

CLAS 325 / RS 315: Greek & Roman Religion

Course Description and Objectives: This course provides an examination of the major religious developments, mores, and practices in the classical world. Defined thus broadly, topics of study will include (but are not limited to):

- major deities and heroes, their nature, and their cults
- religious spaces, both rural and urban
- the religion of the city and state
- individual worship
- prayer and sacrifice
- superstition and magic
- divination and oracles
- challenges to traditional religion

Students will read and discuss a broad range of primary sources from which we derive our understanding of ancient religious practices and beliefs. We will be jumping from history to tragedy, from temples to funerary inscriptions, and covering many other genres in between. Sources will be contextualized and linked to cultural developments in both Greece and Rome.

By the end of this class, students will have acquired a strong foundational knowledge of Greek and Roman religions. By reading numerous primary and secondary sources, students will be familiar with the major Greek and Roman heroes and deities, how, where, and when they were worshipped, and how the relationships between mortals and gods were connected to political, religious, economical, and cultural developments. Students will learn how to do close primary source analysis, and how to develop this into a strong thesis capable of being articulated verbally or in written form.

Instructor: D. Porreca Office Hours: Tu 15:30-17:00, W 11:30-13:00, ML 227
Tel: 519 888 4567 x32436 E-mail: dporreca@uwaterloo.ca

Term: Winter 2018

Time & Place: Tuesdays, 18:30-21:20, ML 354

Credit Value: 0.5 This course can be counted towards a degree in either Classical Studies or Religious Studies

Texts:

1. Valerie M. Warrior. *Greek Religion. A Sourcebook*. (Newburyport, MA: Focus Publishing, 2009)
2. Valerie M. Warrior. *Roman Religion. A Sourcebook*. (Newburyport, MA: Focus Publishing, 2002)
3. Sarah Iles Johnston (ed.). *Religions of the Ancient World. A Guide* (Cambridge, MA and London: Harvard University Press, 2004)

Evaluation:

Mid-term test, 13 February	30%
Essay, due 27 March	30%
Final Examination	40%

Prerequisites: One of CLAS 100, 104, 201, 202, or instructor's permission

Mid-term: The mid-term, to be held in class on 13 February, will involve a combination of match-ups, short definitions and long-answer questions. You will be expected to draw upon material discussed in class as well as the assigned readings. A list of long-answer questions will be distributed the week before in class (6 February), a selection of which will appear on the mid-term itself.

Essay: The term paper for this course should be 2500-3000 words in length. The topic is left open: follow your curiosity, and please discuss your topic with the instructor well ahead of the deadline (due: 27 March). Ideally, you'll want to have a topic chosen by the mid-term.

Final Examination: The final examination (scheduled during the end-of-term exam period by the Registrar's Office) will be similar to the mid-term in terms of matchups and short definitions, but will only involve material discussed after the mid-term for these. A list of long-answer questions will be distributed at the last meeting of the class (3 April), a selection of which will appear on the final exam itself. The entire term of material will be fair game for these questions.

NOTE: If the exam for this class ends up being scheduled during the first week of the exam period (i.e., on or prior to 13 April), the long-answer questions will be distributed on 27 March instead.

Schedule of lectures:

- January 9: * Introduction to course.
 * What is religion?
 * Differences between ancient and modern religions
 * Evolution of Greek religion: Archaic to Classical
 * Reading: Johnston, pp.3-15, 206-219
 Warrior, *Greek Religion*, pp.ix-xi, 1-12
- January 16: * Religion of the state: from *polis* to Empire I
 * Reading: Johnston, pp.408-417, 556-558, 590-594
 Warrior, *Greek Religion*, pp.13-33
- January 23: * Religion of the state: from *polis* to Empire II: The Roman
 experience
 * Reading: Johnston, pp.220-232, 558-560
 Warrior, *Roman Religion*, pp.vii-viii, 1-24
- January 30: * Magic, Divination, and Oracles
 * Reading: Johnston, pp.139-151, 383-391, 507-513
 Warrior, *Greek Religion*, pp.75-94, 229-247
 Warrior, *Roman Religion*, pp.139-150
- February 6: * Temples and Holy Places
 * Reading: Johnston, pp.266-281

Warrior, *Greek Religion*, pp.95-112
Warrior, *Roman Religion*, pp.127-138

- February 13: * **Mid-term!!**
* Religion and the life-cycle I: fertility & birth
* Household and family cults
* Reading: Johnston, pp.433-437, 445-451
 Warrior, *Greek Religion*, pp.35-41
 Warrior, *Roman Religion*, pp.25-27
- February 20: READING WEEK: NO CLASS
- February 27: * Religion and the life-cycle II: rites of passage and youth's role in
 religious practice
* Reading: Warrior, *Greek Religion*, pp.41-48
 Warrior, *Roman Religion*, pp.28-30
- March 6: * Religion and the life-cycle III: religious duties of an adult part 1:
 festivals and sacrifices
* Reading: Johnston, pp. 340-348, 362-369
 Warrior, *Greek Religion*, pp.55-74, 113-146
 Warrior, *Roman Religion*, pp.37-46, 59-69
- March 13: * Religion and the life-cycle IV: religious duties of an adult part 2:
 the priesthoods
* Reading: Johnston, pp.302-310, 319-324
 Warrior, *Roman Religion*, pp.47-57
- March 20: * Religion and the life-cycle V: religious duties of an adult part 3:
 initiations & mystery cults
* Reading: Johnston, pp.98-111
 Warrior, *Greek Religion*, pp.187-203
 Warrior, *Roman Religion*, pp.99-113
- March 27: * Religion and the life-cycle VI: illness, old age, death and the
 afterlife
* Reading: Johnston, pp.464-469, 486-495
 Warrior, *Greek Religion*, pp.48-54, 205-228
 Warrior, *Roman Religion*, pp.31-35, 154-160
 (readings 13.7, 13.9-10, 13.19-20)
* **ESSAY DUE!!**
- April 3: * From many to one: the causes behind the shift to monotheism
* Reading: Johnston, pp.17-31, 112-125, 233-239, 561-563, 647-
 656
 Warrior, *Roman Religion*, pp.173-186

IMPORTANT NOTES

Cross-listed course (requirement for all Arts courses)

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage](#) and the [Arts Academic Integrity webpage](#) for more information.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#). *Grievance:* A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](#), Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance. *Appeals:* A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#).

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.