

GREEK FOLK SONGS 1

KKF/GFS1 Winter Semester/ Instructor Dr. Ludovica Radif



Students will enter the world of classics in an innovative fashion and will gradually increase their awareness of the transformations of the Ancient Greek culture from Homer to our days. We will focus on authentic old values originating in epic, lyric, and Rebetiko. Selected folk songs will be analyzed in terms of their style and themes, primarily hardship and marginalization. The aim of the class is to explore the development of songs, from the archaic lyric expression, through the classical period and to the folk revolution during the twentieth century. The main topics include: The epic song (Homer and the Trojan Cycle), lyric poems and the beginning of personal sensitiveness (Sappho); stasimons (stationary songs in the orchestra with strophes-antistrophes, performed by the chorus); folk songs from Turkey (the Aman kafé); popular songs (dhimotika tragoudhia, kantadhes); the songs from the Greek islands (nisiotika tragoudia). For a better understanding of the folk songs, we will examine both textual evidence and short illustrative films.