
CLAS 325 / RS 315: Greek & Roman Religion
University of Waterloo, Winter Term, 2023

Class Hours:

Office Hours:

Course Description:

T / TH, 11:30am – 12:50pm
Thursdays, by appointment

This course will explore the major religious mores, developments, and practices of the Greco-Roman world alongside the theoretical problems in defining and describing ancient “religion” in modern terms. Throughout the course, students will examine a wide range of primary (archaeological, literary, and visual) and secondary sources to gain a better understanding of ancient worldviews on religion and how these views have shaped modern religions and religious beliefs. Topics to be covered include, but are not limited to, major deities, their nature, and their cults; religious spaces; religion of the city and state; prayer and sacrifice; superstition and magic; and divination and oracles.

Course Learning Outcomes:

The main objective of this course is for students to gain a basic familiarity and understanding of ancient Greco-Roman religion. By the end of this course, students should have acquired a strong foundational knowledge for further study into Greek and Roman religions. By reading numerous primary and secondary sources, students will be familiar with the major Greek and Roman deities, how, where, and when they were worshipped, and how the relationships between mortals and gods were connected to political, religious, socio-economic, and cultural developments. Students will learn how to perform close primary source analysis, and how to develop this into a strong thesis capable of being articulated verbally or in written form.

Course Readings:

The following textbooks are *required* for this course:

Valerie M. Warrior. *Greek Religion. A Sourcebook.* (Newburyport, MA: Focus Publishing, 2009) – ISBN: 978-1585100316

Valerie M. Warrior. *Roman Religion. A Sourcebook.* (Newburyport, MA, 2002) – ISBN: 978-1585100309

These textbooks are on Course Reserve at the UW Library. They are also available for purchase as e-texts through UW Affiliate VitalSource here:

<https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/greek-religion-valerie-m-warrior-v9781585109876>

<https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/roman-religion-valerie-m-warrior-v9781647930097>

Additional readings from the following (*not required*) textbook may also be assigned as necessary:

Sarah Iles Johnston (ed.). *Religions of the Ancient World. A Guide* (Cambridge, MA and London: Harvard University Press, 2004) – ISBN: 978-0674015173

Course Schedule:

This course is offered as a hybrid course: Tuesday lectures will take place synchronously online via Teams and Thursday lectures will take place in person in PAS 2086. Please be sure to attend all lectures.

January 9

TERM BEGINS

Week 1

Jan 12

Introduction: "Religion" and the Ancient World

> Syllabus; Introduction to the course.

> Approaches to studying ancient religion; differences between ancient and modern religions (eg. polytheism to monotheism).

- Warrior, *Greek Religion*, pp.ix-xii, 1-12
- Johnston, *Religions of the Ancient World*, pp. 3-16 (posted on LEARN)

Week 2

Jan 17, 19

The Gods and their Worship

> *Polis*-based religious system; cults and community rituals; Olympian deities and Chthonic deities – characteristics and forms of worship.

- Warrior, *Greek Religion*, pp.13-33; 147-164

Week 3

Jan 24, 26

Divination and Oracles

> Types of divination; omens; prominent oracles (Zeus at Dodona, Apollo at Delphi); healing oracles.

- Warrior, *Greek Religion*, pp.75-94

Week 4

Jan 31

Feb 2

Greek Mystery Cults

> Eleusinian Mysteries, "Orphism", Dionysiac Mysteries.

- Warrior, *Greek Religion*, pp.187-203
- Johnston, *Religions of the Ancient World*, pp.98-111

Week 5

Feb 7, 9

Greek Temples & Sanctuaries

> Places of worship: temples: purpose, plan and layout; sanctuaries and holy places: votive offerings and healing.

- Warrior, *Greek Religion*, pp. 95-112
- Johnston, *Religions of the Ancient World*, pp.266-281, 433-434

Week 6

Feb 14, 16

TERM TEST #1

Content Review & Study Day (Feb 14); Term Test #1 (Feb 16)

February 18-26

READING WEEK (no class Feb. 23)

Week 7

Feb 28

Mar 2

Roman Religion

> Early religion and mythology (monarchy and Republic); religion of the state; ruler cults; Sibylline books.

- Warrior, *Roman Religion*, pp. vii-viii, 1-13, 15-24

Week 8

Mar 7, 9

Festivals, Priesthoods and Sacrifices

> Prayer and sacrifice; priests and priesthoods; religious celebrations.

- Warrior, *Roman Religion*, pp.37-70

Week 9 Mar 14, 16	Roman (and Greek) Magic Magic and sorcery; binding spells; witchcraft; the occult in Roman religion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warrior, <i>Greek Religion</i>, pp.229-247 • Warrior, <i>Roman Religion</i>, pp.139-150 • Johnston, <i>Religions of the Ancient World</i>, pp.139-151
Week 10 Mar 21, 23	Polytheism to Monotheism > The shift from many gods to one god: Judaism and Christianity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warrior, <i>Roman Religion</i>, pp.163-186
Week 11 Mar 28, 30	TERM TEST #2 Content Review & Study Day (Mar 28); Term Test #2 (Mar 30)
Week 12 Apr 4, 6	REVIEW & FINAL EXAM > Review session of all course content; tips for final exam essay. Review (Apr 4); Final Exam Essay (Apr 6)
April 10	TERM ENDS

Course Assessment:

Assessment for this course will be based on the following:

1) Weekly Discussion

(25% of overall mark);

Students will be required to participate in the lectures, contributing to class discussions by volunteering answers, asking relevant questions, and expressing opinions in a manner that shows familiarity with the weekly readings (15%). Students will also be asked to complete a selection of 5 discussion forums (10%).

More information is posted on Learn > CONTENT > TABLE OF CONTENTS > 3. ASSESSMENTS > "1. Weekly Discussion".

2) Term Tests

(50% of overall mark);

Students will be required to complete **two (2)** timed (70-minute) term tests, scheduled on **February 16 and March 30, 2023**. The tests will be posted online, and can be written anywhere, but must be written during class time (Thursday, between 11:30am-12:50pm). The tests will consist of randomized multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, true/false, identification and short answer questions. Tests will be based on class lectures and assigned readings and are intended to assess students' knowledge of essential data and key themes in the study of ancient Greco-Roman religion. All students must comply with the University of Waterloo's standards of academic integrity and honesty (no cheating!).

No make-up tests will be given except in extraordinary medical circumstances.

Failure to complete a test will result in a mark of zero "0" for that test.

Professor's Policy on Missed Tests

There will be no "make-up" tests in this course. A student who does not provide acceptable medical documentation for proof of illness will receive a grade of **zero** for that test. Students must take responsibility to inform the professor promptly, *before* missing a test. Students who legitimately miss a test, and who provide appropriate medical documentation, should be prepared to write an essay alternative, which will be decided upon and due at the discretion of the professor.

More information is posted on Learn > CONTENT > TABLE OF CONTENTS > 3. ASSESSMENTS > "2. Term Tests".

3) Final Exam Essay

(25% of overall mark).

Students will be required to write an *in-person* final exam essay on the last class of term, **Thursday, April 6, 2023**. The exam will consist of a single essay question with a focus on a theme connecting all weekly course topics (cumulative Weeks 1-12). The essay must be properly structured and referenced. Essay instructions will be provided in the Course Review session to be held on, April 4, 2023.

More information is posted on Learn > CONTENT > TABLE OF CONTENTS > 3. ASSESSMENTS > "3. Final Exam Essay".

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](#) 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. Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information. 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](#).

Academic Freedom

Ethical Behaviour: [Policy 33, Ethical Behaviour](#) states, as one of its general principles (Section 1), “The University supports academic freedom for all members of the University community. Academic freedom carries with it the duty to use that freedom in a manner consistent with the scholarly obligation to base teaching and research on an honest and ethical quest for knowledge. In the context of this policy, 'academic freedom' refers to academic activities, including teaching and scholarship, as is articulated in the principles set out in the Memorandum of Agreement between the FAUW and the University of Waterloo, 1998 (Article 6). The academic environment which fosters free debate may from time to time include the presentation or discussion of unpopular opinions or controversial material. Such material shall be dealt with as openly, respectfully and sensitively as possible.” This definition is repeated in Policies 70 and 71, and in the Memorandum of Agreement, Section 6.

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.

Lastly, some important information on....

COVID-19 Information

Please visit the university's web page dedicated to COVID-19 updates: <https://uwaterloo.ca/coronavirus/>

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health support if they are needed.

On Campus (some of these services may only available online or by phone)

- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 ext. 32655
- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

Off Campus (these services are available 24/7)

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-4300 ext. 6880
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online on the Faculty of Arts [website](#)

Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)

Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River.

For more information about the purpose of territorial acknowledgements, please see the [CAUT Guide to Acknowledging Traditional Territory \(PDF\)](#).