**Fall 2025**

**COURSE TITLE: Greece and the Modern World:**

**Greece, Refugees, and the Formation of Modern Europe (4 units)**

**COURSE NUMBER: MDGK 4452**

**SECTION DAYS/TIMES: TR 1:45-3:25 pm**

**INSTRUCTOR:** FACULTY

**CORE AREA: INT: Interdisciplinary Connections**

Email: ModernGreekStudies@lmu.edu

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The course focuses on refugee movements from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in Europe in the 20th and 21st century and in particular on the current refugee crisis in Greece as a case study. The first part of the class addresses not only the history of refugees in 20th century Europe, but the historical connections between the MENA and Europe fostered by the two world wars, decolonization, and Cold War “proxy wars.” In this way, it addresses how the collapse of Communism and a resulting shifting policy towards the MENA by the broadened Western world, consisting of Europe and the United States, affected Greece in particular. The second part of the course will examine the experience of refugees in Greece from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan through the lens of Greek domestic and European federal policy. We will discuss the plight of particularly vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied minors and women, efforts toward social and economic incorporation, and the differing responses to the presence of these groups. Ultimately, we will examine how the influx of refugees has changed modern European politics and facilitated the rise of the far right, transformed demographics, and impacted economies and social relations.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of the class, you will have:

* Ability to distinguish between refugees and migrants and understand what constitutes a “crisis”
* Ability to contextualize current refugee crisis in 20th century European and Middle Eastern history and international relations
* Knowledge of the conditions that “pushed” refugees and migrants to Greece and Europe
* Understanding of EU and Greek policy toward refugees and the negotiations over these policies between these two entities
* Knowledge of how global conflicts can shape individual states’ economies, politics, and societies as well as impact people’s lives on the individual level

**PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:**

No prerequisites; students should only have an interest in learning about refugees in Europe, the Greek refugee and migrant crisis, and its context.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

There is no textbook for the class. Assigned readings will be posted on Brightspace.

**COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS**: Students are expected to attend and participate in class. Over the course of the semester, students will complete three short “reaction pieces” responding to the reading. Students will also conduct their own research project on an approved topic related to this course, culminating in a 10–12-page research paper and a presentation of the project.

Grade Breakdown:

Participation (class discussion and reading quizzes): 30%

Reaction Pieces: 30% (3 @ 10% each)

Research Project: 30%

Presentation: 10%