

Greek and Roman Religion – 510:407
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30pm-3:50pm, Conklin Hall 424

Instructor: David J. Wright

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:20pm-2:20pm

Course Website: Via Blackboard (if you do not have access, send me an email).

Course Description

Religion was omnipresent in every facet of Greek and Roman life. By using primary sources, we will attempt to understand how the Greeks and Romans viewed their relationship with the gods. We will look at topics such as deities, sanctuaries, prayer, priesthods, sacrifice, mystery cults, and gender roles in religion. We will explore questions such as: What is the relationship between myth and ritual? What is the difference between magic and religion? How did religion intersect with political life in the ancient world? What was the role of women in Greek and Roman Religion? How do we define “religion”? What influence did Greco-Roman Religion have on early Christianity?

Required Texts

Kearns. *Ancient Greek Religion: A Sourcebook*. Wiley Blackwell. ISBN: 9781405149280 (abbreviated “AGR” in the schedule)

Beard, North, Price. *Roman Religions. Vol.2: a sourcebook*. Cambridge. ISBN: 9780521456463 (abbreviated “RR” in the schedule)

*Other course materials will be available on Blackboard or via the internet.

Rubric

Attendance: 10%

Participation: 10%

Analysis Paper #1: 20%

Analysis Paper #2: 20%

Final Analysis Paper: 40%

I will **NOT** negotiate grades.

I also do not give extra credit.

Grade Scale:

A = 100-90

B+ = 89.9-85

B = 84.9-80

C+ = 79.9-75

C = 74.9-70

D = 69.9-60

Learning Goals

- Student is able to understand the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place.
- Student is able to explain and assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in social and historical analysis.
- Student is able to explain the development of some aspect of society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science.
- Student is able to employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors.
- Student is able to critically analyze primary sources and form an argument based on the analysis of these sources through several writing exercises.

Attendance

Attendance in this course is mandatory and will be taken daily. Each student is allowed TWO unexcused absences. After that, each successive absence will lower your attendance grade by 1 point.

**** Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this course. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F. ****

Punctuality

It is imperative that you be punctual for class. If you are more than 20 minutes late for class, I will mark that as an absence.

Participation

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 the same things—so don't be shy! Do be aware that participation factors into your final grade.

Papers

The two analysis papers will involve a close reading of primary sources on a particular topic (I will give you a list to choose from. Students will submit at least one draft of the paper and will receive comments back for revision. These papers will be 5-7 pages in length, double-spaced, and in 12 point Times New Roman font.

The final paper will be 7-10 pages in length. Students may choose to build off of one of their earlier papers.

Cellphone policy

Cellphones should be off during class. If I see someone's cellphone out during an exam, he or she will receive an immediate 0 grade for that exam.

Disabilities

Under Federal Law, the University is required to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students with documentable disabilities, in legally defined categories. **Students requiring assistance and/or accommodation should speak with the Office of Disability Services in a timely manner to set up appropriate accommodations**

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 Academic Integrity Coordinator, 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)."

Reading Assignments

Readings are to be done on the day on which they are listed. Note that *Ancient Greek Religion* is abbreviated "AGR" and *Roman Religions* is abbreviated "RR" in the schedule.

Trigger Warning

This course will deal with sensitive material such as violence, sexuality, and racism on a daily basis. These topics will come up both in the reading and in class discussion. If any student thinks he or she may have trouble dealing with such topics, I suggest that he or she drop the course immediately.

Schedule

Tuesday, 1/19 /2016: Introduction and History of Greece

No reading

Thursday, 1/21/2016: The divine apparatus

AGR, pp. 1-28

Tuesday, 1/26/2016: Olympian and anthropomorphic gods

AGR, pp. 37-49, 71-79

PAPER 1 TOPIC DUE

Thursday, 1/28/2016: Gods and mortals in myths

AGR, pp. 49-61, 67-71

Tuesday, 2/2/2016: Private Religion and rites of passage

AGR, pp. 151-161, 264-270

Thursday, 2/4/2016: Polis religion

AGR, pp. 174-189

Tuesday, 2/9/2016: Sanctuaries and professionals

AGR, pp. 192-213, 244-254

DRAFT OF FIRST PAPER DUE

Thursday, 2/11/2016: Sacrifice and prayer

AGR, pp. 212-223, 88-94, 255-263

Tuesday, 2/16/2016: Religious festivals in Athens

AGR, pp. 223-244

DRAFT OF FIRST PAPER RETURNED WITH COMMENTS

Thursday 2/18/2016: Panhellenic festivals and games

AGR, pp. 276-284

Tuesday 2/23/2016: Oracles and dreams

AGR, pp. 904-101, 161-170, 284-302

PAPER 1 DUE

Thursday 2/25/2016: Mystery cults

AGR, pp. 311-328

Tuesday, 3/1/2016: Magic and foreign cults

AGR, pp. 115-141

PAPER 2 TOPIC DUE

Thursday, 3/3/2016: Religion in the Hellenistic World

Mikalson "Greek Religion: Continuity and Change"

Tuesday, 3/8/2016: Nymphs in the Greek World

Selection from Larson

Thursday, 3/10/2016: Etruscan Religion

Simon "Gods in Harmony"

DRAFT OF PAPER 2 DUE

Tuesday, 3/15/2016: Spring Break – NO CLASS

Thursday, 3/17/2016: Spring Break – NO CLASS

Tuesday, 3/22/2016: Earliest Rome

RR 1

DRAFT OF PAPER 2 RETURNED WITH COMMENTS

Thursday, 3/24/2016: Deities

RR 2.1-7

Tuesday, 3/29/2016: Calendar, Festival, and Ceremonies

RR 3.1-4, 5

Thursday, 3/31/2016: Places

RR 4.1-13

PAPER 2 DUE

Tuesday, 4/5/2016: Sacrifice

RR 6

FINAL PAPER TOPIC DUE

Thursday, 4/7/2016: Divination

RR 7

Tuesday, 4/12/2016: Priests and priestesses

RR 8

Thursday, 4/14/2016: Mortals, gods, deification

RR 2.8, 9.1-3, 10.3, 10.5-6

DRAFT OF FINAL PAPER DUE

Tuesday, 4/19/2016: Rome and abroad

RR 10.4, 12.1-5

Thursday, 4/21/2016: Jews and Christians

RR 3.6, 4.14-15, 11.8, 11.11-14, 12.6-7

Tuesday, 4/26/2016: Roman Nymphs

Various sources on Roman Nymphs (see Blackboard)

Thursday, 4/28/2016: What was Greco-Roman religion?

RR 13

FINAL PAPER due May 10 by 3 pm.