

CS 3210F

Ancient Greek Religion



Syllabus

Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. Gino Canlas
Department of Classical Studies
University of Western Ontario
Office Hours: TTh 2 pm or by appointment

MWF 2:30-3:30 pm

Instructor

My name is Dr. Gino Canlas and I am a new professor at Western. Please call me Gino. I have been a field archaeologist in Greece since 2009. I specialize in the archaeology of Greek sanctuaries from the Archaic to the Hellenistic periods. I work predominantly in the region of Thessaly where I will be starting a new archaeological field school for Western. Please feel free to email me or come to my office with any questions about the course or the Classical World in general.

Course Description

Technically speaking, there was not one single, unified system called “Greek religion” but a spectrum of diverse but related belief systems and practices, without a core doctrine, a canon of sacred texts, a professional clergy, or a central authority. The Greeks did not even have an all-encompassing equivalent for our modern word “religion”. In this class, we will study what we know about what we call “Greek religion” and how we know it, focusing on the Archaic to the Hellenistic periods (750 – 30 BC). In this class, we will study the Greek relationships with the divine, their rituals, practices, festivals, sacred sites, and the roles played by all of these in ancient Greek society.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, successful students will:

- 1) Have acquired a strong foundational knowledge of the diversity of Greek religious beliefs and practices.
- 2) Be familiar with the roles of “religion” in ancient Greek society.
- 3) Acquire a comprehensive understanding of the textual and material evidence for Greek religion and be able to analyze these materials.
- 4) Be conversant in the modern discourse on theory in religious studies and its application to ancient Greece.

Readings

W. Burkert, *Greek Religion* (2nd ed.)

J. Kindt and E. Eidinow, *Oxford Handbook of Ancient Greek Religion* (available as an eBook in the library)

Any other readings will be posted on OWL.

Evaluation

Midterm	15%	October 11
Final Exam	20%	To be scheduled by the university
Annotated Bibliography	10%	September 27
ChatGPT Assignment	10%	October 28
Deity Diary	15%	November 29
Term Paper	30%	December 6

Midterms

There will be one 45-minute in-class exam for this course on October 11 worth 15%. It will mostly be definition and identification questions to test your understanding of the terminology and main themes of what we have covered in the course up to that point. There will not be any essay questions and there will be no surprises in terms of questions.

Final Exam

There will be a final exam to be scheduled by the university in December. It is only worth 20%. It will contain definition and identification questions, similar to the midterm; this section will not be cumulative. There will also be an essay question, for which you will have a choice between several topics. The essay section will be cumulative and is meant to test you on the broader themes of the course.

Electronic Devices

No aids are permitted in the final exam or quizzes unless you have arranged accommodations with the university. Electronic devices of any kind (cell phones and smart watches) are not permitted.

Term Paper

Students will write a 15- to 18-page argumentative paper (not including the bibliography) on a topic of their choosing. This will be the most important thing you do in the course all term. The paper is due in my email inbox on December 6, 2024 at 11:59 pm. Students will be expected to come up with and propose a topic in September and work on the paper gradually until the end of term. The professor will offer guidance on the paper throughout the term. More information on the paper is posted will be posted on OWL.

Annotated Bibliography

Students will write an annotated bibliography on the top five modern scholarly sources they will be using for their term paper. Each bibliographic entry should have a 100-word (maximum not minimum!) description (in point form) detailing what the book/article/chapter/ is about and why this will be important to your research. These are due in my email inbox at 11:59 pm on September 27. More information will be given in class and posted on OWL.

Deity Diary

Choosing a Greek or Roman deity, you will be asked to answer questions as your deity would be likely to answer them. The questions will be posted roughly every week, and you will 'log' your answers, handing them in as a single assignment on November 29. You may use any style you like: formal, colloquial, satirical, emotional, academic, analytical, interview-style, physical, digital, etc. You may submit them in any format that you like as well. They can be in the form of a diary, a series of TikToks, Instagram account, a newspaper, or some other creative project.

ChatGPT Assignment

This assignment will be an analytical and reflective exercise on the use of Artificial Intelligence. Pick a topic related to your term paper and ask it as a prompt on ChatGPT. After the program gives you an answer, your job will be to correct and edit ChatGPT's response and reflect on how the answer could have been better. These include what is correct or incorrect, what they should look up elsewhere to verify, etc. Your write up should be 2-3 pages max. You will also need to

submit screenshots of your prompt and ChatGPT's answer. More details will be given in class and posted on OWL.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Attendance Policy

It is imperative that each student attend every class, taking good notes from the lectures and discussions. If you miss a class, it will be your responsibility to get caught up on what you missed. The professor will not provide lecture notes to students. The Powerpoints from each class will be posted before the next class. These slides do not include all the information covered in class and are not a substitute for attending class. **You cannot get an A from just the powerpoints and the readings.** I regularly offer insight on the sources that do not appear in your powerpoints and assigned readings.

Although I will not be grading you on participation, students are expected to be engaged in the class during classroom lectures, discussions, and activities. *I do not mind being interrupted.* Please feel free to ask questions at any time during the lecture.

Late Policy

Students are expected to submit each of the assignments by the deadline listed. Should extenuating circumstances arise, students do not need to request Academic Consideration and they are permitted to submit their assignment (up to 72 hours) past the deadline without a late penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond 72 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 2.5% per day, including weekends, will be applied. Academic Consideration requests may be granted only for extenuating circumstances that started before the deadline and lasted longer than the No-Late-Penalty Period (72 hours). I will not accept assignments more than two weeks late unless you have made special arrangements with the myself or the university.

Email Policy

I aim to respond to student emails within two working days. That means an email sent to me on Friday afternoon may not receive a reply until Tuesday afternoon. If you have received no reply after two working days, please send me an email or find me in my office. **I will, furthermore, not respond to emails concerning assignments in the 24 hours before an assignment is due.** Exceptions will only be made in case of emergency. Please include "CS 3210F" in the subject headings of your email so that it is easier for me to find in the event your email gets lost in my inbox.

Recording Policy

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with prior written consent of the professor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content creator.

Disclaimer

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on OWL.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Note from the Dean of Arts and Humanities

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

Academic Consideration

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs* posted on the Academic Calendar:

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/academicconsiderationSep24.pdf>

This policy does not apply to requests for academic consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person. The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:

<https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academicconsiderations/>

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam). You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

Policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the [policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but **not later than two weeks** prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Accommodation Policies

Academic Accommodation is “a means of adjusting the academic activities associated with a course or program of student in order to permit students with disabilities to participate in those activities at the University and to fulfill the essential requirements of a course or program.”

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodationdisabilities.pdf>.

Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with **Accessible Education** at the earliest opportunity. “Accessible Education plays a central role in Western's efforts to ensure that its academic programs are accessible for all students”

<http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessibleeducation/index.html>

Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](#).

Brightspace:

All course material will be posted to OWL Brightspace: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>. If students need assistance with OWL Brightspace, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#) online or by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800 for technical support. Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled."

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Statement on the use of plagiarism-checking software

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Academic Advising

Your Home Faculty's Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help.

Contact info for all Faculties is here:

<https://registrar.uwo.ca/facultyacademiccounselling.html>

Mental Health Support

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender-based and sexual violence

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/studentsupport/survivorsupport/get-help.html>.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Learning Development and Success

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre <https://learning.uwo.ca> are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

USC

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Generative Artificial Intelligence

In this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration; however, students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism. Assignments should reflect the students' own thoughts and independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and allows them to produce original written contributions.

Course Schedule

FALL TERM

Week 1

1) Friday, September 6: Introduction to Ancient Greek Religion

Week 2: Greek Religion, Approaches and Origins

2) Monday, September 9

Readings: Burkert pp. 1-9

3) Wednesday, September 11

Readings: Handbook “Unity vs. Diversity”

4) Friday, September 13

Readings: Burkert pp. 10-53

Week 3: The Gods

5) Monday, September 16

Readings: Handbook “Many vs. One”

6) Wednesday, September 18

Readings: Burkert pp. 119-170 (skim)

7) Friday, September 20

Readings: Burkert pp. 170-189 (skim), Handbook: “The Gods: Olympian or Chthonian?”

Week 4: Rituals I

8) Monday, September 23

Readings: Burkert pp. 55-84

9) Wednesday, September 25

Readings: Handbook “Sacrifice”

10) Friday, September 27

Week 5: Rituals II

11) Monday, September 30: **Holiday**

12) Wednesday, October 2 (**Annotated Bibliography Due**)

Reading: Handbook “Oracles and Divination”

13) Friday, October 4

Week 6: Sanctuaries

14) Monday, October 7

Readings: Burkert pp. 84-98

15) Wednesday, October 9

Readings: Handbook “Temples and Sanctuaries”

16) Friday, October 11: **Midterm**

FALL READING WEEK (OCTOBER 12-20)

Week 7: Festivals and Calendars

17) Monday, October 21

Readings: Burkert 99-107

18) Wednesday, October 23

Readings: Handbook "Ritual Cycles: Calendars and Festivals"

19) Friday, October 25

Week 8: Life Cycle

20) Monday, October 28: **(ChatGPT Assignment Due)**

21) Wednesday, October 30

Handbook "From Birth to Death"

22) Friday, November 1

Week 9: Death

23) Monday, November 4

Readings: Burkert 190-215

24) Wednesday, November 6

Readings: Handbook "Imagining the Afterlife" and "Dead or Alive"

25) Friday, November 8

Week 10: The Polis and Beyond

26) Monday, November 11

Readings: Burkert 216-275, Sourvinou-Inwood "What is Polis Religion?"

27) Wednesday, November 13

28) Friday, November 15

Week 11: Mystery Cults

29) Monday, November 18

Readings: Burkert 276-304

30) Wednesday, November 20

31) Friday, November 22

Week 12: Magical Practices

32) Monday, November 25

Readings: Collins "A Framework for Greek Magic"

33) Wednesday, November 27

34) Friday, November 29: **Deity Diaries Due**

Week 13: The Archaeology of Religion

35) Monday, December 2

Readings: Handbook "Material Evidence"

36) Wednesday, December 4

37) Friday, December 6: **Term Paper Due**