SPRING 2027
COURSE TITLE: Frames of Greece: Film, History, and Society (4 units)
COURSE NUMBER: MDGK 4998
SECTION DAYS/TIMES: T/TH 1:45 PM – 3:25 PM
INSTRUCTOR: Socrates Alafouzos
CORE ATTRIBUTES: Integrations | Interdisciplinary Connections

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This interdisciplinary seminar examines the major transformations of modern Greek society through the medium of cinema. Organized chronologically, the course treats films as primary sources that document, construct, and contest historical experience. Each film is approached through three distinct disciplines: history, which situates the work within its period; film studies, which asks how narrative, image, editing, and sound produce meaning; and cultural studies, which examines how the work shapes ideas of identity. The course also traces Greek cinema as an art form, from the studio melodrama and political cinema to the Greek Weird Wave, as part of the same historical narrative.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Students completing the course will
● recognize and analyze the similarities and differences among history, film studies, and cultural studies as distinct modes of knowing, each with its own questions, evidence, and methods
● integrate these disciplinary approaches to explain how Greek cinema reflects and shapes collective memory, social structures, and national identity in contemporary Greece
● value multiple perspectives by comparing different interpretive frameworks
● develop critical, analytical, and creative writing skills, and communicate ideas clearly in discussion and in formal presentations

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: N/A

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:
● attendance and active participation 15%
● 5 weekly critical reflections (one page, single-spaced) on the films and/or readings 20%
● group presentation 15%
● midterm exam 20%
● final research essay (8–10 pages) or creative project 30%