

CLA310 H1F

Religion in the Roman World

I. What is this course about?

This course is designed for students with some knowledge of the Greco-Roman civilizations, but with little or no previous study of Roman religion or other religions in the ancient Mediterranean world. We will examine over one thousand years of Roman history, from the city's prehistoric foundations to the Empire of the fourth century AD. 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 the Roman world, while discussing the many issues that scholars face in reconstructing models of ancient religions.

II. Course objectives – what will you learn?

At the end of this course, you will be able:

- to describe and discuss the most important religious traditions, practices, beliefs, and attitudes in the Roman world from the eight century BC to the fourth century AD
- to identify and interpret ancient primary sources in a variety of media (inscriptions, literature, coins, calendars, art, architecture, etc.) at an intermediate level, applying them critically to the study of ancient religions
- to describe, at an elementary level, the history of scholarship on Roman religion
- to formulate and respond to questions of particular interest in the fields of religious studies and history
- to apply basic methods of religious studies and historiography to the study of ancient material

III. Grading

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| Attendance | 5% |
| Participation | 10% |
| Midterm test | 20% |
| Research essay (proposal 5%, final essay 30%) | 35% |
| Final exam (date TBA) | <u>30%</u> |
| Total | 100% |

IV. Assignments and evaluation

Attendance: Attendance will be taken in every class. Please be sure to alert the instructor as soon as possible if you need be excused for a past or future absence due to a medical or family emergency or religious observance. You are required to declare your absence on ROSI to receive accommodation for work that you miss or turn in late, and you should also provide the instructor with additional documentation for your case within one week of the absence, if necessary. You are responsible for catching up on material missed during your absence, and will need to ask fellow students to share lecture notes with you.

Class participation: During discussion times, you are encouraged and expected to participate actively in the classroom. Participation marks will be based on: attendance, timeliness, preparation (bringing textbooks to class, assignments completed, etc.), readiness to respond when called upon, and participation in class discussions.

Weekly readings: Your weekly readings should be completed before the class period in which they are discussed. Allot two hours of reading and revision for every one hour of class time.

Midterm Test: There will be one in-class midterm test on October 10 covering all material in the lectures and assigned readings up until that date. The midterm is worth 20% of your final grade for the class. One week prior to the test, you will be given a practice test to assist you in studying and preparing for the graded exam. Your midterm will be marked and returned to you by October 31, in advance of November 4, the last day to drop Fall courses without academic penalty.

Research essay: Your research essay assignment is composed of two portions: an initial proposal, worth 5% of your final grade, and the final essay, worth 30% of your final grade. Both the proposal and the final essay will be submitted electronically via email, but you will also bring a hardcopy of the essay to class. Further information about the essay will be discussed in class and posted on Blackboard later in the term.

Final examination: The final exam will held between December 10 and 21 at a date to be announced. The three-hour exam will be cumulative, covering all material in the lectures and assigned readings throughout the course. During the last week of classes, you will be given a practice test to assist you in studying and preparing for the graded exam. The final is worth 30% of your final grade for the class.

Academic Integrity: Trust, respect, and honesty are vital to scholarship, as they are to all relationships and forms of communication. All students are expected to abide by the university's policies for academic integrity. For further details and information on these policies, visit <<http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students/>>.

V. Policies for absences and late work

Late assignments: The research paper proposal and research essay may be turned in late via email *and* as a hardcopy with the deduction of one full letter grade for every twenty-four hour period past the initial deadline, unless documentation is provided within one week to excuse the late assignment.

Missed assignments and tests: Assignments may be handed in late only in cases of medical or personal emergencies, or for religious obligations. In all cases, proper documentation needs to be provided within one week in order for the instructor to excuse the absence. If you miss a test for an excused absence, you will be able to take a make-up written or oral exam, or the weight of the missed test will be transferred to another assignment, depending on your circumstances.

VI. Textbooks

Required Texts

Religions of Rome: Volume 1: A History, by Mary Beard, John North, and Simon Price.

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998. ISBN: 9780521316828 (= **BNP 1** on course schedule)

Religions of Rome: Volume 2: A Sourcebook, by Mary Beard, John North, and Simon Price.

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998. ISBN: 0521456460 (= **BNP 2** on course schedule)

Everyone is expected to purchase personal copies of the required textbooks at the University of Toronto Bookstore.

VII. Important information

Lectures: Much of the material presented in lectures will *not* be found in your textbooks, so please make every effort to attend each class. The instructor will post the slides used in lectures before class each week so that you can print them out and use them for taking notes. If you miss a lecture, be sure to ask to look at someone else's notes, since the slides alone will not be able to convey all the information presented by the instructor.

Course website: The course website is found on Blackboard, which may be accessed via the U of T Portal login page (portal.utoronto.ca). (If you have not used your UTORid before, see utorid.utoronto.ca for information on activation and setting your password.) Login with your UTORid and password and look for this course under the My Courses box on the right. Please check the website on a regular basis for important announcements and supplementary materials.

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 very 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.

In the classroom: You are expected to participate in maintaining a respectful, supportive classroom atmosphere. Any cell phones and other noise-making electronic devices must be turned off during class. Texting and web surfing distract other students and will result in a reduction of your participation mark.

Writing Centres: Undergraduate students are able to use the resources of the many writing centres located at individual colleges and all three campuses for help with reading and study skills, time management, essay writing and editing, etc. For more information, or to book an appointment online, visit < <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres>>.

Accessibility Services: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me or contact Accessibility Services by email at <accessibility.services@utoronto.ca>, by phone at (416) 978-8060, or visit their website at <accessibility.utoronto.ca>.

Important dates:

Fall term: September 10–December 4

Fall breaks: October 8 (Thanksgiving); November 12–13 (Reading Break)

Last day to drop Fall courses without academic penalty: November 4

Exam period: December 10–21

Final exam: TBA

VIII. Schedule

| Week | Wednesday | Topics | Reading Assignment (to be completed <i>before</i> class) | Items Due/Notes |
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| 1 | Sept. 12 | Religion in the Roman world | | |
| 2 | Sept. 19 | Continuity and innovation in Roman religion | BNP 1: 1–18, 30–41, 54–61, 73–98, 108–113, 114–125 BNP 2: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.7, 1.9 | |
| 3 | Sept. 26 | Performing religion at Rome | BNP 1: 42–54, 201–210 BNP 2: 1.4, 2.6a, 5.2a, 5.3, 5.7b, 6.1, 6.2 | |
| 4 | Oct. 3 | Religious spaces and objects | BNP 1: 177–181, 184–186, 196–201 BNP 2: 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.7, 4.8, 4.11 | |
| <i>Oct. 8: Thanksgiving</i> | | | | |
| 5 | Oct. 10 | Midterm Exam Individuals and religion, part 1 | | |
| 6 | Oct. 17 | Individuals and religion, part 2 Roman religion in the public sphere | BNP 1: 18–30, 99–108, 124–140, 245–260, 186–196 BNP 2: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3b, 4.12, 4.13, 6.3, 7.1a, 7.3a, 7.4b, 7.4c, 8.2a, 8.2b, 9.3a, 9.5d | Tuesday, October 16: Optional field trip to the ROM |
| 7 | Oct. 24 | Gods and humans in Roman religion | BNP 1: 140–149, 348–363 BNP 2: 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.7, 2.8, | |

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| | | | 5.8, 9.2, 9.1a, 9.1b, 9.1c | |
| 8 | Oct. 31 | Religion among “others” | BNP 1: 278–312 BNP 2: 4.6, 6.6, 6.7, 8.7, 11.5, 11.12, 12.1, 12.4, 12.5, 13.4 | Research paper proposals due |
| <i>Nov. 4: Last day to drop an F course from academic record and GPA</i> | | | | |
| 9 | Nov. 7 | Religion in the Roman provinces | BNP 1: 156–166, 313–348 BNP 2: 4.6, 6.6, 6.7, 8.7, 11.5, 11.12, 12.1, 12.4, 12.5, 13.4 | |
| <i>Nov. 12–13: Reading Break</i> | | | | |
| 10 | Nov. 14 | Judaism in the Roman world | BNP 1: BNP 2: 4.14, 7.5b, 10.6b, 11.8, 12.6 Other readings TBA | |
| 11 | Nov. 21 | Christianity in the Roman world | BNP 1: 228–244, 364–388 BNP 2: 2.10, 3.6, 4.15, 6.8, 7.9b, 9.4a, 9.6d, 11.11, 11.13, 12.7 Other readings TBA | Research essays due |
| 12 | Nov. 28 | Religion through literature and philosophy; review | BNP 2: 11.4, 13.2, 13.3, 13.5, 13.8, 13.9 Other readings TBA | |
| <i>Dec. 10–21: Exam Period, Date of Final Exam TBA</i> | | | | |