The goal of learning classical Greek has always been to read the texts of the great Hellenic writers. Somewhat understandably, traditional Greek pedagogy has focused on reading texts. But human language faculties are primarily oral. A pedagogical focus on passive reading has lead many students to acquire the unfortunate habit of treating Greek as a mathematical problem to be solved rather than as a language. But in oral communication we do not treat language like math. We understand and produce language organically, incorporating grammar, syntax, and idiomatic vocabulary effortlessly in real time. The ability to produce a language in this way is the mark of true mastery.

The exercise of active oral production of Attic Greek allows students to learn the vocabulary, syntax, and idiom of the language more quickly than reading alone. Subtle linguistic features like particles and accents can be assimilated without tedium. When they turn back to written texts, students approach them with a new feel for the language that not only allows them to read with increased speed and comfort, but also provides the benefit of hearing the ancient Greek writers speak to them from the page.
**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Living Greek in Greece is an introduction to spoken Attic Greek. It is intended for graduate students, advanced undergraduates, teachers, and classics professors who would like to experience ancient Greek as an active, spoken language. Under special circumstances, graduating high school seniors may be admitted.

This course assumes a thorough knowledge of Attic Greek grammar and some proficiency in reading intermediate Greek texts. All participants should have at least two years of undergraduate Greek (or the equivalent) and should feel comfortable reading basic Attic prose. Some experience reading Homer is helpful but not required. No experience speaking ancient Greek is necessary.

The seminar meets Monday–Friday for three hours a day divided into two ninety-minute sessions. The theme of this year’s course is “Home and Homecomings.” In the morning session, participants read and discuss simple Attic prose texts including selections from Xenophon’s *Oeconomicus* and Lysias’ *On the Murder of Eratosthenes*. The afternoon sessions focus on Homer: participants read and discuss sections of the *Odyssey* and practice paraphrasing and discussing Homer in extemporaneous Attic.

Class sessions are supplemented by lectures in English on aspects of Greek literature and culture, communal Greek meals, and trips to nearby sites of interest. On the weekend of August 17-18, participants will make an overnight literary visit Homer’s Ithaca.

**ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD**

Participants are accommodated in shared apartments at the Hellenikon Idyllion, a hotel and cultural center in the seaside village of Selianitika, next to a popular beach. Rooms are air-conditioned and equipped with a full kitchen. Groceries can be purchased in the nearby village. There are also numerous tavernas and cafes within walking distance.

**COSTS**

Tuition and Room: $1,950

**APPLY**

To apply or to request more information write to summergreek@paideia-institute.org or contact us by phone: (609) 429-0734.

**INSTRUCTORS**

*Jason Pedicone*, co-founder of the Paideia Institute, has an M.A. in Classics from Princeton (Ph.D. expected 2012). He has taught Latin and Greek as living languages in Europe and the U.S. since 2005, including as an interim instructor for Reginald Foster in 2008. He has been speaking Attic Greek and organizing spoken Greek seminars since 2007.

*Richard Hutchins* has an M.A. in Classics from Princeton University. His current interests focus on philosophical poetry, including Lucretius, the Presocratics, and Epicureanism, as well as the reception of the Presocratics in antiquity and modernity. He runs the weekly spoken ancient Greek table on campus and is working on a Greek-Greek translation and commentary on Homer’s *Odyssey*.

For more information visit [www.paideia-institute.org](http://www.paideia-institute.org)