

61259 - Religions in the Ancient World

Syllabus Information

Academic Year: 2019/20

Subject: 61259 - Religions in the Ancient World

Faculty / School: 103 -

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

1.1.Aims of the course

1.2.Context and importance of this course in the degree

1.3.Recommendations to take this course

2.Learning goals

2.1.Competences

2.2.Learning goals

2.3.Importance of learning goals

3.Assessment (1st and 2nd call)

3.1.Assessment tasks (description of tasks, marking system and assessment criteria)

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.

4.2.Learning tasks

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

4.3.Syllabus

The course will address the following topics:

Lectures (15h.).

1. Identity, ethnicity, culture and religion. Methodological considerations.
2. Kingship as a symbolic expresión of social identity: Egypt and Mesopotamia.
3. Ancient Israel: An exclusive identity within a national religious system.
4. Mazdayasna as an expresión of Iranian identity.
5. Locative religion and civic identity in the Greek *polis* and in the Roman *republica*.
6. Hellenistic-Roman religious pluralism: Compromise and problems in the context of multiple identities. Local systems and imperial globalization.
7. Image and reality of magic as religious alterity.
8. The construction of Christian identity: universal exclusivism and demonization of the ancient cults.

Practice sessions (15h.).

1. Iconography of kingship in the Ancient Near East: Egypt and Mesopotamia.
2. Persepolis and Nasq-i-Rustam.
3. Heroes' cult: Identity and difference. The Altar of Zeus in Pergamum.
4. *Ara Pacis* and *Forum Augustum*.
5. Texts and images of religious cosmopolitanism in the Roman Empire.
6. Magical papyri, gems and *tabellae defixionum*.
7. Libanius of Antiochia and John Chrisostome: two discourses on religious identity in the debate between ?Pagans? and Christians.
8. Examples of symbolic appropriation in the transit from traditional religious systems to Christianity: from Aphrodisias to Sagalassos.
9. Presentations of monographic topics by the students.

Autonomous work (30h.).

Readings and scientific work of students to write their essays on the selected topics.

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 Cardin 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.
- Scarpi, 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.