

Reading Classical Greek: Xenophon's *Symposium*

Start date Friday 16 July 2021 **End date** Sunday 18 July 2021

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ

Tutor Dr Janet Watson **Course code** 2021NRX093

Director of ISP and LL Sarah Ormrod

For further information on this course, please contact Sarah Ormrod
intenq@ice.cam.ac.uk

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk/residential-weekend-courses

Tutor biography

Dr Janet Watson has taught Classics at Victoria University Wellington, and Canterbury University, Christchurch, New Zealand, and has recently retired as tutor in Classical Greek at Newcastle University. In the course of her career, she has been a regular contributor to continuing education courses in both Greek language and classical studies, and has taught for the Open University. She has a particular interest in Homeric verse and oral tradition, and has published an edition of *Odyssey* books VI and VII for Bristol Classical Press, and edited a volume on orality and literacy in the ancient world.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00 Dinner

20:30 – 22:00 Kallias gathers his dinner guests

22:00 Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30 Breakfast

09:00 – 10:30 Dancing girls and acrobatics

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 Socrates proposes they entertain themselves with talk

13:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Free

16:00 Tea

16:30 – 18:00 Tension between the Syracusan and Socrates

18:00 – 18:30 Free

18:30 Dinner

20:00 – 21:30 Symptotic pots: the symposium in vase painting

21:30 Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30 Breakfast

09:00 – 10:30 Socrates on love – different kinds of passion...

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 ...physical and spiritual; Ariadne and Dionysus end the evening

12:45 Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

Students should be able to extend their knowledge of basic patterns of Greek grammar and syntax. In addition, they should be able to develop their appreciation of literary style and increase their understanding of the historical and cultural context of the text they are studying.

Content:

This course offers a light-hearted yet academically rigorous approach to Xenophon's *Symposium*, written in the late 360s BC, but set in 422 BC. Major themes of the work – beauty, desire, wisdom, virtue, and laughter – are explored in this Socratic dialogue. The course will appeal to those with a confident grasp of the fundamentals of Classical Greek, who want to explore the texts in their original language.

During the weekend we will be reading and discussing Xenophon's *Symposium*, chapters 1-3, 6-9. See Reading and resources list below for available editions.

Presentation of the course:

Students are asked to read and prepare the Greek text in advance of the course, so that they are equipped to take their turn in reading and translating in the sessions. There is opportunity for discussion of the text and further exploration of its historical and cultural background. After dinner on Saturday, there will be an illustrated talk related to the subject matter of the text.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- recognise some new features of Greek language;
- recognise more vocabulary
- recognise some new idiomatic uses;
- have confidence in their ability to translate from Greek into English;
- feel that they are developing a sense of the style of different literary genres or authors;
- feel that they have learned something more about the background to the language and literature they are studying.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

Author	Title	Publisher and date
*Bowen, A.J.	Xenophon, <i>Symposium</i>	Aris and Phillips, 1998.
*Xenophon	<i>Memorabilia, Oeconomicus, Symposium, Apology</i>	Loeb Classical Library, Harvard University Press, 2013.
Denniston, J.D.	<i>The Greek Particles.</i>	2 nd . ed. repr. Bristol Classical Press, 1996

Website address

<https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/collection?collection=Perseus:collection:Greco-Roman>

Perseus gives access to Greek texts, translations, links to the LSJ Greek Lexicon and Greek grammars (H.W. Smyth *Greek Grammar*; W.W. Goodwin *Syntax of the Moods and Tenses of the Greek Verb*).

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee, lunch and dinner will be provided as outlined in the timetable. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform us on intenq@ice.cam.ac.uk.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 18 May 2021