

MODERN GREEK POETS

Coordinator: Nicholas Alexiou

This study group examines poems written by modern Greek poets Kazantzakis, Ritsos, Cavafy and Nobel Prize winners Seferis and Elytis, with emphasis on the work of Cavafy. Modern Greek poetry gives unique expression to the many strands of experience which constitute current Greek culture: the weight and resonance of a three thousand year old history; the beauty of the landscape; the sufferings and tribulations of a small, poor country caught in wars and revolutions; the indelible mark left by the four hundred year long Ottoman occupation; the fascinating mixture of Greek, Turkish, Jewish, Slavic, Venetian and Arabic influences in architecture, song, outlook and character of its people. Each one of the poets brings his own unique interpretation and celebration of the fascinating modern Greek experience.

Readings and other Required Materials: Course-pack; price TBA. Be prepared to read session one material.

Nick Alexiou studied Greek Literature at Columbia. He spent his professional career in banking and now has returned to his first love.

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Session 1: Introduction to Modern Greek Poetry
Review of Greek history and culture

Session 2: Selections from the poetry of Nikos Kazantzakis
Review of biography and works of Kazantzakis

Session 3: Selections from the poetry of Giorgos Seferis
Review of biography and works of Seferis

Session 4: Selections from the poetry of Odysseas Elytis
Review of biography and works of Elytis

Session 5: Selections from the poetry of Odysseas Elytis
Review of historical context for Elytis

Session 6: Selections from the poetry of Yiannis Ritsos
Review of biography and works of Ritsos

Session 7: Selections from the poetry of Constantine Cavafy
Review of biography and works of Cavafy

Session 8: Selections from the poetry of Constantine Cavafy
Review of historical context for Cavafy

Session 9: Selections from the poetry of Constantine Cavafy
Report to Be Assigned

Session 10: Selections from the poetry of Constantine Cavafy
Report to Be Assigned

Session 11: Selections from the poetry of Constantine Cavafy
Report to Be Assigned

Session 12: Review and Comparison of the Works Read