

## Intermediate Greek — The Socratic Writings of Xenophon

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Open to students with one year of college Greek or equivalent.

### Course Description

Xenophon, like Plato, was a student of Socrates, and Xenophon's Socratic writings (*Memorabilia*, *Apology*, *Oeconomicus*, *Symposium*) provide an important source of information about the life and teachings of one of antiquity's most fascinating and important figures. Some of Xenophon's topics, moreover, correspond to Plato's, and while their respective treatments are complimentary, they are nonetheless very different. We will concentrate in this class on two such works, Xenophon's *Apology* and his *Symposium*, which correspond to the *Apology* and *Symposium* of Plato. We will read all of Xenophon's *Apology* and all or most of his *Symposium* in Greek, along with parts of the *Memorabilia* if time allows. We will also compare Xenophon's treatment of Socrates to that of other contemporary figures, including Plato in his *Apology* and *Symposium*, and Aristophanes in *The Clouds* (in English translation).

Plato's *Apology* will be familiar to most students already, and we will take it as our starting point for reading, translating, and discussing Xenophon's *Apology* at the beginning of the course. Students who have not read Plato's *Apology* in English should do so in the summer before coming to Rome; students who have already read it are strongly encouraged to review it. After we finish Xenophon's *Apology*, we will read and discuss Plato's *Symposium* in English while we begin work on Xenophon's *Symposium* in Greek, which will occupy most of the course. Although the work deals with serious issues of Socratic philosophy, its approach to these is avowedly light, and remarkably funny. If we finish the *Symposium*, we will move on to selected readings from the *Memorabilia*, of which we may also read portions in English throughout the course.

The primary aim of this course is to increase students' facility at reading and translating ancient Greek. To that end we will spend most of our time in class translating, with close attention paid to grammar and syntax. Quizzes will be regular, and will require students both to render a brief passage of Xenophon's Greek into clear, idiomatic English and to identify and discuss salient points of grammar. There will also be a midterm and a final exam, and students will be graded on their preparation and participation in class each day.

### Books

#### *Required:*

- David Konstan, *Xenophon: Apology* (Bryn Mawr Commentaries); ISBN 0-929524-36-5.

- Andrew Miller, *Xenophon's Symposium* (Bryn Mawr Commentaries); ISBN 0-931019-02.

*Recommended:*

- G. M. A. Grube, trans., *The Trial and Death of Socrates* (Hackett); ISBN 0-87220-554-1.
- Paul Woodruff and Alexander Nehamas, trans., *Plato: Symposium* (Hackett); ISBN 0-87220-076-0.

Students should also bring with them a Greek dictionary, ideally Liddell & Scott's *Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon* (ISBN 0199102066), and may wish to bring their first-year Greek textbook as a grammatical reference. Other reference grammars will be available in the Centro's library, and some are available for free online.

All of the commentaries and translations above are either published or distributed by Hackett, and are available through their website at <http://www.hackettpublishing.com>. They may also be available through Amazon and other booksellers, through which Greek dictionaries and grammars are also widely available. When we read Aristophanes and the *Memorabilia*, we will work from editions that have passed into public domain and are available for free online.