

Academic Year/course: 2021/22

## 61259 - Religions in the Ancient World

### Syllabus Information

**Academic Year:** 2021/22

**Subject:** 61259 - Religions in the Ancient World

**Faculty / School:** 103 - Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

**Degree:** 553 - Master's in the Ancient World and Archaeological Heritage

**ECTS:** 4.0

**Year:** 1

**Semester:** Second semester

**Subject Type:** Optional

**Module:**

### 1. General information

### 2. Learning goals

### 3. Assessment (1st and 2nd call)

### 4. Methodology, learning tasks, syllabus and resources

#### 4.1. Methodological overview

- The methodology followed in this course is oriented towards the achievement of the learning objectives.
- Students are expected to participate actively in the class throughout the semester.
- Further information regarding the course will be provided on the first day of class.
- The approach, methodology and evaluation of this guide are prepared to be the same in any teaching setting. They will conform to socio-sanitary conditions of each moment, as well as the indications given by the competent authorities.

#### 4.2. Learning tasks

- Theoretical lectures.
- Practical lectures.
- Individual work.
- Personal study.
- Assessment activities.

#### 4.3. Syllabus

A critical approach to the role played by religion (as a social construction or cultural product) in the expression of identity and

its transformations in ancient societies is proposed. The relationship with ethnicity is raised, as well as the essential importance of religion in defining alterity (barbarism, magic, heresy), with a vision of the various systems, from the imperial religions of Egypt or Mesopotamia, to the national religions of a civic nature, the cosmopolitanism of the Hellenistic-Roman world and Christian universalism.

## **PROGRAM**

### **THEORETICAL TEACHING (15 hours).**

1. Identity, ethnicity, culture and religion. Methodological considerations.
2. The sovereign as a symbolic exponent of social identity: Egypt and Mesopotamia.
3. Ancient Israel: the exclusive identity within the framework of a national system.
4. Mazdeism as an expression of Iranian identity.
5. Locative religion and civic identity in the Greek polis and the Roman public res.
6. Hellenistic-Roman religious pluralism: commitment and problems within the framework of multiple identities. Local systems and imperial globality.
7. Image and reality of human sacrifice as an example of religious alterity.
8. Magic and rituals of power.
9. The creation of Christian identity: universalist exclusivism and demonization of the ancient cults.

### **ASSISTANCE PRACTICES (15 hours).**

1. Iconography of royalty in the P.O.A.: Egypt, Mesopotamia.
2. Persepolis and Nasq-i-Rustam.
3. The cult of heroes: identity and difference. Zeus's altar in Pergamum.
4. Ara Pacis and Forum Augustum.
5. Texts and images of religious cosmopolitanism in the Roman Empire.
6. Variants of human sacrifice.
7. Magical papyri, notches and tabellae defixionum.
8. Discursive examples of religious identity in the debate between "pagans" and Christians.
9. Exhibition of monographic topics in class by the students.

### **NON-ASSISTANCE PRACTICES (30 hours).**

Readings and consultation of scientific documentation for the preparation of works exposed in class.

## **4.4. Course planning and calendar**

Further information concerning the timetable, classroom, office hours, assessment dates and other details regarding this course will be provided on the first day of class or please refer to the Facultad de Filosofía y Letras.

See the academic calendar of the University of Zaragoza (<http://academico.unizar.es/calendario-academico/calendario>) and the website of the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts (*Schedule of classes*: <https://fyl.unizar.es/horario-de-clases#overlay-context=horario-de-clases>; Examination schedule: <https://fyl.unizar.es/calendario-de-examenes#overlay-context=>)

More information will be provided on the first day of class.

## **4.5. Bibliography and recommended resources**

- Alvar, Jaime. Los misterios : Religiones ?orientales? en el imperio romano / Jaime Alvar Barcelona : Crítica, D.L. 2001.
- Cristianismo primitivo y religiones místicas / Jaime Alvar ... [et al.] Madrid : Cátedra, D.L. 1995.
- Assmann, Jan. Historia y mito en el mundo antiguo : los orígenes culturales de Egipto, Israel y Grecia / Jan Assmann; traducción de Ambrosio Berasain Villanueva Madrid : Gredos, D.L.2011.
- Blázquez, José María. Historia de las religiones antiguas : Oriente, Grecia y Roma / José María Blázquez, Jorge Martínez-Pinna, Santiago Montero . - [1ª ed.] Madrid : Cátedra, D. L. 1993.
- A handbook of ancient religions / edited by John R. Hinnells Cambridge [etc.] : Cambridge University Press, cop. 2007.
- Religions of the Ancient World. A Guide / Edited by Sarah Iles Johnston Londres: Harvard University Press, 2004.
- The religious history of the Roman Empire : pagans, Jews, and Christians / edited by J. A. North, S. R. F. Price Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Historia de las religiones / bajo la dirección de Henri- Charles Puech. Vol. 1, Las religiones antiguas. I / Angelo Brelich... [et al.]; traductores, Isabel Martínez Martínez , José Luis Ortega Matas . - 7a. ed. Madrid [etc.] : Siglo XXI, 1989.
- Historia de las religiones / bajo la dirección de Henri- Charles Puech. Vol. 2, Las religiones antiguas. II / André Caquot... [et al.]; traductores, José Luis Ballbé, Alberto Cardín Garay . - 3a. ed. Madrid [etc.] : Siglo XXI, 1980.
- Historia de las religiones / bajo la dirección de Henri- Charles Puech. Vol. 3, Las religiones antiguas. III / Raymond Bloch ... [et al.]; traductor, Alberto Cardín Garay . - 1a. ed Madrid [etc.] : Siglo XXI, 1977.
- Rüpke, Jörg. De Júpiter a Cristo : cambios religiosos en el Imperio Romano / Jörg Rüpke ; prólogo Cecilia Ames Villa María (Córdoba) : EDUVIM, 2014.
- Scarpì, Paolo. ?Las religiones del mundo antiguo: los politeísmos?. En: Historia de las religiones / Giovanni Filoramo ... [et al.] ; traducción castellana de María Pons . 2ª ed. Barcelona : Crítica, D. L. 2007, pp. 13-128.