



Drawn by H. W. Williams.

Engraved by W. Miller.

NEAR VIEW OF THE
ANCIENT TEMPLE AT, CORINTH.

CLASSICS 170/RELIGIOUS STUDIES 100- Course syllabus and schedule of readings¹
RELIGION AND LAW IN ANCIENT GREECE
FALL Quarter 2008

Instructor: Dr. Andromache KARANIKA

University of California, Irvine - Department of Classics

In this course we will study ancient Greek religion from Bronze Age to Hellenistic times by investigating relevant literary accounts and the archaeology of the sacred space. The special themes will be festivals and rituals, gender and religion. We will study ancient religion from an anthropological perspective analyzing ritual tradition in its socio-cultural context. The second half of the course will focus on the relation between religion and law, and the regulations that codify religious practice. Final grade of the class will depend on a combination of three exams, a creative project, and class participation.

TEXTS:

Required

- ***Oxford Readings in Greek Religion (paperback)* edited by Richard Buxton**
ISBN #: ISBN 0-19-872190-0, Oxford University Press.

¹ Ancient Temple at [Corinth](#) engraving by William Miller after H W Williams (Miller paid £17-17-0 in iii 1827 for engraving), published in *Select Views In Greece With Classical Illustrations*. Williams, Hugh William. London: Longman Rees Orme Brown and Green; and Adam Black. 1829

- *The Homeric Hymns: Translation, Introduction and Notes* by Apostolos N. Athanassakis. ISBN #: ISBN 0-8018-1792-7, Johns Hopkins University Press.

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| GRADING: Class participation | 15% |
| Exam 1 | 25% |
| Exam 2 | 25% |
| Exam 3 | 25% |
| Creative Project | 10% |

Attendance (and punctuality) is MANDATORY. More than two weeks of unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. RREPARE readings before class, be ready to participate in class, and to ask questions at any time.

Creative project: You can do any type of creative project relating to the material discussed in class (painting, cartoons, film, webpage, any type of creative writing, from a poem to a story or a script, performance, costume design etc). Example of a creative project: following the format of a homeric hymn, choose a mythological subject and draft the outline of a "lost" hymn and compose an extended part in its entirety. Alternatively, you can write a modern piece (prose, poetry, theater etc) inspired by your readings. Remember, there is no limit to creativity; you set the guidelines.

Ancient HYMN Performance: if at least 2 students express serious interest, they can work together with me on a performance of an ancient hymn. This performance can adhere to the conventions of ancient performance (style of costume); other interpretations are also welcome.

Note on School of Humanities Policies

a. Disability

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Services Center at 949/824-7494 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion."

b. Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated at UCI. Cheating, forgery, dishonest conduct, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the University's educational, research, and social roles. They devalue the learning experience and its legitimacy not only for the perpetrators but for the entire community. It is essential that all members of the academic community subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and accept individual responsibility for their work. Please familiarize yourself with the UCI Policy on Academic Honesty:

http://www.senate.uci.edu/senateweb/9_IrvineManual/3ASMAppendices/Appendix08.html

c. Add/Drop policy

Any student may add or drop a course in the School of Humanities up to the end of the second week of classes with the instructor's signature. Requests to add or drop after the second week will be granted only for exceptional circumstances.

d. All school and major requirements must be taken for letter grades.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Friday, October 17: Exam 1

Friday, November 14: Exam 2

Wednesday, December 3: Exam 3.

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION.

Friday, September 26: Introduction to the course. Overview of syllabus, and expectations. Timetable of Greek History. Discussion on Religion and City. Prehistoric Evidence.

WEEK 2: APPROACHES- Evaluation of Evidence. Interpretation.

Monday, September 29: Timetable of Greek History. Discussion on Religion and City. Prehistoric Evidence from island of Thera.

Wednesday, October 1: Religion and the City. Methodology, approaches, ways of interpreting the evidence. Introduction to the Homeric Hymns. Read Introduction by Richard Buxton pages 1-10.

Friday, October 3: The making of a city. The case of Delphi. Read *Homeric Hymn to Apollo*.

WEEK 3: Apollo and Delphi. Oracles

Monday, October 6: Discussion of *Homeric Hymn to Apollo*. Greek States and Greek Oracles. Read chapter by Robert Parker, pages 76-89.

Wednesday, October 8: Greek States and Greek Oracles. Read chapter by Robert Parker, pages 90-108. Evaluating evidence. Literary vs archaeological evidence.

Friday, October 10: Re-visiting the *Homeric Hymn to Apollo*. Performance. Festivals. Religion.

WEEK 4: City-Religion-Law. Athens- Athena

Monday, October 13: Read Christiane Sourvinou's "What is Polis Religion" pages 13-37. Focus on Athens, cult of Athena. Festival of Panathenaea. The view from archaeology.

Wednesday, October 15: Athens- Athena. Religion- City. Read further aspects of *polis* religion pages 38-46.

Friday, October 17: Exam 1.

WEEK 5: Festivals and Processions - Law and political reform

Monday, October 20: Civic rituals and their meaning. Read W.R. Connor pages 56-68. Anthropology of ancient Greece. Interpretations by Gernet. Processions.

Wednesday, October 22: Solonian Reform. The role of festivals and rituals. Read Connor pages 69-75.

Friday, October 24: Cleisthenes and the Athenian Tribes, birth of democracy. Role of Delphi in authorizing new constitutions. Literary and archaeological evidence. Handout to be given in class.

WEEK 6: Crisis Management for the City. Religion and Law.

Monday, October 27: What did the Athenians ask the Delphic Oracle? Moments of Crisis. Evidence from historians.

Wednesday, October 29: Signs from the gods? Religion and Crisis. Sacrifice.

Friday, October 31: Catastrophe and Religion. Famine. Calling Demeter. *The Homeric Hymn to Demeter*. Reading/Performance in CLASS.

WEEK 7: Archaeology of the Sacred Space. Demeter- countryside and city. Gender.

Monday, November 3: Eleusinian Mysteries. Introduction.

Wednesday, November 5: Read chapter by Susan Guettel Cole "Demeter in the Ancient Greek City and its Countryside" pages 133-146.

Friday, November 7: Women's Festivals. The case of the *Thesmophoria*. Read chapter by Susan Guettel Cole "Demeter in the Ancient Greek City and its Countryside" pages 147-154.

WEEK 8: Religion and Private Life. The worshippers.

Monday, November 10: Read chapter by Van Straten "Votives and Votaries in Greek Sanctuaries" pages 191-205.

Wednesday, November 12: The worshippers. Read chapter by Van Straten “Votives and Votaries in Greek Sanctuaries” pages 206-223.

Friday, November 14: Exam 2.

WEEK 9: Women and Sacrifice in Classical Greece. Transformations.

Monday, November 17: Read Robin Osborne’s chapter page 294-302. What is ritual?

Wednesday, November 19: Prayer, Procession and sacrifice. Read Robin Osborne’s chapter page 303-313.

Friday, November 21: Transformations. Bacchic Rituals. Read *Homeric Hymn to Dionysus*.

WEEK 10: Religion and Magic.

Monday, November 24: Read chapter 14 by Robert Fowler, “Greek Magic, Greek Religion” pages, 317-331.

Wednesday, November 26: Read Fowler pages 331-343.

Friday, November 28: No class. Thanksgiving Holiday.

WEEK 11: Class Conference

Monday, December 1: Creative Projects Due. Class conference. Creative Projects. Exact schedule will be announced.

Wednesday, December 3: EXAM 3.

Friday, December 5: Class conference. Creative Projects

Further recommended readings

Books

- Bowden, Hugh. 2005. *Classical Athens and the Delphic Oracle*. Cambridge University Press.
- Bremmer, Jan, N. 1999. *Greek Religion*. Greece and Rome New Surveys in the Classics No. 24, Published for the Classical Association, Cambridge University Press.
- Burkert, Walter. 1985. *Greek Religion*. Harvard University Press.

Articles.

- Versnel, H.S. “Some Reflections on the Relationship Magic-Religion,” *Numen*, Vol. 38, Fasc. 2 (Dec., 1991), pp. 177-197 available at Stable URL:
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3269832>