PHILOSOPHERS AND POETS ON THE GOOD LIFE
Athens and Vyzitsa Village, Mt. Pelion
July 2-12, 2027

Instructors:
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

How are we to live, if we are to live good and meaningful lives?

In this seminar, we approach this question through the lens of poetic and philosophical texts of the 20th and 21st century. All morning sessions are dedicated to philosophy, and all afternoon sessions to poetry. We will read and discuss Simone Weil (*The Need for Roots*) and Hannah Arendt (*The Human Condition*), as well as poetic texts drawn from the global literary tradition, including C. P. Cavafy, Philip Larkin, Wisława Szymborska, Emily Dickinson, Seamus Heaney, Lydia Davis, and Pat Parker.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Careful reading of the assigned material will be required daily in preparation for class discussion.

Participants must also acquire copies of *The Need for Roots* and *The Human Condition* prior to arrival in Greece. All poetic texts will be provided by the instructor.

PRACTICAL MATTERS

1. This seminar is held primarily in the village of Vyzitsa, on Mount Pelion. Students interested in participating in it must consider the fact that **this seminar is held in quiet surroundings**, in a remote mountain village, where a small number of participants (max. 6-8 people) will be focusing on reading, writing, and discussions with fellow students.

2. Accommodation in Athens is provided at the Greek Studies on Site Guesthouse, at Sampsountos 4, Vironas, Athens.

3. Accommodation in Vyzitsa is provided at Santikos Mansion, a 4-star hotel, in rooms shared between two people. The cost of accommodation in Vyzitsa, including breakfast, is included in the total cost of the program.

Further information about the Mansion is available here:
https://santikoscollection.com/hotels/mansion/

4. Transportation by private bus from Athens to Vyzitsa, including a visit to the village of Pinakates, is also included in the total cost of the program.

5. Departure from Vyzitsa is *not* included in the cost of the program. Participants must make their own arrangements regarding return to Athens, travel to another destination, or to the airport. There are regular daily bus connections between Vyzitsa and the city of Volos, and between Volos and other major cities (Athens, Thessaloniki, etc.).

SCHEDULE:

Day 1 (Friday, July 2):
Morning: Arrival in Athens
Afternoon: Orientation Meeting

Day 2 (Saturday, July 3):
Morning: Orientation in Athens: Walking Tour
Afternoon: free

Day 3 (Sunday, July 4): Travel to Pinakates and Vyzitsa (by private bus; 8 am departure)
Lunch at Pinakates; free time for study; night in Vyzitsa

Day 4 (Monday, July 5):

Morning Session: Simone Weil, *The Need for Roots*
Afternoon Session: The Short Form as a Dense Horizon of Expectation (Emily Dickinson, Matsuo Bashō)

Day 5 (Tuesday, July 6):
Morning Session: Simone Weil, *The Need for Roots*
Afternoon Session: The Art of Storytelling through Poetic Prose (Lydia Davis, Anne Carson, Niki-Revekka Papageorgiou)

Day 6 (Wednesday, July 7):
Morning Session: Simone Weil, *The Need for Roots*
Afternoon Session: The Poetic Gaze and the Poetic Body (Wisława Szymborska, Jacques Lecoq)

Day 7 (Thursday, July 8):
Morning Session: Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*
Afternoon Session: The Art of the Scribble and the Poetics of Encounter: A Workshop on Visual and Literary Experiments

Day 8 (Friday, July 9):
Morning Session: Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*
Afternoon Session: Writing Off-Center about the Good Life (Philip Larkin, Seamus Heany, Pat Parker, C.P. Cavafy)

Day 9 (Saturday, July 10):
Morning Session: Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*
Afternoon Session: Creating Poetic Images with our Bodies: Improvisations based on Elizabeth Bishop's *One Art*

Day 10 (Sunday, July 11):
Morning Session: Presentations; Final Reflections on Readings
Afternoon Session: Presentations and Performance or Public Reading

Day 11 (Monday, July 12): Departure