

## **CD PETITION EXAMPLE**

The course listed for consideration, Historical Sites of Eastern Mediterranean (transferred as HIST 346: Greek and Roman Culture), satisfied the goals listed in the Cultural Diversity requirements by exposing me to two important cultures within the region.

My time in Greece provided me with an opportunity to see firsthand the cultural differences between Greece and United States, while the course provided me with the historical context through which to understand these differences. Classroom presentations, reports, and weekend travel to relevant sites provided important clarification of events and elements of Greek culture that would not have been possible outside of the culture itself. Additionally, a trip to Turkey late in the semester (accompanied by appropriate classroom work) provided invaluable insight into the attitude of Greeks toward Turks and their historical rivalry. One of the most important realizations the course fostered was a sense of the intermingling and interdependence of the two cultures over history, particularly over the last two centuries. Turkey's domination of Greece through the Ottoman Empire left indelible marks on Greece that remains easy to spot, particularly in music and food. This domination also affected Greek's attitudes toward outside powers, and fostered a mistrust and suspicion of all things "non-Greek" to this day.

Greek ethnic attitudes are extremely important to Greek culture; with 99% of the population adhering to Greek Orthodox Christianity in a region that brings Christianity in direct contact with Islam. The idea of "Greekness" is vitally important to modern Greeks, and is most proudly displayed in their religious and linguistic heritage, both of which are embraced almost universally in Greece. Having seen these attitudes in the Greek population, the trip to Turkey included in the course provided an important contrast. Greek attitudes toward employment, family, and religion differ greatly from their neighbors only a few miles across the Aegean Sea. Going from the Greek island of Samos to the Turkish port of Kusadasi was the starkest possible contrast, as the differences in attitude and orientation were immediately apparent.

My experiences in Greece and Turkey through this course provided me with an important lens through which to view the region and its cultures. The course itself, being taught in Greece, did display some Greek-centric bias, particularly in its treatment of Turkey. However, sufficient time and discussion were provided for an exploration of varying viewpoints, and such discussion was encouraged. Obviously a single three hour course cannot provide a complete background or context for a single culture, and the relationship between Greek and Turkish culture obviously warrants great exploration – however, the most important issues were addressed and discussed in sufficient depth.

I appreciate your consideration of my petition and look forward to your determination.