

**Beginning Ancient Greek I- GRK 1010    Fall 2008**  
**MTWRF 8:30 - 9:20 AM in OM 323L**

**Utah State University**

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**Nota Bene: The successful completion of LATN 1010 and LATN 1020 with a grade of B or better is a necessary prerequisite for this class.**

**Description and Purpose:** GRK 1010 is a beginning course in Classical Greek. We will begin the **first day by learning the Greek alphabet**, and continue at a brisk pace throughout this semester (and the next). Learning ancient Greek is exciting, but it can also be a frustrating experience. Greek is a complex language but for that reason it is also a language of great precision and beauty.

If you want to learn Greek you must commit yourself **now** to **daily memorization and practice**. Learning Greek is like mountain climbing: each step is not hard, but you can't skip any steps, and the real challenge is endurance. The climb feels like endless toil, but once you get there it all seems worth it. Learning Greek is like that. There are 50 lessons in the grammar book; each one is not difficult, but **you must thoroughly learn the material in each one**, and we will have to keep to the pace of **two lessons per week**, almost every week through two long semesters! **It is a test of will and endurance rather than brain power**. I will try to make the class as interesting as I can, and we will have fun reading Aesop's Fables and stories about daily life in Athens, but if you want to learn ancient Greek, you must make the commitment to **one to two hours of homework every day**. If you put the time and effort into it, I promise that you won't be disappointed.

**Required Texts:**

Anne H. Groton, *From Alpha to Omega*, revised Third Edition (Focus Press).  
 Balme and Lawall, *Athenaze, vol. 1*, 2nd edition (Oxford University Press).

**Structure:** grades for the course will be determined as follows:

4 Exams	12.5% each	50%
Homework		15%
10 Quizzes		25%
Class Participation		<u>10%</u>
		100%

Since this is a beginning language class, your **daily work is extremely important**; thus, homework, classwork and quizzes count for 50% of your grade, i.e. just as much as the tests. The written homework will count for only 15% of your grade because you will usually have the opportunity to correct it in class before it is graded (see below for more information).

**Grading Scale:** The grading scale will be: A (100-93), A- (92-90), B+ (89-88), B (87-83), B- (82-80), C+ (79-78), C (77-73), C- (72-70), D+ (69-68), D (67-60). F represents a grade below 60. There will be no curving of grades.

**Written Homework:** As mentioned above, we will keep to the pace of about **two chapters from the grammar book per week**. You will have **forms to memorize** every night, and **written exercises to prepare**, usually 10 Greek-to-English sentences and 2-5 English-to-Greek sentences; or 1-2 reading passages. You will also have **vocabulary** to memorize for each grammar lesson (I recommend making **vocabulary cards**). You will not write out translations for the reading passages (see below) but you will need to **write out the Greek-to-English and English-to-Greek sentences and hand them in on the day they are due**.

**Format for Written Homework:** You should write out your sentences neatly and legibly, **with ample space around each sentence**. You can use pencil or pen, but the sentences must **be legible**. We will go over the sentences in class the next day. **You will need a different color ink (not red) to correct your sentences**. When you hand them in, **I will need to see (1), what your original answer was, and (2), how you corrected it**. Your grade for the homework will be determined partly by how well you did at home, but mainly by **how well you were able to find and correct your mistakes**. **Don't erase your mistakes:** I want to see what your first answer was, and how you learned from your mistakes. Since you will have the opportunity to correct some or all of your homework in class, **your homework grades should be extremely high**.

**Homework Means Home Work:** Please (please) **resist the temptation to write out your homework in class and then hand it in**. This is a complete waste of time, both for the student (who learns nothing from this exercise) and for the professor (who must correct a dummy assignment). Your time could be much better spent playing video games. **If you want to learn Greek, you must take responsibility for your own learning process**. This means doing your homework **at home** and correcting it in class, to learn from your mistakes. I will do all I can to help you in this endeavor.

**Late Homework:** Since a beginning language class is like a workshop, it is extremely important that you **do your homework at home, and bring it with you to correct in class** the next day. **Handing in your homework late is strongly discouraged**. After 3 late assignments I may deduct points from your Homework grade.

**Reading Homework:** The main pedagogical approach we will use in this class is the **grammar approach**. This means that our main focus will be learning the rules of grammar and syntax, memorizing paradigms, and doing written homework assignments. **But we will supplement our work in grammar by reading Aesop's Fables (*Alpha to Omega*) and stories about a fictional Athenian family (*Athenaze*).** Our goals for the readings are to have fun, to get you used to the sound of ancient Greek, and to encourage you to read Greek easily and naturally. To this end, **your reading homework will NOT BE WRITTEN.** I suggest that you prepare by **reading the passages out loud several times, then translating them orally, making a few vocabulary notes (as few as possible) on a separate piece of paper.** Thus, you will have the benefit of **reading a clear, unobstructed text in class.** **Reading passages will not appear on exams** unless I give you prior warning. Please note that there will be some discontinuity of grammar and vocabulary between the two textbooks, so please feel free to ask me for any vocabulary words you don't know. Sight translation of reading homework is not exactly encouraged, but will be permitted.

**Exams:** There will be **four exams**, each worth **12.5%** of your grade. They will cover everything we have learned in this class: **grammar rules, paradigms, principal parts, vocabulary, and translation (both prepared and sight).** Each exam will focus on material learned since the last exam, but (of course) you will be expected to retain all material previously learned. **The last exam will be held during finals week, but it will not be a final exam;** it will last only an hour, and, like the others, it will be worth **12.5%** of your grade.

**Quizzes:** There will be **quiz almost every week (usually on Fridays)**, for a total of thirteen. You can **drop your three lowest quiz scores**, so **your top ten quizzes will count for 25% of your grade.** As you can see, this is the single, **most important part of your grade;** this is where most of your learning will take place. Each quiz will cover two (but sometimes one or three) lessons, so you will have a chance to focus closely on a small amount of material. The quizzes will take about 20 minutes of class, after which **I will introduce the material for the next lesson.** (So don't even think about leaving class after the quiz, either physically or mentally).

**Makeups:** **Makeups for exams and quizzes will not normally be given.** Exceptions will occur only (1) with prior notification, (2) with proof of a serious medical emergency, and (3) within one week of the original date. I am in all instances open to discussion, however, and I do try to be fair.

**Class Participation:** Class participation is very important to this class, and it counts for **10% of your grade**. I assume that you will be **physically** in class every day (see below), but for your class participation grade I am asking you to be **mentally present** as well. I expect everyone to eagerly volunteer to translate, to volunteer to write their sentences on the board, and to be willing to be wrong in front of the class, so that everyone in the class can learn together. Since this class has a workshop format, everyone needs to give 100% of his or her effort into the class, so we all can learn from one another.

**Attendance and Class Preparation:** Class preparation and attendance are **extremely important**; I expect you to **come every day with your translation and/or written assignment prepared**, ready to participate in class. I will take attendance every day and each student will be allowed **five unexcused absences**. **If you must be absent I would really appreciate a brief email letting me know.**

The amount of homework assigned for each class will vary, but you should expect to spend **1 to 2 hours each night** in preparation for each class. **I reserve the right to lower your final grade for more than 5 absences and/or unsatisfactory class preparation.**

**Academic Honesty:** As students, teachers, and scholars, we are engaged in the pursuit of truth, and this endeavor demands **high standards of personal honesty**. Membership in the academic and professional community requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Thus, **cheating of any kind will not be tolerated in this class**. If you have any questions about what plagiarism is or what constitutes unauthorized assistance, please do not hesitate to ask me.

**Disability Statement:** This information can be made available in Braille, large print and audio format upon request.

**Final Note:** Because every class is to some extent a work in progress, **this syllabus is subject to change**. Students are responsible for incorporating into this syllabus any and all changes that have been announced in class.

**Tentative Schedule: Homework for each Lesson is DUE on the Specified Day**

**Week 1**

- M 8/25 - Introduction; Introduce Lesson 1 & *Athenaze* xii-xix  
 T 8/26 - Lesson 1 Ex A due  
 W 8/27 - *Athenaze* xviii 1-40 and Lesson 1 Ex B due; Introduce Lesson 2  
 R 8/28 - Lesson 2 Ex A & B due  
 F **8/29 - Quiz 1 on Lessons 1 & 2;** Introduce Lesson 3

**Week 2**

- M **9/1 - Labor Day - No Class**  
 T 9/2 - Lesson 3 Ex A due  
 W 9/3 - Lesson 3 Ex B due; Introduce Lesson 4  
 R 9/4 - Lesson 4 - Ex A and B due  
 F **9/5 - Quiz 2 on Lessons 3 & 4;** Introduce Lesson 5

**Week 3**

- M 9/8 - Lesson 5 Ex A & B due  
 T 9/9 - Lesson 5 Ex C due; Introduce Lesson 6  
 W 9/10 - Lesson 6 Ex A & B due  
 R 9/11 - Lesson 6 Ex C and *Athenaze* Readings 1 a & b due  
 F **9/12 - Quiz 3 on Lessons 5 & 6;** Introduce Lesson 7

**Week 4**

- M **9/15 - Last Day to Drop w/no notation on transcript;** Less. 7 Ex A & B due  
 T 9/16 - Lesson 7 Ex C due; Introduce Lesson 8  
 W 9/17 - Lesson 8 Ex A & B due  
 R **9/18 - Lesson 8 Ex C due; Quiz 4 on Lessons 7 & 8**  
 F **9/19 - Exam 1 on Lessons 1 - 8**

**Week 5**

- M 9/22 - Introduce Lesson 9; *Athenaze* Readings 2 a&b  
 T 9/23 - Lesson 9 Ex A & B due  
 W 9/24 - Lesson 9 Ex C due; Introduce Lesson 10  
 R 9/25 - Lesson 10 - Ex A & C due (skip Ex B)  
 F **9/26 - Quiz 5 on L 9 & 10;** Introduce Lesson 11

Week 6

- M 9/29 - Lesson 11 Ex A&B due  
 T 9/30 - Lesson 11 Ex C due; Introduce Lesson 12  
 W 10/1 - Lesson 12 Ex A &B due  
 R 10/2 - Lesson 12 Ex C due; Introduce Lesson 13  
 F **10/3 - Quiz 6 on Lessons 11 & 12 ; L 13 Ex A & B due**

Week 7

- M 10/6 - - Lesson 13 Ex C due; Introduce Lesson 14  
 T **10/7 Dr. Shapiro is away; no class**  
 W 10/8 - Lesson 14 Ex A & B due  
 R 10/9 - Lesson 14 Ex C and *Athenaze* Readings 3 a&b due  
 F **10/10 - Quiz 7 on Lessons 13 & 14; Introduce Lesson 15**

Week 8

- M 10/13 - Lesson 15 Ex A & B due  
 T 10/14 - Lesson 15 Ex C and *Athenaze* Readings 4 a&b due  
 W **10/15 - Quiz 8 on Lesson 15 ; Review**  
 R **10/16 - Exam 2 on Lessons 9 - 15**  
 F **10/17 - Fall Break - no class**

Week 9

- M 10/20 - Introduce Lesson 16; *Athenaze* Readings 4 b&c due  
 T 10/21 - Lesson 16 Ex A & B due  
 W 10/22 - Lesson 16 Ex C due; Introduce Lesson 17  
 R 10/23 - Lesson 17 Ex A & B due  
 F 10/24- Lesson 17 Ex C and *Athenaze* Readings 5 a&b due

Week 10

- M **10/27 - Quiz 9 on Lessons 16 & 17; Introduce Lesson 18**  
 T 10/28 - Lesson 18 Ex A & B due  
 W 10/29 - Lesson 18 Ex C and *Athenaze* Readings 5 b&c due  
 R 10/30 - Lesson 18 Principal Parts Bee  
 F **10/31 - Quiz 10 on Lesson 18; Introduce Lesson 19**

**Week 11**

- M 11/3 - Lesson 19 Ex A & B due  
 T 11/4 - Lesson 19 Ex C and *Athenaze* Reading 6a due  
 W **11/5 - Quiz 11 on Lesson 19; *Athenaze* Reading 6 b due**  
 R 11/6 - Review and Principal Parts Bee  
 F **11/7 - Exam 3 on Lessons 16-19**

**Week 12**

- M 11/10 - Introduce Lesson 20; *Athenaze* Reading 6c due  
 T 11/11 - Lesson 20 Ex A & B due  
 W 11/12 - Lesson 20 Ex C and *Athenaze* Reading 7a due **(last day to drop)**  
 R 11/13 - Lesson 20 Principal Parts Bee  
 F **11/14 - Quiz 12 on Lesson 20; Introduce Lesson 21**

**Week 13**

- M 11/17- Lesson 21 Ex A due (skip Ex B); Introduce Lesson 22  
 T 11/18 - Lesson 22 Ex A & B due  
 W 11/19 - Lesson 21 Ex C & Lesson 22 Ex C due; Introduce Lesson 23  
 T 11/20 - Lesson 23 Ex A & B due  
 F 11/21 - Lesson 23 Ex C and *Athenaze* Reading 7b due

**Week 14**

- M 11/24 - **Quiz 13 on Lessons 21, 22, & 23; Introduce Lesson 24**  
 T 11/25 - TBA  
 WRF **11/26-29 - Thanksgiving Break – no class**

**Week 15**

- M 12/1 - Lesson 24 Ex A & B due  
 T 12/2 - Lesson 24 Ex C due; Introduce Lesson 25  
 W 12/3 - Lesson 25 Ex A & B due  
 R 12/4 - Lesson 25 Ex C and *Athenaze* Reading 7c due  
 F **12/5 - Mock Quiz on Lessons 24 & 25; Principal Parts Bee**

**Exam Week**

- W **12/10 @ 7:30 AM - Exam 4 on Lessons 20-25 and Principal Parts**