



Special Offering by Advanced Colloquium Series ATINER  
Summer dates 30 May – 20 June, 2020

**2020 Athens-based Research Seminar Course**  
***History & Culture of the Authentic Ancient Athens***

*the Great Figures, the Context, from the “Golden Age” & its Fall to Athens Under Rome*

**Course Leader:** David Wick, Prof. Gordon College, retired  
ATINER Director Arts, Humanities & Education Research Division

**Contact:** [atiner@atiner.gr](mailto:atiner@atiner.gr), [david.wick@atiner.gr](mailto:david.wick@atiner.gr)

**Credit Offered by Gordon College, Wenham, MA (U.S.) 01970**

*Credit questions: contact Office of Global Education, Gordon [geo@gordon.edu](mailto:geo@gordon.edu), or [registrar@gordon.edu](mailto:registrar@gordon.edu)*

***Open to advanced undergraduate and graduate students by application –***

**Investigate Ancient, Authentic Athens in the Modern City –  
Original sources, on-site, on the Streets, and in the Museum**

*Here is a unique course designed as an intensive three-week exploration, offered by the leading research institute and conference host in the historic urban core of Athens, Greece. Dr. David Wick, a classical urban historian, and other lecturers chosen by ATINER, teach the classical Athenian “journey through history” while sharing the city’s streets, historical sites and unique collections with you. Reading parallel in original sources, you will mix personal experience of the re-captured, re-told ancient events and characters in a context impossible to re-create elsewhere. Build your own understanding, flavor, feel for history that no mere classroom can offer.*

You can choose to request an undergraduate or graduate level of work (credit from your own university/college or a certificate of completion appropriate to the level chosen given by ATINER). But, though you can customize, but we will focus together on **showing, experiencing, discovering** the modern and ancient history, culture and cityscape of the iconic Greek *polis* – artifacts, living locations to bring the classical culture alive, the clues from archeology, narrative backgrounds, from battlefields to craftwork. The first of the three weeks follows the creation of Classical Athens to its crucible testing in the Persian Wars; the second, the “Golden Age” of Pericles and the war that cost it an empire, but not its schools; the last – its transformation of Mediterranean culture through its students, visitors and exports, from Alexander to Cicero, Caesar to Hadrian.

We will use our location in the city center of Athens to engage the Greek historic sites and the modern living community to interpret ancient heritage, politics, religion, economics, crafts and artistic shapes. How did Greeks of Athens meet the challenges of life in their unpredictable and turbulent world, in antiquity - *and reflected now* - since many of those answers still flavor and shape life in the world beyond Greece.

The tools of this class will be informal lectures in a classroom near the ‘university’ heart of modern Athens (Panepistimiou), or at historic sites, visual materials, and a variety of “special interest” readings, as well as discussions, a journal and a student research presentation, plus article or paper (for the higher-credit level) based on a focus area of Athenian history or culture chosen by the student.

*Readings will be in original sources specified for the course, but not modern texts, and in English (unless requested in Greek).*

**Discovering and Interpreting History - Where the History Happened**

The most unique thing about this course will be your chance, whatever your concentration area, to see, smell, taste – to experience first hand much of the flavor of the history you are studying and to rub shoulders



with the culture and people. Whether you are most interested in the politics (and exploring the feel of the ancient assembly sites on the Pnyx or acropolis), or ancient military history (interpreting tactics at the site of Marathon or Salamis), or comparing the craft of ancient pottery-making to a modern craftsman's re-creation of it, or the social feel of ancient theater (whether the Dionysus theater in Athens or the restored one at Epidauros), you have a chance to make your learning first-hand.

The more, and earlier, you communicate with the course leader at ATINER, the more you can customize your developing project idea, the more possibility you will have to personalize your experience.

### **Area of Concentration: Student Choice**

Student research project (credit track) or course journal (completion track) can be focused in one of the following MAJOR Track areas, or (with more independent work) minor track areas:

#### **Major Tracks** (*supervised – and arranged with help from - primary lecturer or contracted with faculty from your university/college*)

- **Artifacts, Sites, Archeology of Ancient Greece** choose-contract to study an artifact type or an aspect or urban physical culture
- **Classical Athenian Personalities**, use period literature (in translation), records, narrative biography for insight into a particular character from classical Greek or Roman Athens *interpreted 'on the site'*
- **Athenian Military History**: choose an ancient focus (Persian Wars, Alexander, Rome) and set the strategy or leadership study into its classical context and landscape
- **An Ancient Cross-Cultural Study** of some aspect of ancient Athenian Life, Politics – explore one of Athens' ancient interactions with other Mediterranean cultures

For **'completion track' students**, a daily research/reflection journal will be used to develop a topic for student presentation, and will be turned in for evaluation during the course (weekly). It will be kept by student, integrating reflections on *reading*, site and context experiences and general learning, *specifically related to the concentration you have chosen*.

**'Credit level'** students will keep a journal and present, but with an aim to writing a paper or article, evidence-based, due at the end of July, 2020 (*so, completed after you return from the course*).

*Students will be asked to indicate a preferred concentration when applying for the course and to notify the Lead Instructor (and supervising faculty at their own school if contracting credit there). Choice may affect which supplementary texts are added to the required reading mix for that particular student. Once the course begins, students may petition to change concentration only during the first week.*

### **Course Credit:**

ATINER (the *ATHENS Institute for Education & Research*) is an institute for academic endeavor, not a university or college. This course offers either a certificate of completion from ATINER or arranged credit from your home university or college, negotiated by your school's office governing 'overseas education' or 'global education' and a professor willing to sponsor your work in a department there (*normally History, Classical Studies, Mediterranean Studies or Classical Literature*). To complete the course, students must demonstrate responsible attendance of all lecture and site meetings and responsible behavior while a part of the Athens-based class.

#### **"Grading" – evaluation of your completing the course – is based on:**

- 1) attendance, participation in, and performance on initial tutorials in the first week (33% 'completion track, 25% 'credit track'),
- 2) your research/reflection journal aimed at personal learning and experience in one of the focus areas listed above (33% or 25% as before),
- 3) a presentation (about 10 minutes at an appropriate site in the city, arranged with lecturer) on your developing personal topic (33% or 25%), and, if "credit track" ...
- 4) **Credit only** - a research paper or article begun during the course and finished (submitted electronically to ATINER address specified) by end of July 2020 exploring a topic chosen by the student and one of the course leaders from the list above (25% completing the 'credit track').



ATINER will notify you (and a faculty member sponsoring you, if appropriate) on satisfactory completion of the course,

***Papers & Journaling (... even a chance to submit for publication)***

The research topic contracted for journaling or presentation during the course by each student – presented during the course (and if a ‘paper’ due at end of July, 2020 – will not be a report, but chances for you to building short arguments from both experience of the sites/museums in Athens, and original evidence found in translated texts, *then enhancing it with a little secondary research.*

They should contain your own arguments, not just become summaries of the ideas of others, and should be an example of your creative, defended work.

**Professional educators or education students taking the ‘credit track’ may design a teaching or lesson plan as an alternative to the paper – contract with the lead lecturer**

**Best quality papers or articles produced at the end of this seminar may be invited for submission to an ATINER online journal.** *See the information on these on the ATINER website. This is not a guarantee, but is possible. Research articles or papers so submitted for publication will be evaluated separately by that journal and its ‘blind peer review’ process.*



To complete this course, students must make an attempt to fulfill each of the requirements, including attendance, tutorial, journaling, and (if ‘credit track’) the research writing.

Complete failure to satisfy one of these components unless you make special arrangements with ATINER and the lecturer in charge means you will not be certified as completing it. All students must attend the site visits and finish assignments as scheduled in the course – ATINER is delighted to host you for this learning experience but it is not a way to take side trips or visit local friends. Any student wishing an exemption from this schedule (wanting to turn in a late paper, miss a course visit or lecture) must petition Dr. Wick and the ATINER offices.



**Library Access, Research Materials and Assistance, Web Research:**

During the course, research will be guided by individual or group tutorials (using texts, museum/libraries and internet). While in Athens ATINER may be able to arrange research or expert assistance from local scholars or libraries, depending on student projects. In addition, special research assistance or assignments,

such interviews with local scholars, etc., may occur depending on area of focus.

**TEXTS and READINGS FOR**

***History & Culture of the Authentic Ancient Athens, 2020:***

“Authentic,” here, means original sites, original sources. Some texts are common to all concentrations in this course, but each focus area has one or two additional required texts. Please check your chosen area of focus for the course, and make sure you get each text marked “all concentrations.” Two students (but only sets of two) may share the texts and halve their purchase costs, esp. if they are rooming together for the course.

**Original Sources (use for evidence):** The books every student will need, in either paper or e-versions (notice these are original source collections; *this course does not use a modern textbook*) ... **Minimum THREE of this five**

- ) *First, you will need web access to translations (your choice or find) of Herodotus, Thucydides*
- ) **Plutarch** ‘*The Rise & Fall of Athens, Nine Greek Lives*’ and ‘*The Age of Alexander*’ (2 books, Penguin, transl. Ian Scott-Kilvert) *You may find older translations of Plutarch online, but they will be clumsier*
- ) *Ancient Greece: Social and Historical Documents from Archaic Times to the Death of Alexander* (Routledge Sourcebooks for the Ancient World)

- J Lefkowitz & Fant, “*Womens’ Life in Greece & Rome – A Sourcebook*”  
*or, optionally*
- J *Ancient Greece: Documentary Perspectives*, (collected first-hand evidence from Greek writings of many kinds), edited by Spyridakis & Nystrom, recent and compact, but currently out of print. **May be easier for ‘completion track’ if available (check used online).**

#### **Optional sources:**

*These are also original sources in translation, but not required. Each is recommended along with the source collections above depending on student interest.*

- J Pausanias, *Guide to Greece*, a first-hand local anthropology and walker’s guide to ancient Greece written during the early Roman Empire by an author who knew Greece intimately. **Recommended for ancient & classical ‘credit track’ students, especially those interested in the ancient anthropology the city – best edition would be Peter Levi’s ‘Penguin’ translation, volume on central Greece.**
- J Gage, Nicholas, *Hellas: a Portrait of Greece* (modern culture guide, perhaps the best intro to the revived culture written after World War II).
- J Connolly, Peter. *Greece & Rome at War* (ebook) or Warry, John. *Warfare in the Ancient World* (ebook). **Military (ancient) interest area**

**REMINDER: All students will also need a journal in which to record reflections and experiences at sits, notes, research ideas, etc., which they will discuss during tutorials, and with the larger group. Along with this journal each will likely need a scrapbook or collection folder for materials picked up along the way.**

#### **COURSE SCHEDULE – Athens 2020:**

*The following breakdown of just over three weeks in the land of Greece will be easier to understand and prepare for if you keep this basic organization in your mind. The itinerary included shows this schedule in more detail, but there may be minor changes in the class itinerary until it is fully set in June. You will receive an updated version then, with hotel addresses and phone numbers.*

*On the itinerary that will accompany this schedule, initials refer to the instructor teaching a particular class (most classes will be about 40 minutes in length). Attending these classes, taking notes, writing and discussing responses or ideas from them in the course journal, are required parts of this class.*

**Part 1: Athens - Orientation and Introduction.** We will start out getting familiarity with the story of Athens in ancient times. Several classes will introduce you to the area, language, culture, history and some hints on exploring the city on your own.

**History & Culture of the Athenian Flowering to the Persian Wars.** The rise of Athens as a city-state, exploration and first visits to a local museum or two, as well as the politics and culture of the ancient town reflected in the Acropolis, the Agora marketplace, and battle or holy sites like Marathon, Sounion... Here’s a chance to ‘aim’ some initial research on the topic you will be concentrating on for the next few weeks and to begin practicing the skills you will use to learn Greek ways of life. (*Visits: Mycenae, Eleusis, Marathon, Sounion – Tuesday attendance at the ATINER 2020 conference on History & Archeology*)

#### **Part 2: History & Culture – The Age of Pericles, ‘Golden Age’ Culture, Crafts, Thinkers, Drama ...**

Customized a bit to the interests of the actual student mix, we will look also at the war that ended the Athenian ‘arché’ and the city’s sufferings and survival as a center of culture in the age of Alexander. Extra time on non-‘site visit’ days for one-on-one meetings with the instructor to help you develop, journal, and research ideas. (*Visits: Thermopylae, Plataea, Delphi, pottery replica craft workshop*)

**Part 3: History & Culture – The Story of Athens in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds** – Perhaps the most surprising episode in ancient Athens’ history is its survival of a terrible, quarter century war, and then its transformation into a center of heritage and learning – Athens the ‘university town’ taught the young rulers of the Mediterranean world after Alexander, and then the young generations what would rule the Roman Republic, destroy it, and rule the Empire. (*Visits – Corinth, Epidaurous*)

During this final week you will also have time to do research and set up your own presentation to the class, and (if you are ‘credit track’) your final written research project with your instructor for final completion after you return home.

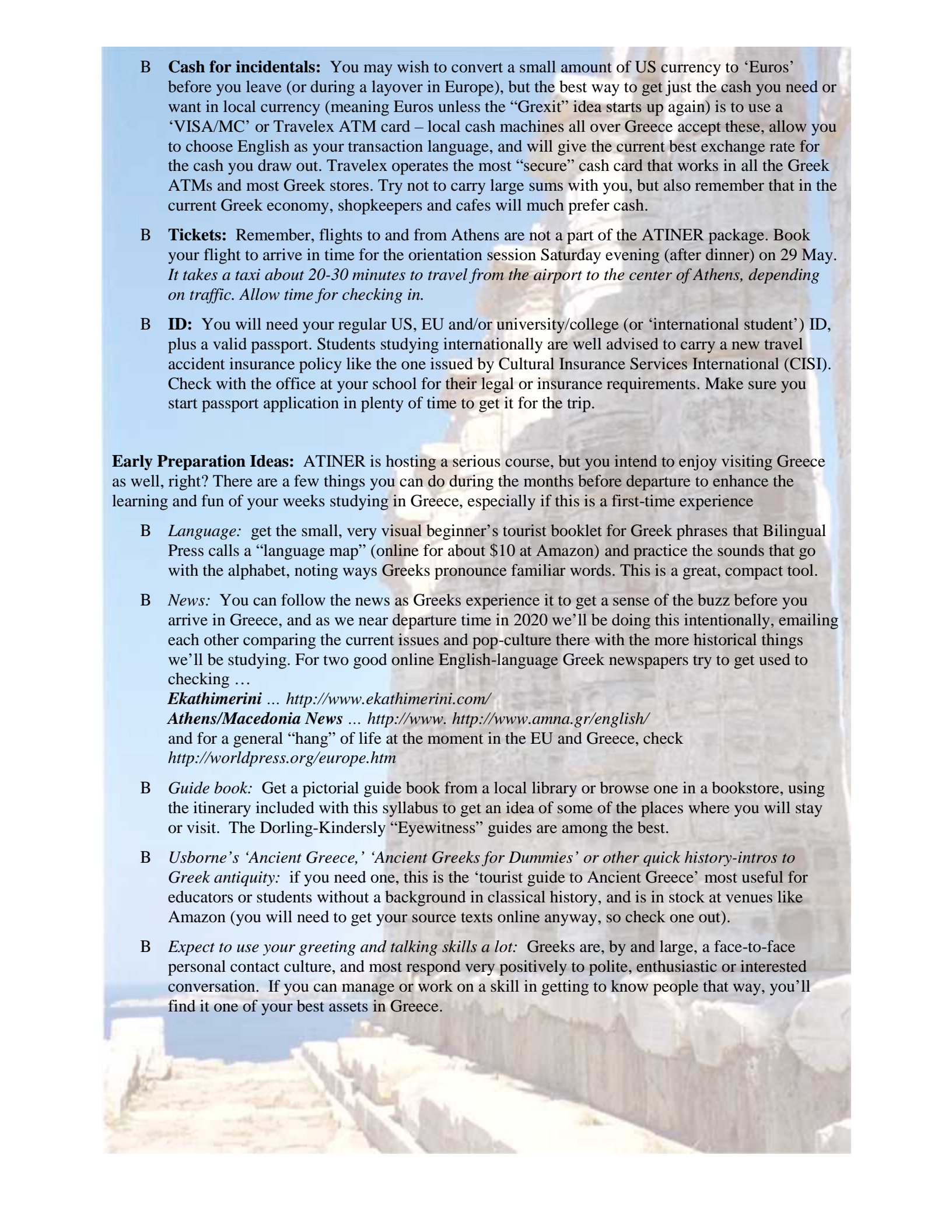
**How safe is it to study and travel in Greece in 2020? What about the ‘crisis’ stories in earlier years?**

Greece is a developed, stable democracy with a modern economy. Since economic troubles hit Greece, security there has increased. Though many life and work challenges face Greece today, you will find that the feeling toward students (and visitors) is deeply positive. Just be a good guest in the country.

**What to expect and plan on taking:**

- B **Course dates: 29 May – 20 June 2020.** All students must arrive *before* the day the course begins (orientation and first class will be held the afternoon of 29 May). Airfare *is not covered in the ATINER course cost* (see below). Students should schedule departure on 20 June.
- B **Course Cost:** Cost for this ATINER course is based on accommodation and classroom facilities plus meals at a hotel in the city center, plus entry to historical sites (*which require walking and travel on the Athens subway*) and some short day trips to more distant ones. This will be refunded if the course does not run. *Airfare is not included, but all students must arrive for the first orientation (see above).*  
There is some chance the course cost might be adjusted by the Athens Institute (ATINER) depending on course size, accommodations, and the value of the dollar against the Euro.
- B **Clothing:** Comfortable walking shoes (there will be plenty of walking during this course, including hills and the stone pavement of archeological sites). Take comfortable cotton clothing for hot weather (sometimes with cooler evenings), esp. items you can hand wash, though there may be more formal laundry facilities at a couple of points in the trip. At least one somewhat more dressy outfit is a good idea for attending the ATINER conference day included in the course. Greek Orthodox historic churches (should you visit one) will require women to have an outfit covering their arms and upper legs – a light cotton cardigan and a lightweight long skirt as part of your wardrobe will save your offending someone. Sun defenses (sunscreen, a hat) are also very good ideas, as the total UV (remember a light landscape and reflection) will be high.
- B **Luggage:** Each student should come with one full-size suitcase and one carry-on size bag, no more (though you can add a purse, briefcase or the like). **Important:** *check with airline we notify you we will be using for their exact size restrictions on these pieces of luggage – trans-Atlantic air carriers can be strict about these, and if a piece of student luggage exceeds the restrictions, the airline will charge an additional fee which is not covered by your course payment. Typical current restrictions often are that each piece cannot exceed 62” (length+width+height) and cannot weigh more than 50 lbs. Combined dimensions of both pieces cannot exceed 107” (length+width+height). This may change, but we will advise you as we learn of changes from the airlines involved.*
- B **Phones and electronics:** any electronic devices (from hairdryers to laptop computers) that you wish to use in Greece must have plugs and adapters that are compatible with *Greek electrical systems*, not just “European current” as some travel stores put it.  
Use of cell phones is not permitted at all during class sessions or while at archeological sites or museums. The best way to call home is to purchase the flexible and inexpensive phone cards available at newsstands and convenience stores everywhere in Greece; phones compatible with these are almost always nearby wherever the course travels, and are always available in or near hotels. Or, you can buy a local SIM card for your cell phone.
- B **Cell phone photos or video** *are allowed* at most historical sites and museums with *two important provisions – DO NOT use flash around any ancient artifact (the light makeup destroys ancient pigments), and DO NOT POSE next to artifact displays indoors in museums.* Do your posing or ‘selfies with antiquity’ pictures outdoors. Greeks expect you to honor the relics on display for themselves, not as a chance to make yourself as important as they are ...
- B **Walking ...** Athens is a very walkable city, but like all of Greece a lot of it is vertical, with stone and gravel a constant. Shoes (however light) may work better than sandals on vertical or rubble surfaces. Where we can, we will take advantage of Athens’ excellent metro system.



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- B **Cash for incidentals:** You may wish to convert a small amount of US currency to ‘Euros’ before you leave (or during a layover in Europe), but the best way to get just the cash you need or want in local currency (meaning Euros unless the “Grexit” idea starts up again) is to use a ‘VISA/MC’ or Travelex ATM card – local cash machines all over Greece accept these, allow you to choose English as your transaction language, and will give the current best exchange rate for the cash you draw out. Travelex operates the most “secure” cash card that works in all the Greek ATMs and most Greek stores. Try not to carry large sums with you, but also remember that in the current Greek economy, shopkeepers and cafes will much prefer cash.
- B **Tickets:** Remember, flights to and from Athens are not a part of the ATINER package. Book your flight to arrive in time for the orientation session Saturday evening (after dinner) on 29 May. *It takes a taxi about 20-30 minutes to travel from the airport to the center of Athens, depending on traffic. Allow time for checking in.*
- B **ID:** You will need your regular US, EU and/or university/college (or ‘international student’) ID, plus a valid passport. Students studying internationally are well advised to carry a new travel accident insurance policy like the one issued by Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI). Check with the office at your school for their legal or insurance requirements. Make sure you start passport application in plenty of time to get it for the trip.

**Early Preparation Ideas:** ATINER is hosting a serious course, but you intend to enjoy visiting Greece as well, right? There are a few things you can do during the months before departure to enhance the learning and fun of your weeks studying in Greece, especially if this is a first-time experience

- B *Language:* get the small, very visual beginner’s tourist booklet for Greek phrases that Bilingual Press calls a “language map” (online for about \$10 at Amazon) and practice the sounds that go with the alphabet, noting ways Greeks pronounce familiar words. This is a great, compact tool.
- B *News:* You can follow the news as Greeks experience it to get a sense of the buzz before you arrive in Greece, and as we near departure time in 2020 we’ll be doing this intentionally, emailing each other comparing the current issues and pop-culture there with the more historical things we’ll be studying. For two good online English-language Greek newspapers try to get used to checking ...  
*Ekathimerini* ... <http://www.ekathimerini.com/>  
*Athens/Macedonia News* ... <http://www.amna.gr/english/>  
and for a general “hang” of life at the moment in the EU and Greece, check <http://worldpress.org/europe.htm>
- B *Guide book:* Get a pictorial guide book from a local library or browse one in a bookstore, using the itinerary included with this syllabus to get an idea of some of the places where you will stay or visit. The Dorling-Kindersly “Eyewitness” guides are among the best.
- B *Usborne’s ‘Ancient Greece,’ ‘Ancient Greeks for Dummies’ or other quick history-intros to Greek antiquity:* if you need one, this is the ‘tourist guide to Ancient Greece’ most useful for educators or students without a background in classical history, and is in stock at venues like Amazon (you will need to get your source texts online anyway, so check one out).
- B *Expect to use your greeting and talking skills a lot:* Greeks are, by and large, a face-to-face personal contact culture, and most respond very positively to polite, enthusiastic or interested conversation. If you can manage or work on a skill in getting to know people that way, you’ll find it one of your best assets in Greece.