

# Religion in the Greek World

## Course Goals

This course is designed for students with some knowledge of the Greco-Roman civilizations, but with little or no previous study of Greek religion or other religions in the ancient Mediterranean world. We will examine a great span of Greek history, from the Mycenaean period to the fourth century CE (and even a brief glimpse at the Byzantine period). The point of this course is not simply to memorize lists of gods and temples; rather, we will pay close attention to methodological problems in the study of ancient religions and cultures. We will consider a variety of primary sources (in translation) that contribute to our understanding of religion in the Greek world, while discussing the many issues that scholars face in reconstructing models of ancient religions.

## Grading

<b>Class participation</b>	10%
<b>Midterm exam</b>	15%
<b>Research paper</b> (outline 5%, final paper 40%)	45%
<b>Final exam</b> (date TBA)	<u>30%</u>
<b>Total</b>	100%

## Assignments

**Attendance, participation, and assigned readings:** It is very important that you attend lectures for this class, since new material will be discussed each session, and there will be class discussion of primary sources each week. Thus, the material that you will be tested on will come from lectures as well as the course readings, and you will want to be sure to take thorough notes. Slides will be posted on Blackboard prior to class. Readings should be completed prior to each class session, and will be discussed

**Midterm and final examinations:** The midterm will not be held in class, but will be a take-home exam; the question will be released via Blackboard on Tuesday, February 9, at 10 am, and will be due on Blackboard and Turnitin.com on Thursday, February 11, at 10 am. The final exam will be held during the exam period, April 11–25, at a date to be announced. The final will be cumulative and may include text and image identifications, as well as shorter or longer essay responses.

**Essay:** Your research essay assignment is composed of two portions: an initial proposal, worth 5% of your final grade, due March 1 at 11:59 pm, and the final essay, worth 40% of your final grade, due March 24 at 11:59 pm. You may choose to write on a feasible subject of your choice related to religion in the Greek world, including texts or materials not studied in this class. *You will need to hand in the proposal in order to receive any mark for your essay.* Both the proposal and the final essay will be submitted electronically via Blackboard and Turnitin.com. Further information about the essay (including a rubric) will be discussed in class and posted on Blackboard later in the term.

**Optional ROM Field Trip:** On Tuesday, February 23, from 1:30–2:30 pm, I will lead a tour of the Greek and Byzantine collections at the Royal Ontario Museum. (I will then be in the office afterward from 3–4 pm.) Up to ten students can sign up per tour; if need be, a second tour will be offered the following

week. Admission is free to all students on Tuesdays, so be sure to bring your student ID card. This trip is completely optional; no extra credit is given. One option for your essay is to select an item (or several items) at the ROM, photograph it, investigate its background and historical context, and discuss its relevance for gaining information about religion in the Greek world. You can visit the museum on your own time to do this if you cannot come for the class trip. In either case, you will need to discuss your idea with me ahead of time so that we can ensure that it will make a feasible project.

**University of Toronto Art Centre visit:** For a class in February we will visit UTAC for a hands-on study of select items from their collection pertaining to Greek religion and culture. More information will be provided in the next few weeks.

**Missed/late assignments and tests:** The midterm may be excused (but not held at later date) only in cases of medical or personal emergencies, or for religious obligations. The essay proposal and the essay itself, if turned in late, will only be accepted and marked if they are excused under these same circumstances. Unexcused late assignments cannot be accepted. You should contact the instructor to make the request as soon as possible, and no later than one week after the date of the test/due date of the assignment. In all cases, proper documentation (e.g. UT medical certificate) needs to be provided within one week in order for the instructor to excuse absences/lateness. The weight of the missed test or assignment will be added to the weight of another item, as arranged by the instructor. For excused late assignments, the instructor will set a new deadline for your needs. All correspondence should be via email; documentation can be submitted electronically or as a hardcopy.

### **Textbooks and Resources**

**Textbooks:** These textbooks are required, and may be purchased at the UT Bookstore. You are also very welcome to purchase used copies.

Price, Simon. (1999) *Religions of the Ancient Greeks*. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-0-521-38867-2.

Warrior, Valerie. (2009) *Greek Religion: A Sourcebook*. Focus Publishing. ISBN: 978-1-58510-031-6.

**Websites:** The text/object analysis outline and paper are to be turned in to the Blackboard course site, as well as to Turnitin.com.

### **Important Information**

**Course email:** You must use your university email address for correspondence in this course; the instructor is unable to respond to emails sent from other addresses. (Please be aware that if your U of T email is forwarded to another account, some messages from the instructor may be filtered out as spam or junk.) Please be sure to include your full name and the course title in your email message. The instructor will aim to reply to emails within forty-eight hours on weekdays, but this may not always be possible.

**Meetings:** Everyone is welcome to meet with the instructor during office hours or contact her through email to discuss any questions or concerns. If you are encountering difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact the instructor for assistance. The instructor is unable to give private tutorials to individuals.

**Accessibility Services:** Information on accommodations for disabilities or accessibility concerns is available from Accessibility Services at <accessibility.utoronto.ca>.

### Course Schedule

Class	Date	Lecture topic	Assigned reading/ object for study (to be completed before class)
<b>Key: P = Price (with A = appendix), W = Warrior (with F = figure)</b>			
<b>Week 1</b>			
	1/12	Introduction; methods; questions	
	1/14	Mycenaeans; myth; Homer, and Hesiod	P: 1–25 W: 1.2, 1.5–10, 1.16, 1.23–25, 2.1–27, 3.31–32, 5.4–5, 9.1–17, 13.36; F1.2–3, F2.1–3
<b>Week 2</b>			
	1/19	Festivals and calendars	P: 25–46, A1–2 W: 7.1–30, F7.1–5
	1/21	Sacrifices and prayers: communicating with the gods	P: A3, A7 W: 4.7–18, 4.29, 5.25, 7.6; F1.1, F4.1
<b>Week 3</b>			
	1/26	Hymns, dances, processions	W: 4.32, 7.3, 7.26, 10.29, 14.3, 14.32 Select hymns
	1/28	Sanctuaries, temples, altars Votive offerings	P: 47–66, A4, A8–10 W: 6.1–28; F1.2, F6.1–3
<b>Week 4</b>			
	2/2	No class	
	2/4	Priesthoods and oracles	P: 67–88, A4–5, A11–12 W: 1.13–15, 1.17, 4.7, 5.1–46, 10.7, 12.30–31; F5.2–3
<b>Week 5</b>			
	2/9	Religious practices at home: birth, childhood, marriage	P: 89–101, A13 W: 3.1–30 <b>Take-home midterm made available 10 am.</b>
	2/11	Death, burial, lament	P: A14 W: 3.31–46, 10.23, 13.37; F3.2 <b>Take-home midterm due at 10 am.</b>
<b>Family Day, 2/15, and Reading Week, 2/16–2/19</b>			
<b>Week 6</b>			
	2/23	Elective cults; Eleusinian mysteries	P: 102–125, A6, A15 W: 11.1–32 Homeric Hymn to Demeter <b>Optional ROM field trip, 1:30–2:30 pm.</b>
	2/25	<b>Visit to UTAC</b>	
<b>Week 7</b>			
	3/1	Philosophy and religion	P: 126–142 W: 1.1, 1.3–4, 12.1–27, 12.32–39, 12.46–56, 14.35 <b>Outline due at 11:59 pm.</b>

	3/3	Magic	P: 101–102 W 13.1–37
<b>Week 8</b>			
	3/8	Personal religion: practice, belief, emotion	W: 10.11, 13.25, 14.22 Theophrastus, <i>Characters</i> (selections)
	3/10	Divinity and humanity	W: 1.1, 1.12, 2.13–14, 2.16, 10.8, 10.20, 10.27, 10.28, 11.16, 14.7–11, 14.28–34; F1.4
<b>Week 9</b>			
	3/15	Athens, the Parthenon, and the Panathenaia	W: 7.27–30
	3/17	Theatre and religion	W: 3.39–40, 5.6–7, 6.10, 7.9, 8.25–27, 9.18–27, 10.1–32; F6.1, F8.1 Euripides, <i>Ion</i> and <i>Bacchae</i> (selections)
<b>Week 10</b>			
	3/22	Games and competitions	W: 7.27, 8.1–27; F7.3 Pindar (selections)
	3/24	Women, slaves, and foreigners	W: 2.13–14, 3.9, 3.13–14, 3.18–19, 3.25–28, 3.38–39, 5.19–20, 5.21–26, 6.17–18, 6.27, 7.1, 8.18–24, 13.26; F3.1, F5.2 <b>Research essay due at 11:59 pm.</b>
<b>Week 11</b>			
	3/29	Adopting new cults	W: 14.1–35 Isis aretology; Lucian, <i>On the Syrian Goddess</i> (selections)
	3/31	Greek religion in the Roman world	P: 143–158 Plutarch, <i>On the Obsolescence of Oracles</i> (selections)
<b>Week 12</b>			
	4/5	Judaism and Christianity	P: 158–171 Zosimos, <i>New History</i> (selections)
	4/7	Reception of Greek religion	Romanos, <i>Kontakia</i> (selections) Kassiani (selections)
		<b>Exam Period (date of final exam TBA)</b>	