



BROWN

**The Modern Greek Studies Program**

*Presents a lecture by*

***Gregory Jusdanis***

Distinguished Humanities Professor  
Ohio State University

*“Duty and Desire: Friendship  
from Homer to Kazantzakis”*

Synopsis: In contrast to Jacques Derrida, who contends that the history of friendship is governed by ethics of homology and affinity, this talk argues that literature represents friendship as ambivalent and fragile. Through an analysis of texts ranging from the *Iliad* to *Zorba the Greek*, friendship will be defined as an anti-essentialist relationship and literature, the only modern discourse that has concerned itself with friendship, will emerge as best suited to reveal both the paradoxes of friendship and its involvement in the emergence of modern society.

Thursday, September 24, 2009 at 5:30pm  
Crystal Room, Alumnae Hall  
194 Meeting Street

*Reception to follow*

The author of *The Poetics of Cavafy: Eroticism, Textuality, History, Belated Modernity and Aesthetic Culture*, *The Necessary Nation*, and *Fiction Agonistes: In Defense of Literature*, Gregory Jusdanis teaches Greek literature and culture at The Ohio State University where he directs the Modern Greek Program. His talk forms part of a new project on literary representations of friendship.