



HELLENIC LINK-MIDWEST
A SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL LINK WITH GREECE
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ
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The Unexamined Life is not Worth Living—Why Liberal Arts Matter More than Ever

On Sunday, February 23, 2025, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents Prof. Theodore G. Zervas in a lecture titled: “*The Unexamined Life is not Worth Living—Why Liberal Arts Matter More than Ever*” The event will take place at 3:00 pm at the lecture hall of the Holy Taxiarchai and Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, 7373 N Caldwell Ave, Niles, Illinois. Admission is free.

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More than two and a half millennia ago, Socrates proclaimed, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” He made this statement during a time when Athens, his great city, grappled with sustaining its democratic system. To Socrates, democracy symbolized freedom, but more importantly, it granted him the right to question and examine life without fear of persecution. Amid the current social and political challenges in the United States, are American universities making a critical error by eliminating liberal arts majors? *Dr. Theodore G. Zervas* will explore the evolution of liberal arts education, from its roots in ancient Athens to its present role in the American academy and its critical relevance to contemporary life. In an era marked by the rise of social media, the proliferation of misinformation that critically influences the decision making of citizens, increased mental health challenges, diminished face-to-face human interaction, and the need for business and political leaders, as well as for everyone else to understand their responsibilities to the society, make the need for a significant share of everyone’s education in a liberal arts curriculum to matter more than ever.

Dr. Zervas is associate professor of education at North Park University in Chicago. He holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in history from DePaul University, a master’s degree in Education and Social Policy from Northwestern University, and a Ph.D. in Cultural and Educational Policy studies from Loyola University Chicago. He is a board member for the Illinois Humanities Council and serves as a peer editor for the American Educational History Journal.

Much of Professor Zervas’ research focuses on the history of education in both Greece and the United States. He has published academic articles on schooling and National Identity in Greece, the uses of the Arvanitic Language in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Greece, and the teaching of history both in Greece and Europe. He has published a book on *The Making of a Modern Greek Identity: Education, Nationalism, and the Teaching of a Greek National Past*, and he is currently working on a second book *Formal and Informal Education during the Rise of Greek Nationalism: Learning to be Greek*.