

Greek and Roman Religion 190:211/840:208

Spring 2016, Rutgers University
MTh 10:55-12:15 ARH 100 (DC)

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Office Hours: M 1:00-3:00 and by arrangement

Course Description

In this course, we will study religious life and experience in ancient Greek and Roman society. How did Greeks and Romans conceptualize the divine and their relationship to it? How was ancient religion actually practiced? How does religion relate to *myth* and *ritual*? How did religion and politics interrelate? What exactly were the alternatives to civically practiced religion we call “mystery cults”? Who were the critics of ancient religions, and what was the substance of their criticisms? What was the distinction between magic and religion? These fundamental questions (and many others) will concern us in this course.

Course Goals

Students will gain an understanding of the following areas:

- Historical background of Greco-Roman religion
- Religious practice and society in the ancient world, with a focus on Athens and Rome
- Methodology for interpreting and integrating literary, visual, and epigraphic sources

This course satisfies the **HST, AHo—(i) + k, o** requirements for the **Core Curriculum**. For more information on these requirements and the Core generally, please visit the Core Curriculum website at <http://sasoue.rutgers.edu/core/rubrics-for-core-goals>.

Textbooks

Kearns. *Ancient Greek Religion*: a sourcebook. Wiley Blackwell. ISBN: 9781405149280

Beard, North, Price. *Roman Religions. Vol. 2: a sourcebook*. Cambridge. ISBN: 9780521456463

We will supplement the primary sources with articles and chapters on Sakai, where there will also be updates, announcements, and further information about lectures and assignments. These textbooks will be abbreviated as *AGR* and *RR*, respectively, on the syllabus.

Grades and Assignments

Participation: 10%

The success of the class as a whole is dependent on an active class community, and no less is each individual student's success dependent on his or her effort. Asking questions counts as participation, and is useful to other members of the class who may want to know or discuss the same things—so don't be shy! Do be aware that participation factors into your final grade.

Weekly exercise: 10 %

Every week you will complete a quiz, response, or short assignment in class (often in your discussion groups). Weekly assignments cannot be made up, but the lowest score will be dropped.

Written assignment: 20%

Essay of 3-4 pages, due April 21. Topics will be distributed via Sakai. Late work will be docked one half-letter grade per day.

Midterm: 25 %

The midterm (March 10) will consist of factual short answer and identification questions.

Final: 35%

The final (May 9) will consist of short answer questions and an essay component showing knowledge of important sources and overarching themes. The final will be comprehensive.

Reading Assignments

Readings are to be completed before the class meeting on the day for which they are listed. Note that *Ancient Greek Religion* is abbreviated “AGR” and *Roman Religions* is abbreviated “RR” in the schedule. All supplementary reading material will be available on the Sakai website. In addition to completing the assigned readings, each student will be expected to read and engage with the discussion questions posted for each session, and should familiarize him/herself with the list of important figures and terms provided for each lecture.

Policy on Academic Integrity

No act of academic dishonesty will be tolerated in this course. If there is evidence that a student has committed any violation of academic integrity, the matter will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct, which will determine the appropriate sanctions. Rutgers University’s full Academic Integrity Policy can be found at this address:

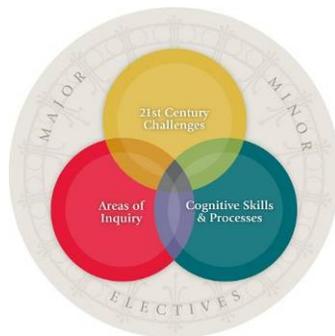
<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>.

All students are required to include the Rutgers honor pledge on all major course assignments submitted for grading: “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment).”

Attendance

Attendance in this course mandatory and will be taken daily. Numerous absences will affect a student’s participation grade and will lower the overall grade for the course.

NB: Any student who believes that s/he may need an accommodation in this class due to a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services, Kreeger Learning Center, 151 College Avenue; dfoffice@rci.rutgers.edu; 732-932-2847. Students must have a letter of accommodation from the Office of Disability Services in order to receive accommodations. If you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me immediately. Please see me privately after class, or at my office.



Provisional Course Schedule (Pay close attention to Sakai and your email for any changes)

Day 1.1 (Jan. 21)→ Introduction to the course and material; Origins of Greek Religion.

No Reading

Day 2.1 (Jan. 25)→ The Divine Apparatus

AGR 1.1-1.3.1 (pp.1-28); Zaidman and Schmitt-Pantel pp. 3-23

Day 2.2 (Jan. 28)→ Olympian and Anthropomorphic Gods

AGR 2.1(pp. 37-49), 2.5.1-5 (pp. 71-79)

Day 3.1 (Feb. 1)→ Gods and Mortals in Myth

AGR 2.2 (pp. 49-61), 2.4 (pp. 67-71)

Day 3.2 (Feb. 4)→ Private Religion and Rites of Passage

AGR 4.1 (pp. 151-161), 5.6.1-2 (pp. 264-270); Mikalson 'Family Religion'

Day 4.1 (Feb. 8)→ Polis Religion

AGR 4.3.1-4.4.4 (pp. 174-189)

Day 4.2 (Feb. 11)→ Sanctuaries and Religious Professionals

AGR 5.1 (pp. 192-212), 5.4 (244-254); Bremmer, 'Sanctuaries'

Day 5.1 (Feb. 15)→ Sacrifice and Prayer

AGR 5.2 (pp. 212-223), 3.1 (pp. 88-94), 5.5 (pp. 255-263)

Day 5.2 (Feb. 18)→ Religious Festivals at Athens

AGR 5.3 (pp. 223-244); Neils, 'Pride, Pomp, and Circumstance'

Day 6.1 (Feb. 22)→ Panhellenic Festivals and Games

AGR 6.1 (pp. 276-284); Emerson, 'Olympia'

Day 6.2 (Feb. 25)→ Oracles and Dreams

AGR 3.2 (pp. 94-101), 4.2.1-7 (pp. 161-170), 6.2 (pp.284-302)

Day 7.1 (Feb. 29)→ Mystery Religions

AGR 6.4 (pp. 311-328); Parker, 'Early Orphism'

Day 7.2 (Mar. 3)→ Magic and Foreign Cults

AGR 3.4 (pp. 115-141)

Day 8.1 (Mar. 7)→ Religion in the Hellenistic World

Day 8.2 (Mar. 10)→ **Midterm Exam**

Day 9.1 (Mar. 21)→ Etruscan and Early Italian Religion

Simon, "Gods in Harmony"

Day 9.2 (Mar. 24)→; Earliest Rome

RR 1 (pp. 1-25); Smith, 'Religion of Archaic Rome'

Day 10.1 (Mar. 28)→ Deities

RR 2.1-2.7 (pp. 26-49); Bodel, 'An Outline of Roman Domestic Religion'

Day 10.2 (Mar. 31)→ Calendar, Festivals, and Ceremonies

RR 3.1-4 (pp. 60-71), 5 (pp. 116-147)

Day 11.1 (Apr. 4)→ Sacred Places

RR 4.1-13 (pp. 78-106)

Day 11.2 (Apr. 7)→ Sacrifice

RR 6 (pp. 148-165); Scheid, 'Graeco Ritu'

Day 12.1 (Apr. 11)→ Divination

RR 7 (pp. 166-193)

Day 12.2 (Apr. 14)→ Priests and Priestesses

RR 8 (pp. 194-215); Beard, 'Priesthood in the Roman Republic'

Day 13.1 (Apr. 18)→ Mortals, Gods, and Deification

RR 2.8 (pp. 49-54), 9.1-3 (pp. 216-228), 10.3 (pp. 246-248), 10.5-6 (pp. 253-259); Price, 'Between Man and God'

Day 13.2 (Apr. 21)→ Rome and Abroad

RR 10.4 (pp. 248-253), 12.1-5 (pp. 288-319); **Paper Due!!!**

Day 14.1 (Apr. 25)→ Jews and Christians

RR 3.6 (pp. 74-76), 4.14-15 (pp. 107-115) 11.8 (pp. 273-275), 11.11-14 (pp. 276-287, 12.6-7 (pp. 320-348)

Day 14.2 (Apr. 28)→ Christian Rome and Early Christianity

Selections on Sakai

Week 15 (May 2)→ What was Greco-Roman Religion?

RR 13 (pp. 349-364); Nongbri, 'Embedded Religion'

Final Exam→ May 9th

Please refer to the following University facilities for assistance over the course of the term:

Student-Wellness Services:

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call [848-932-1181](tel:848-932-1181).

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

The Office of Disability Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.