Course Description and Goals.
This course takes a look at modern Greek culture (cultures?) through a discussion of gender and sexuality. The majority of the readings will be from anthropology, with some sociology and film included.

We will have three interwoven concerns:

First, the study of gender and sexuality. What exactly do these two words mean, and how can we approach them from an anthropological point of view? We’ll be discussing gender and sexuality in their intersections with kinship, religion, economy, national and international politics, technology, medicine, modernity, ethnicity, and more. Thus our focus will give us a particular insight into important aspects of change (and continuity) in Greece during the last century.

Second, the study of modern Greek culture. Our readings and lectures will survey how gender and sexuality have been studied in Modern Greece by social scientists over the last 60 years, giving us the chance to both analyze the construction of gender and sexuality in Greek society, and to consider how the representations of these subjects by academics, and by the West in general, are linked with representations of Greek and Mediterranean “culture.” In this survey, we will cover immigration, urbanization, Europeanization (and other –ations), tourism, and other forces that have affected the meanings of gender and sexuality in Greece.

Third, ethnographic research. We’ll be working to gain an understanding of what ethnography consists of, both as a type of text, and as a way of doing research. Hopefully this will provide you with tools to enrich your experience in Greece through a sustained, focused, curious, and systematic engagement with the cultures you’re immersed in here (and with your own position here as student/tourist/traveler/foreigner/gendered person).

Students need to be prepared to do a lot of work: reading and writing, observing and participating. This work is designed to add an additional layer of meaning and experience to your time here in Greece; it will be relevant, and it will be worth it.

Office Hours.
Because of students' varied schedules, I won't keep set office hours, but will happily make time for you when you request it. You can send me an email or call (or text and I'll call you back), or just ask me after class. It's often easiest to arrange to meet before class, and I try to keep my schedule free for that purpose.

Participation.
Although I’ll give some lectures in this class, much of our time will be devoted to directed discussion. Students are expected to be prepared for class, having read the assignment and prepared to discuss it. Students are expected to actively participate in every class period with comments and questions. Absences negatively affect your grade. Participation is worth 10% of your grade.

Projects.
There are going to be four participant/observation projects that you must complete over the course of the semester. Detailed descriptions, maps, and supplemental materials for each project will be posted to
Moodle and distributed in class. Each project will require its paper to be submitted upon completion. Collectively the papers are worth 50% of your total grade. The due dates are listed in the syllabus calendar.

Exams.
Instead of a midterm and final exam, we will have four short exams over the course of the semester. Collectively the exams are worth 40% of your total grade.

Schedule.
A detailed calendar of reading dates and assignment dates will be distributed. Some of the readings listed below will be addressed in detail, some will be optional, and others will be specifically assigned for students taking the course at the 400 level.

SECTION ONE: First discussions of gender in Greek ethnography -- “honor and shame” and more

SECTION TWO: Gender, kinship, and religion -- three interlocking systems

SECTION THREE: Social change in Greece seen through gender


SECTION FOUR: Let’s add sexuality to our conversation!


SECTION FIVE: Economic austerity + gender + sexuality = ?


SECTION SIX: Intersectionality -- let’s complicate our discussion by adding race, ethnicity, and class


