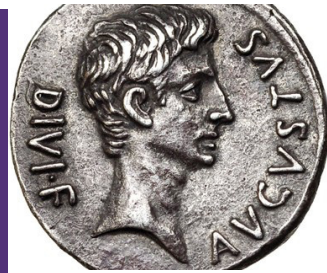




REL 266: RELIGION IN THE  
GRECO-ROMAN WORLD  
CORNELL COLLEGE  
BLOCK 7, SPRING 2019



Professor T. Christopher Hoklotubbe  
Department of Religion, 101 Prall House  
Class Meetings: South Hall 300, M 1-3, T 12:30-3, WRF 12-3 p.m.  
Office Hours: By appointment, TWRF 9-11 or email  
(319) 895-4237, [choklotubbe@cornellcollege.edu](mailto:choklotubbe@cornellcollege.edu)

Arts and Humanities Consulting Librarian:  
Jen Rouse ([jrouse@cornellcollege.edu](mailto:jrouse@cornellcollege.edu)), Cole Library 305

### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES

This course will survey the ancient literature, archaeological remains, and ritual practices prevalent in the ancient Mediterranean world during the Roman Empire. Topics include: the differences between modern and ancient conceptions of “religion,” sacrifice and temple cults, daily religious life, magic and divinization, the intersection of religion with politics and empire building, philosophical interpretations of classical mythology and ethics, mystery cults, and how Judaism and Christianity were significantly shaped during this period.

This course supports the Educational Priorities and Outcomes of Cornell College as follows:

- **Knowledge:** Students will gain an introduction to the religion of the Romans, the religions of the Roman world, and the scholarly debate of these topics
- **Inquiry:** Students will become familiar with the use and interpretation of literary texts, documentary sources (papyri, inscriptions, legal texts), and material culture as sources for the study of Ancient History and Religion
- **Inquiry:** Students will investigate the ways in which the Romans confronted, understood, and incorporated religion and religious practices from outside of Rome (Egyptian Isis, Phrygian Cybele, and Christianity among others)
- **Communication:** Students will enhance their writing abilities and gain an increased familiarity with resources available for the study of the ancient world
- **Ethical Behavior and Well-Being:** The study of religious practices and sacred texts, along with the moral and spiritual challenges and visions therein, is an ethical endeavor that invites existential contemplation, dialogue, and growth

### REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS

- Mary Beard, John North, and Simon Price, *Religions of Rome*. Volume 1: A History (Cambridge,



1998)

- V. Warrior, *Roman Religion: A Sourcebook* (Focus, 2002)
- Cicero (trans. Walsh), *On the Nature of the Gods* (Oxford, 2008)
- Ovid (trans. Boyle and Woodward), *Fasti* (Penguin, 2000)

**Other texts available on Moodle or on reserve as indicated in the syllabus.**

### ASSIGNMENTS, PARTICIPATION, AND GRADING

- CICERO ESSAY
- MIDTERM
- REVIEW ARTICLE/BOOK REVIEW
- FINAL EXAM
- ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

There will be one short ESSAY (4 pages) on Cicero's *On the Nature of the Gods* required for this course. This short paper is your opportunity to weigh in on some long-standing debates in the study of Roman religion. The length of the papers requires the choice of a concise and narrow thesis as well as some refining, but will still allow for a detailed and close reading of a text or texts in support of your thesis statement. All papers should be typed, double-spaced, Times or Times New Roman, 12-point font, with proper citation of any sources used.

#### **Essay Topic:**

Essay on Cicero, *On the Nature of the Gods* – After reading through the three-day debate between leading Roman politicians, priests, and philosophers that Cicero records, which side would you have declared the winner? In thinking about your position and your eventual thesis, you may want to think about some of the following questions: Who presented the clearest arguments (or which school of thought do you feel presents the most difficulty)? Do you think any of these schools approach the feelings Romans held about their religion? Do you agree with Cicero in his parting shot at the end of the debate? **Due Monday, April 1, by noon.**

The SHORT REVIEW ARTICLE/BOOK REVIEW is meant to provide students with an opportunity to dig deeper into a topic pertinent to the study of Roman religion. Students will write a 4-5 page paper on a topic of their choice, in consultation with the Professor, that will demonstrate their mastery over at least one academic book or three peer-reviewed journal articles on a given topic. **Due Monday, April 8, before midnight.**

There will be a two-hour MIDTERM and FINAL EXAM. The exams will consist of two sections. Part one of the exams will be short answer identifications of key people, places, gods, goddesses, etc. The second part of the exam will consist of essay questions. Exam IDs and short answer questions will be distributed before the exams.

Class ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION are mandatory and expected for this course, as is the originality of your work. *Students who consistently do not participate or are demonstrably ill-prepared for class in class will be deducted points.* The degree of preparation will largely determine your ability to intelligently participate in our discussions, and to be an asset to your classmates in group work. Come with questions and come prepared to share your observations of the texts. No participation points will be awarded



for this course, however, your overall grade can be *lowered* due to lack of attendance or lack of participation up to 10%.

Three absences without *verifiable* medical cause/family emergency or plagiarism will be cause for failing grades. Late papers will be subject to a minimum of a 10% deduction.

Grading:

Cicero Essay	25%
Midterm	25%
Research Paper	25%
Final Exam	25%

A:	94%–100%	B:	84–86%	C:	73%–76%
A-:	90%–93%	B-:	80%–83%	C-:	70%–72%
B+:	87%–89%	C+:	77%–79%	Fail:	< 70%

All readings are listed below, due on the day that they appear, and may be downloaded from Moodle. *The present schedule and/or readings are liable to be amended as is necessary.*

**Students are expected to complete a significant amount of work outside of the course which supplements scheduled hours within the classroom, and exceeds the government’s regulations on course credit equivalency (2–3 hours out-of-class work for every 1 hour of classroom work, thus *at least 6 hours of out-of-class work for every day of class*). Plan on dedicating 8 hours of each day to coursework that also includes working on weekends.**

I will hold regular office hours, but please feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions or concerns about the course.

### Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Cornell College expects all members of the Cornell community to act with academic integrity. An important aspect of academic integrity is respecting the work of others. A student is expected to explicitly acknowledge ideas, claims, observations, or data of others, unless generally known. When a piece of work is submitted for credit, a student is asserting that the submission is her or his work unless there is a citation of a specific source. If there is no appropriate acknowledgement of sources, whether intended or not, this may constitute a violation of the College’s requirement for honesty in academic work and may be treated as a case of academic dishonesty. The procedures regarding how the College deals with cases of academic dishonesty appear in The Catalogue, under the heading “Academic Honesty.”

### Accommodations

Cornell College makes reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Students should notify the Coordinator of Academic Support and Advising and their course instructor of any disability related accommodations within the first three days of the term for which the accommodations are required, due to the fast pace of the block format. For more information on



the documentation required to establish the need for accommodations and the process of requesting the accommodations, see

<http://www.cornellcollege.edu/academic-support-and-advising/disabilities/index.shtml>.

<b>Week One</b>		
Monday, March 18	1-3	<b>Historical Introduction and Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warrior, <i>Sourcebook</i>, "Introduction," 1-13</li> <li>Beard, North, and Price, <i>Religions of Rome</i>, 1-18</li> </ul>
Tuesday, March 19	12:45-3	<b>Religion in Ancient Rome: Priesthoods, Rituals, and Gods</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beard, North, and Price, <i>Religions of Rome</i>, 18-54</li> <li>Warrior, <i>Sourcebook</i>, "Early Roman Religion and the Importance of Divination," "Ritual (<i>Sacra</i>)," "Priests and Religious Authority," 13-24, 37-57</li> </ul>
Wednesday, March 20	12-3	<b>Religion in Transition from Monarchy to Republic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beard, North, and Price, <i>Religions of Rome</i>, 54-98</li> <li>Warrior, <i>Sourcebook</i>, "Religion and War," "Accepting New Gods," 71-97</li> </ul>
Thursday, March 21	12-3	<b>Religion in the Late Republic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beard, North, and Price, <i>Religions of Rome</i>, 114-56</li> <li>Warrior, <i>Sourcebook</i>, "Becoming a God," "Magic, the Occult and Astrology," 127-33, 139-50</li> </ul>
Friday, March 22	12-3	<b>Calendar and Religious Space</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warrior, "Religious Celebrations and the Calendar," 59-70</li> <li>Beard, North, and Price, <i>Religions of Rome</i>, "The <i>pomerium</i>," 177-81.</li> <li>Beard, et. al., (Vol. 2): 78-102 (Moodle)</li> <li>[In-Class] Ovid, <i>Fasti</i>, Books 1 &amp; 2 (January February)</li> </ul>
<b>Week Two</b>		
Monday, March 25	1-3	<b>Festivals and Ceremonies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warrior, <i>Sourcebook</i>, Chapter 10, "Games (<i>ludi</i>), Religion and Politics," p. 115-126</li> <li>Ramsay MacMullen, <i>Paganism in the Roman Empire</i>, "Attracting the Crowds," 18-34</li> <li>Beard, North, and Price, <i>Religions of Rome</i>, "The Parilia," 174-76, 269-63</li> <li>Plutarch, <i>Life of Aemilius Paullus</i>, 32-34 (on Paullus' triumph)</li> <li>Ovid, <i>Fasti</i>, Book 3-4 (March and April)</li> </ul>



Tuesday, March 26	12:45-3	<b>Religion at Home and in the Marketplace</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warrior, <i>Sourcebook</i>, Chapter 3, “The Religion of the Family,” 25-35</li> <li>Ascough, et. al., <i>Associations in the Greco-Roman World</i>, 194-98</li> <li>Polybius, Elite Funeral (Moodle)</li> </ul>
Wednesday, March 27	12-3	<b>MIDTERM</b>
Thursday, March 28	12-3	<b>Thinking about Religion and the Gods – I (Epicureans vs Stoics)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cicero, <i>On the Nature of the Gods</i>, Books 1 &amp; 2 (read pp. 3-61, 68-73, 91-96, 104-7 (<i>quickly!</i> skim the rest; review outline on p. xlvii) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Recommended:</i> Cicero, “Introduction,” esp. xii-xvii, xxx-xxxiii</li> </ul> </li> <li><i>Recommended:</i> Warrior, “Skepticism of Traditional Religion: Epicureanism and Stoicism,” 151-61</li> </ul>
Friday, March 29	12-3	<b>Thinking about Religion and the Gods – II (Platonic Academy)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cicero, <i>On the Nature of the Gods</i>, Book 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Recommended:</i> Cicero, “Introduction,” esp. xii-xvii, xxxv-xxxvii</li> </ul> </li> <li>Scheid, “Interpretations of Roman Religion,” 173-92</li> </ul>
<b>Week Three</b>		
Monday, April 1 <b>Cicero Essay Due</b>	1-3	<b>The Augustan “Restoration” of Roman Religion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul Zanker, <i>The Power of Images</i>, “The Augustan Program of Cultural Renewal,” 101-166.</li> <li>Beard, North, and Price, <i>Religions of Rome</i>, “The Saecular Games,” 201-6; also 256-57 (On Pantheon; Venus and Roma).</li> <li><i>Res Gestae Divi Augusti</i> (Moodle)</li> <li>Horace, <i>Odes</i> 3.1 -3.6 (The Roman Odes) (Moodle)</li> <li>Vergil, <i>Eclogue</i> 4 (Moodle)</li> <li><i>Recommended:</i> Beard, North, Price, <i>Religions of Rome</i>, 181-201</li> </ul>
Tuesday, April 2	12-3	<b>Imperial Cults across the Roman Empire</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S. R. F. Price, <i>Rituals and Power: The Roman Imperial Cult in Asia Minor</i>, “Festivals and Cities,” 101-32 (Moodle)</li> <li>Beard, North, Price, <i>Religions of Rome</i>, 206-10</li> <li>Warrior, <i>Sourcebook</i>, Chapter 11, “Becoming a God,” p. 133-38</li> <li>[Skim and view pictures at the end] R. R. R. Smith, “The Imperial Reliefs from the Sebasteion at Aphrodisias,” 88-138 (Moodle)</li> <li><i>Recommended:</i> Philip Harland, “Honours and worship: Emperors, imperial cults, and associations at Ephesus (first to third centuries C.E.), 319-34 (Moodle)</li> </ul>



Wednesday, April 3	12-3	<b><i>Religio</i> vs. <i>Superstitio</i>: Regulating Foreign Cults</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beard, North, Price, <i>Religions of Rome</i>, 156-66, (Magna Mater) 197-98, 211-44, 249-60</li> <li>• Warrior, <i>Sourcebook</i>, “Control of Non-Roman Cults,” 99-114</li> <li>• Marvin Meyer, <i>Greek Magical Papyri</i> (moodle)</li> </ul>
Thursday, April 4	12-3	<b>Religions of Imperial Rome: Isis, Mithras, Jews, Christians</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beard, North, Price, <i>Religions of Rome</i>, 250 (on Isis), 264-313</li> </ul>
Friday, April 5	12-3	<b>Jewish and Christian Responses to the Roman Empire</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warrior, <i>Sourcebook</i>, “The Jews in the Roman World,” “Christianity,” 163-186</li> <li>• Judith Perkins, <i>The Suffering Self</i>, “Death as a Happy Ending,” 15–40</li> <li>• Daniel Boyarin, <i>Dying for God</i>, “Quo Vadis? Or, The Acts of the Tricksters,” 42-66.</li> <li>• Revelation 17-18</li> <li>• Romans 13; 1 Timothy 2</li> </ul>
<b>Week Four</b>		
Monday, April 8	1-3	<b>WRITING DAY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent Research Paper and Revised Essays due by 11:59 p.m.</li> </ul>
Tuesday, April 9		<b>Roman Religion in the Christian Empire</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North, Beard, Price, <i>Religions of Rome</i>, 364-88</li> <li>• Review for Final Exam</li> </ul>
Wednesday, April 10	9-11	<b>Final Exam</b>