sun.  6:00 PM Meet at the entrance to the hotel, walk together to classroom
Introduction to Paros and the course.
*Group dinner on the waterfront.*

June 15  9:00-1:00: at the classroom
Mon.  Life in modern Greece: a basic orientation
Reading: Vigilante and Flynn, Philippas-Apostolou.
*Architectural walk through the oldest part of Paroikia.*

June 16  9:00-1:00: at the classroom
Tues.  Service learning: its goals, history, and methods
Civic engagement in cross-cultural perspective.
*Discussion of individual service projects.*
Reading: Phocas, Kenna, Bouras.

June 17  9:00-1:00: at the classroom
Wed.  UNIT I. IMAGES AND REPRESENTATIONS OF MODERN GREECE
Foreign assessments: glorious past, ambiguous present – Part I.
Reading: Leontis.

Late afternoon: *Field trip to the famous Parian marble quarries.*

June 18  9:00-1:00: at the classroom
Thurs.  Foreign assessments: glorious past, ambiguous present – Part II.
Reading: Durrell.

Evening: *Optional group dinner at village of Marpissa.*

June 19  9:00-1:00: at the classroom
Fri. Modern Greek Self-reflections: nationalism, literature, and identity.  
Reading: Jusdanis, Kazantzakis.

June 20-21 FREE WEEKEND
Sat. - Sun.

June 22 9:00-1:00: at the classroom
Mon. The academic study of modern Greece  
Thinking like an anthropologist/Being a thoughtful traveler  
Reading: Travlou, Theodossopoulou.

Field trip: Paros Archaeological Museum

June 23 9:00-1:00: at the classroom
Tues. UNIT II. FRAMEWORKS OF GREEK LIFE: FORMATIVE PROCESSES AND NATIONAL STRUCTURES.  
An overview of Greek history, both well-known and otherwise  
Reading: Karioris, Buhayer pp. 12-32.  
Evening: required field trip to annual fire-jumping festivities at Aliki.

June 24 9:00-1:00: at the classroom
Wed. Creation and historical development of the modern Greek nation.  
Reading: Buhayer pp. 32-57.

Late afternoon: Hike along the Byzantine Road from Lefkes, with group dinner in village of Prodromos.

June 25 9:00-1:00: at the classroom
Thurs. The contemporary condition: diversity, diaspora, and the EU  
Reading: Yalouri.

June 26 9:00-10:00: at the classroom.  
Fri. TEST on Units One and Two

June 27/28 Optional Class trip to Santorini
Sat/Sun.

June 29 9:00-1:00: at the classroom
Mon. UNIT III. LIFE ON THE GROUND LEVEL: PERSONAL STRATEGIES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES  
Beyond the eternal village: settlement shifts and migratory dynamics.  
Reading: Saccopoulos, Beaubier pp. 1-7, 61-69.

June 30 9:00-1:00: at the classroom
Tues. Earning a living: farming, tourism, and everything in-between.  
Reading: Galani-Moutafi, Beaubier pp. 24-42.
Late afternoon: *Visit to the Parian Agricultural Cooperative*

**July 1**  
9:00-1:00: at the classroom  
**Wed.**  
Social Relations: household, family, and community  
Reading: Koster, D. Sutton, Beaubier pp. 42-55.

Late afternoon: *Greek dancing, its social meaning & how to do it*

**July 2**  
9:00-1:00: at the classroom,  
**Thurs.**  
Negotiating bureaucracy, organizing power.  
Male and female: gender roles  
Reading: Herzfeld.

**July 3**  
9:00-1:00: at the classroom  
**Fri.**  
The Greek Orthodox Church.  
Reading: Dubisch.  
*Visit to the Church of the Ekatotapiliani*

**July 4**  
Late morning- late afternoon: *required trip on small boat around the island/optional snorkeling*  
**Sat.**  
Evening: *optional trip to Festival of Fish and Wine, Naoussa.*

**July 5**  
FREE DAY  
**Sun**

**July 6**  
9:00-12:00: at the classroom  
**Mon.**  
Summary of Unit III  
Field trip: *Alkionis Wildlife Sanctuary*

**July 7**  
10:00-11:00: at the classroom: TEST ON UNIT III  
**Tues.**

**July 8**  
8:00-10:00: at the classroom; *farewell breakfast*  
**Wed.**  
SERVICE-LEARNING REPORTS DUE  
Cooperation, change, and community in modern Greek life  
Summation and evaluation of the course  

(Students are free to return to Athens or travel elsewhere in Greece at the conclusion of this class session.)