

GREEK SOJURN

When I was invited to teach a playwriting class at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in May, 2019 under the auspices of the Fulbright Senior Specialist program I had no idea how much I would enjoy two weeks in the beautiful Macedonian port city. Professors Zoe Detsi and Sophia Emmanouilidou from the Department of American Literature and Culture made me and my wife Azalea feel welcome by introducing us to colleagues and students and hosting dinners and social gatherings. We got to soak in the beautiful Mediterranean climate and ambience that is Northern Greece with its rich history and culture.

I assigned my eight playwriting students the task of composing a ten-minute play in two weeks (6 class meetings). Not an easy task given that the students' goal was to write a timely, urgent and most of all dramatic play, and then rewrite it again until was able to stand on its own as an integral work of art ala Aristotle's Poetics. I urged them to organize a night of staged readings in front of a live audience and to continue rewriting their plays. The topic of the plays revolved around personal experiences and reflections (love relationships, familial stories, fables, etc.). I found the students to be mature, sophisticated, and honest and I was impressed by their English language skills writing in a second language.

I was so impressed with Aristotle University, it's faculty and students that I propose to return at my own cost to teach another playwriting and/or class on Latinx Theater.

– Professor Carlos Morton
University of California, Santa Barbara