



CRETE PAST AND PRESENT: CRETE ON STAGE
A SUMMER SCHOOL ORGANISED BY
THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOLOGY, DIVISION OF CLASSICS

Location	Student Cultural Center “Xenia” – Rethymnon City Centre
Dates	Sunday 15 June (Arrival) – Saturday 21 June (Departure)
Language of instruction	English
Intended audience	Open to Students of all disciplines and all study cycles
Maximum capacity	Thirty (30) participants
Fees	550€

The Summer School

The Summer School in Classics at the University of Crete offers a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in Cretan culture and history, while enjoying the stunning beauties of the island. It includes the study of ancient literary texts and inscriptions, organised visits to major archaeological sites, and group activities in a multicultural environment.

Right at the heart of the Mediterranean Sea, on the crossroads of the trading routes that connect south Europe with north Africa and the near East, Crete developed a marvellous civilisation in the Bronze Age. The island’s rich history and culture exercises an enduring fascination: the famous myths of gods, heroes, and monsters, and of tragic love affairs have inspired art and literature throughout the centuries. Surviving material culture attests to the island’s rich past: the exquisite art produced during the Bronze Age, including elaborate pots and abundant pieces of gold jewellery, are a marvel to see in the renewed collection of the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion. The famous Minoan palaces have been a source of inspiration for scientists investigating the natural phenomenon that brought the Minoans to their legendary fall. The earliest and most substantial surviving documents of ancient Greek law outside Athens come from Crete. Byzantine and Ottoman monuments are tokens of the island’s diverse heritage.

This year's summer school is entitled "Crete on Stage" and will explore ancient theatre in Crete and beyond, Cretan myths, and the most important archaeological sites of the island. Our guest speaker in this year's Summer School is Professor Costas Panayotakis, who teaches Classics at the University of Glasgow. He will give a two-hour session on "Roman drama in performance", in which he will present images associated with the material culture of Roman theatre in its various forms. He will talk about the theatre-related mosaics and the inscriptions of mime-artists found in Crete as well as about the ancient theatre of Aptaera to the east of Chania which the students will visit with him and other instructors during the Summer School. Costas will also lead a two-hour workshop with the students on "Crete and the Cretans in the Roman literary imagination".

This year's program also includes a half-day hands-on seminar on AI and Classics conducted by Maria Papadopoulou, Assistant Professor in Digital Humanities and Classics, University of Crete & TALOS Lab Director (UCRC, UoC), and members of the Talos Lab. This hands-on workshop will introduce students to knowledge graphs, focusing on the practical application of knowledge representation of Ancient Greek texts. Specifically, the session will center on manually extracting and structuring information from Ancient Greek summaries of Classical tragedies.

The Classes

The Summer School will offer a variety of sessions on the following topics:

Day 1) Greek and Roman Theatre (three sessions)

Day 2) Excursion to the ancient theatre of Aptaera and the Archaeological Museum of Chania.

Day 3) Myth, Cretan Women, Emotion and Gender (four sessions)

Day 4) AI and Classics: Hands on Seminar (two sessions);

The myth of the Labyrinth and the Minoan palaces (two sessions)

Day 5) Day Excursion to important archeological sites of Crete: visit to the archaeological excavation of Lyktos; visit to the archaeological site of Knossos with on-site lectures; visit to the archaeological museum of Heraklion.

The instructors from the University of Crete

Myrto Aloumpi

Eva Astyrakaki

Athina Kavoulaki

Nikos Litinas

Stelios Panayotakis

Maria Papadopoulou & members of the Talos Lab

Manolis Patedakis

Dimos Spatharas

Georgia Tsouni

Selection criteria

The summer school is intended for students of all disciplines and levels (undergraduate, graduate). Good oral and written communication skills in English (B2 and above) are a requirement.

Fees

The participation cost of 550€ per participant includes:

- Shared twin accommodation in a hotel in Rethymnon Old Town (6 nights).
- Breakfast and light lunch (5 days).
- Welcoming Reception and Summer School official dinner.
- Organised visits to archaeological sites (including transportation) and entrance tickets to museums and archaeological sites.

Students from the Department of Philology, University of Crete, may attend the classes free of charge.

How to Apply

Please send your application with full name and academic affiliation via email to the following email address: summerschool.classics@uoc.gr

Please use 'Summer school in Classics' as the email header.

Applicants are asked to email the following as pdf attachments, with their names and the document type in the filename:

1. CV
2. A motivation letter explaining how the Summer School in Classics will contribute to their academic and personal development.

Deadline for applications:

Sunday April 13, 2025

The Division of Classics, Department of Philology

<https://www.philology.uoc.gr/en/department/divisions/classical-studies>

<https://www.philology.uoc.gr/en/research/laboratories-researchfacilities/laboratory-of-papyrology-and-epigraphy>

<https://www.philology.uoc.gr/en/research/laboratories-researchfacilities/laboratory-of-classical-studies>

About the University of Crete

<https://en.uoc.gr/>

<https://welcome.uoc.gr>

About Crete and Rethymnon

<https://www.rethymno.gr/en/city>