

## RELIGIONS OF THE CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY (PHIL 375/ RELG 350 - 3 credits)

### TEXTS AND REQUIRED READINGS:

- L. Bruit Zaidman, P. Schmitt-Pantel, *Religion in the ancient Greek city*, Cambridge 1992.
- E. Kearns, *Ancient Greek Religion: a sourcebook*, Oxford 2009.
- M. Beard, J. North, S. Price. *Religions of Rome*, 2 voll.: 1 (History) 2 (Sourcebook), Cambridge 1998.
- E.R. Dodds, *The Greeks and the Irrational*, Berkeley, 1951.
- C. Calame, *Les chœurs des jeunes filles en Grèce archaïque*, Roma 1977.
- M. Detienne, *The Gardens of Adonis*, Princeton 1994.
- M. Detienne, J.-P. Vernant, *The Cuisine of Sacrifice among the Greeks*, 1998.
- W. Burkert, *Greek Religion*, Oxford 2002 (revised edition).
- J. Scheid, *An Introduction to Roman Religion*, Bloomington 2003.
- C. Ando, *Roman Religion*, Edinburgh 2003.
- J. Rüpke, *A Companion to Roman Religion*, Oxford, 2007.
- J.D. Mikalson, *Ancient Greek Religion*, Oxford 2009.
- A. Bernabé, *The gods in later Orphism*, in J. N. Bremmer - A. Erskine (eds.), *The Gods of Ancient Greece. Identities and Transformations*, Edinburgh, Leventis Studies 5, 2010, 422-441.

### GOALS:

This course explores the religions of ancient Greek and Roman society from their earliest beginnings to the end of paganism and the emergence of Christianity.

We will try to ask questions like 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. While the course follows a broadly chronological outline, individual lectures concentrate on specific themes, such as forms and places of worship, philosophy and religion, death and afterlife, magic and the concept of conversion. The course is designed to introduce the tenets, beliefs, and certain spiritual practices of Classical antiquity and to investigate the social, cultural, and political background of which ancient religion was part.

**Students will benefit from attending their study abroad program in Sorrento, in the middle of ancient *Magna Graecia*. On-site lessons in Paestum and Pompeii will be organized throughout the course of the semester.**

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Students will gain an understanding of the following areas:

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

Students will be able:

- to identify and describe the main Greek and Roman deities, their cults and sanctuaries
- to discuss the most relevant aspects of ancient polytheism as manifested in the Greek and Roman antiquity
- to frame ancient religious behaviours and beliefs within the social, cultural and political background of the Graeco-Roman world
- to compare and contrast ancient polytheistic traditions with modern monotheistic religions

## **FORMAT**

Lecture will be integrated with student presentations and discussions of textbook reading and primary literature. Students will be expected to actively participate in class.

## **ASSIGNMENTS (including grading/scoring information):**

- Students will be evaluated on the basis of their performance as follows:

10%	Assignment First Half
20%	Mid-term Exam
10%	Assignment Second Half
25%	Research Paper (+ oral presentation)
10%	Class Attendance and Performance
25%	Final Exam

- Assignments consists of additional readings, answering questions and oral presentations. While the assignments will not be graded, students are expected to have done the work as it will be discussed in class (during the first session of the week).
- The two graded assignments (First and Second Half) are applications of issues to on specific themes, such as forms and places of worship, philosophy and religion, death and afterlife, magic. They count for 10% each towards the final grade.
- The Mid-term Exam and Final Exam consist of essay questions designed to test student ability to clearly and accurately explain the arguments presented in the readings and lectures. They will cover the class material, including the textbook(s) and the primary sources. As part of the exam, students will receive an extract (or extracts) from a primary source which was not discussed in class.
- Research paper (10 pages in length plus bibliography, in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font) will require students to critically analyze one of the topics covered in the course. It will be proposed by students and approved beforehand by the instructor. It is a chance to learn in greater depth about a particular site and the aspects of Greek or Roman religion associated with it. You might consider one particular character or ancient work from among the class's primary source readings and offer your own interpretation through the lens of a particular gender theorist, or create a comparative study between multiple works, or pick your own innovative topic. There are two components to the final research paper: the abstract, and the paper itself.

- (1) Abstracts. Students must submit an abstract of their final paper three weeks before the final draft is due. This abstract should be between 200-300 words long. Abstracts should articulate the problem that students are working on in the paper, their thesis, and introduce the reader to a particular approach to the material. Conclusions needs to included.
- (2) Final draft submission. Papers will be graded based on quality of argumentation, use of appropriate sources (both primary and secondary) to support your arguments, and quality of expression. Factual mistakes, spelling errors, and grammatical errors will result in loss of points. The paper should be well researched regarding the historical and social context of both works, so it MUST contain proper citations.

### Grading scale:

A	95%-100%
A-	90%-94%
B+	87%-89%
B	83%-86%
B-	80%-82%
C+	77%-79%
C	73%-76%
C-	70%-72%
D+	67%-69%
D	63%-66%
D-	60%-62%
F	under 60%

### Policy

#### Academic Honesty:

“Members of the Sant’Anna Institute community are expected to foster and uphold the highest standards of honesty and integrity, which are foundations for the intellectual endeavors we engage in.

To underscore the importance of truth, honesty, and accountability, students and instructors should adhere to the following standard:

#### **I do not lie, cheat, or steal, nor do I condone the actions of those who do**

Academic misconduct occurs when a student engages in an action on that is deceitful, fraudulent, or dishonest regarding any type of academic assignment that is intended to or results in an unfair academic advantage. In this context, the term “assignment” refers to any type of graded or ungraded work that is submitted for evaluation for any course.

Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to cheating, collusion, falsification, misrepresentation, unauthorized collaboration on assignments, copying another student’s work, using or providing unauthorized notes or materials, turning in work not produced by the individual, and plagiarism. Furthermore, providing deceitful, fraudulent, or dishonest information during discussions of an academic manner with faculty are also examples of academic misconduct.” (Jacksonville University Academic Catalog)

Throughout this course we will be reading and reporting about the work of others. All information that is not original to the student must be appropriately attributed in both presentations and written work. All students are expected to do their own work and give appropriate credit for all sources used in the process of preparing

papers, presentations, and homework assignments. Group assignments will be graded based on the product of the work, although some adjustment may be made for participation. [If you have a question about whether or

not collaboration is allowed, or how to cite a reference, please ask. It is always better to check than to be accused of an unintended violation of academic honesty policy. Violations of the academic honesty policy will be dealt with in accordance to university policies [Refer to current Academic Catalog “Academic Integrity and Misconduct”].

**Course Level Penalties:**

At first offense may result in a failing grade for the assignment. Second offenses may result in failure in the course. Significantly egregious violations may result in expulsion from the university. When in doubt give credit for all information that did not come directly out of your head!

**Attendance:** You are allowed two unexcused absences. Documentation for any other absence MUST be produced and APPROVED by the professor or the Academic Director. For absences due to illness, please provide the professor with doctor’s note upon returning to class as well as inform them and /or the school the first day of illness. **Each unexcused absence after the second will reduce your grade by 3 percentage points.**

**SCHEDULE (may be changed as circumstances warrant):**

UNIT	Topic	Reading Assignment
1	Introduction to the course and material; Origins of Greek Religion; The Divine Apparatus; Olympian and Anthropomorphic Gods.	<i>Ancient Greek Religion (AGR)</i> pp. 1-28; 37-49; 71-79.
2	Gods and Mortals in Myth; Private Religion and Rites of Passage.	Schmitt-Pantel, Zaidman pp. 1-24. <i>AGR</i> pp. 49-61; 67-71; 151-161; 264-270.
3	<i>Polis</i> Religion; Sanctuaries and Religious Professionals.	Schmitt-Pantel, Zaidman pp. 25-79. <i>AGR</i> pp. 174-189; 192-212; 244-254.
4	Sacrifice and Prayer; Religious Festivals at Athens; Panhellenic Festivals and Games in <i>Magna Graecia</i> .  Site visit to Paestum	Schmitt-Pantel, Zaidman pp. 80-101. <i>AGR</i> pp. 88-94; 212-244; 255-263; 276-284. Schmitt-Pantel, Zaidman pp. 102-140.
5	Oracles and Dreams; Mystery Religions; Magic and Foreign Cults.	<i>AGR</i> pp. 94-101; 115-141; 161-170; 284-302; 311-328. Bernabé, <i>The gods in later Orphism</i> , pp. 422-441.
6	Religion in the Hellenistic World	
7	<b>ASSIGNMENT FIRST HALF</b> (oral presentation about specific themes)	
<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b>		
8	FALL BREAK	
9	Etruscan and Early Italian Religion Earliest Rome	<i>Religion of Roman 1 (RR1)</i> §§ 1.1-1.6. <i>Religion of Roman 2 (RR2)</i> pp. 1-25.
10	Deities Calendar, Festivals, and Ceremonies	<i>RR1</i> §§ 2.1-2.5. <i>RR2</i> pp. 26-49; 60-71; 116-147.

UNIT	Topic	Reading Assignment
11	Sacred places Sacrifice  Site visit to Pompeii	<i>RR1</i> §§ 3.1-3.6. <i>RR2</i> pp. 78-106; 148-165.
12	Divination Priests and Priestesses	<i>RR1</i> §§ 4.1-5.2. <i>RR2</i> pp.166-215.
13	<b>DEADLINE: research paper due on ..., ...</b> Mortals, Gods, and Deification; Rome and Abroad	<i>RR1</i> §§ 6.1-6.5.
14	Jews and Christians Christian Rome and Early Christianity  <b>ASSIGNMENT SECOND HALF</b> (oral presentation about specific theme)	<i>RR2</i> pp. 49-54; 216-228; 246-259; 288-319. <i>RR1</i> §§ 7.1-7.3. <i>RR2</i> pp. 74-76; 107-115; 273-287. <i>RR1</i> §§ 8.1-8.4. <i>RR2</i> pp. 320-348.
15	What was Greco-Roman Religion? <b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<i>RR</i> pp. 349-364