

# Greek Core Lecture Series

## Trinity Term 2026

**Dr Emma Greensmith ([emma.greensmith@classics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:emma.greensmith@classics.ox.ac.uk))**

**Wednesdays at 9.00am, Ioannou Lecture Theatre**

### **Weeks 1-8**

This series of lectures explores the Greek Core set texts and the literary and intellectual culture of the period from several directions. Three lectures focus on thematic and generic issues; four lectures zoom into specific texts and focus on unexpected and less well trodden aspects of them. The final lecture offers an overview of the modern scholarly debates and critical approaches surrounding fifth century literature, which are crucial to grasp for this paper.

The lectures are intended for all those taking Greek Core (both text-based and non-text based versions: all Greek will be accompanied by translations). Those studying Greek Tragedy and Comedy may also find them helpful, and those taking the Lyric paper may wish to come to the two lectures on that genre.

The sequence is as follows:

Week 1: Time

Week 2: Sophocles *Antigone*

Week 3: Aristophanes *Clouds*

Week 4: Rhetoric

Week 5: Gorgias *Encomium to Helen*

Week 6: Lyric

Week 7: Bacchylides 17 & 18

Week 8: Close Reading the Greek Core: Scholarship, Theory and Approaches

Questions are always welcome (either after the lecture, or by e-mail: [emma.greensmith@classics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:emma.greensmith@classics.ox.ac.uk)). The lectures are designed for in-person delivery –whilst recordings of the lectures will be available after the Faculty embargo period via Panopto, **attendance in person is strongly recommended**. Please e-mail me for a copy of the handout (which I shall distribute in the lectures) if you are unable to make a particular lecture.