



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

Location	“Xenia” Student Cultural Center, University of Crete, Rethymnon City Centre, Crete, Greece
Dates	Sunday, 21 June (Arrival) – Saturday, 27 June (Departure)
Language of instruction	English
Intended audience	Open to students and graduates of all disciplines at BA and MA levels; PhD students are welcome to reach out
Maximum capacity	25 (twenty-five) participants
Fees	550€

The Summer School

Right at the heart of the Mediterranean Sea, on the crossroads of the trading routes that connect Southern Europe with North Africa and the Near East, Crete developed a marvellous civilisation in the Bronze Age. The island’s rich history and culture exercise an enduring fascination.

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 island’s stunning beauty. It includes the study of ancient literary texts, organised visits to major archaeological sites, and group activities in a multicultural environment.

This year’s summer school is entitled “Receptions of Crete”. Through complementary courses, participants will examine how the island’s archaeological sites and landscapes, myths and legends, and literary traditions have been represented and reinterpreted from antiquity to the present in film, drama, poetry, and music. Together, the courses offer a rich and multifaceted journey into the creative afterlives of Crete’s most iconic stories.

Our guest speaker, Professor Costas Panayotakis, who teaches Classics at the University of Glasgow, will give two sessions on “The Labyrinth and its Receptions” and on “Crete in the Roman Literary Imagination”. The program will also include, among others, sessions on the following topics:

- **Minoan Palaces and Their Material Worlds:** A survey of the major Minoan palaces—Knossos, Phaistos, and others—with attention to their architecture, ritual spaces, and artistic programs. The Summer School program also includes a visit to the site of Knossos and to the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion, offering students a direct encounter with the visual and material culture of Bronze Age Crete.
- **Myth of Phaedra:** A study of the tragic Cretan heroine from ancient drama (Euripides, Seneca) to modern film, focusing on how her story evolves across genres and eras.
- **Erotokritos and Its Legacy:** An introduction to the influential 17th-century romance, *Erotokritos*, and its reception in literature, theater, and music from the 19th century to today.
- **Crete in Cinema:** An exploration of how films from the 1960s to today—from *Zorba the Greek* onward—have shaped perceptions of Cretan identity, landscape, and culture.
- **AI and Classics (TALOS Lab):** A half-day hands-on seminar titled *Looking for Europa (mal du pays)*. The session introduces AI-driven workflows for creating machine-readable datasets in Classical Reception Studies using the myth of Europa. Participants will work hands-on with texts, images, and metadata, applying AI-assisted annotation, ontology modeling, and linked data tools to produce FAIR-compliant outputs. Participants are asked to bring their own computer.

The Classes

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

Day 1) Minoan Palaces (one session), the reception of the Labyrinth (one session), and a visit to the Archaeological Museum of Rethymnon.

Day 2) Cretan myths and their reception (two sessions), Crete in film (one session).

Day 3) Crete in the Roman literary imagination (one session), the Greek symposium (one session), and a visit to the archaeological site of Eleutherna.

Day 4) Hands-on seminar on AI and Classics (two sessions), the 17th-century poem of *Erotokritos* and its reception (one session).

Day 5) Day Excursion to the archaeological site of Knossos and the archaeological museum of Heraklion.

The Organizing Committee

Stelios Panayotakis

Zacharoula Petraki

Georgia Tsouni

The instructors from the University of Crete

Athena Kavoulaki

Alexander Katsigiannis

Panayiota Mini

Stelios Panayotakis

Maria Papadopoulou & Rafail Giannadakis (Talos Lab)

Dimos Spatharas

Georgia Tsouni

Guest instructor

Costas Panayotakis, University of Glasgow

Selection criteria

The summer school is open to BA and MA students and graduates in all disciplines. PhD students are also welcome to contact us. Good oral and written English skills (B2 or above) are required.

Registration Fee: 550€

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).
- Summer School official dinner.
- Organised visits to archaeological sites (including transportation) and entrance tickets to museums and archaeological sites.

The Program does not cover travel costs. Participants are expected to have their own health insurance.

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

How to Apply

Deadline for applications: March 10, 2026

Submit your application via this Google Form: <https://forms.gle/AHS9z2xrApKVTbsB9>

You will be asked to fill in your details and upload two PDF files:

- CV (name your file: LastName-FirstName-CV)
- Motivation letter (max 1,000 words; name your file: LastName-FirstName-letter) explaining how the summer school will contribute to your academic and personal development.

For questions or technical issues, you may contact us at this email address: summerschool.classics@uoc.gr

Useful Links

Division of Classics, Department of Philology

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

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

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

About the University of Crete

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

<https://welcome.uoc.gr>

About Crete and Rethymnon

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