

**Magic and Divination in the Greek and Roman Worlds**  
**CLAS 2703/3 Fall 2009**  
**2M77 MWF 9:30-10:20 a.m.**

**Instructor:** Dr. Pauline Ripat  
**How to reach me:** Office 4G06, ph # 786 9176, mailbox in 4G09  
\*\*Please contact me via **e-mail through the WebCT site for this class** – there is no spam filter on e-mail sent through WebCT, and I am consequently much more likely to receive it.\*\*  
**Office Hours:** Mondays 11:30-12:30, Wednesdays 1:30-2:30, or by appointment  
**Required Texts:** D. Collins, *Magic in the Ancient Greek World*  
S. Johnston, *Ancient Greek Divination*  
D. Ogden, *Magic, Witchcraft and Ghosts in the Greek and Roman Worlds: A Sourcebook*

**Grading Policy:** Discussion and written responses:

|    |   |            |
|----|---|------------|
| 1. | Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup>            | 10%        |
| 2. | Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup>               | 10%        |
| 3. | Oct. 26 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup>             | 10%        |
|    | Curse tablet assignment (due Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup> ) | 20%        |
|    | Final paper (due Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup> )             | 25%        |
|    | Final exam (Dec. 18, 2009, 1:30-4:30 pm)            | <u>25%</u> |
|    |   | 100%       |

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course is meant to provide the student with a general introduction to the study of human interactions with the supernatural, or what we might term magic and divination, in the Greek and Roman worlds. Over the course of the term, the student will gain familiarity with manifestations of magical activity and its purveyors, awareness of the social functions magic served for the ancient population, and sensitivity to the difficulties involved in the very definition of the term “magic” in the Greek and Roman context.

**NOTE WELL:**

1. Students will not be allowed to consult notes or other aids during tests/ examinations.
2. You will not be required to provide identification to write the final exam.
3. Note that your research paper must be **typed**, properly **footnoted**, and include a **bibliography** in order to be considered complete (and so receive a grade).
4. Lecture notes from class and discussions with academic faculty **do not qualify as research materials**.
5. Please refer to the “Academic Regulations and Policies” section of the general calendar for information regarding appeals and academic misconduct, including **plagiarism** (sections VII).
6. Assignments will **lose 10% per day** (including weekend days) of lateness beyond the due date.
7. The final date for voluntary withdrawal without academic penalty is **Friday, Oct. 30, 2009**.

**There is a WebCT site set up for this course** which contains the schedule, handouts for various units, and the information and/or materials you will need to complete daily reading assignments in addition to the assignments you will be graded on. All students registered for this class have access to the WebCT site for the duration of the term. To gain access to it, go the University's main website and click on the 'Students' link (on the left hand side of the page). Under 'On-line Tools', you will find a link for WebCT. Click on it, and you will be given the option of logging in. To do so, you will need to know your login information (including password) for the e-mail account the university assigned to you (that is, the yourlastname-yourfirstinitial@iam.uwinnipeg.ca e-mail account). Once you have logged in, you will be given the option of clicking on the link that allows you access to the site for this class.

### **SCHEDULE AND READINGS**

Note that due to time constraints, not all topics may be covered, or may not be covered on the date given.

Collins = D. Collins (2008) *Magic in the Ancient Greek World*, Blackwell (REQUIRED)

Johnston = S. I. Johnston (2008) *Ancient Greek Divination*, Blackwell (REQUIRED)

Ogden = D. Ogden (2002) *Magic, Witchcraft, and Ghosts in the Greek and Roman Worlds: a sourcebook*, OUP (REQUIRED); note #s given are *selection* number, not page number

Other required and recommended readings will be uploaded to WebCT.

*Lecture topics* are given **in bold**

*Required readings* are given in plain text      *Suggested readings* are marked with an asterisk (\*)

#### **WEEK 1:**      **Sept. 9-11**

TOPIC:            **Introduction; magic and anthropology; magic and classics**

READING:        Ogden #230-232  
                      Collins pp. 1-14  
                      WebCT: Goodstein 'Teaching of Creationism...'

#### **WEEK 2:**      **Sept 14-18**

TOPIC:            **Categories; concepts; sources**

TOPIC:            **Contexts I: the physical and social environment**

READING:        Ogden #91, 192-196, 281  
                      WebCT: Scobie 'Slums, Sanitation, and Mortality in the Roman World'  
                      Web CT: Onishi 'For Japanese Hostages, Release only Adds to Stress'  
                      \*WebCT Versnel 'Punish Those Who Rejoice in our Misery'

TOPIC:            **Contexts II: concepts of the natural world: words and acts**

READING:        Ogden #174, 189, 258, and p. 212

Collins pp. 14-26  
WebCT: Pliny the Elder *Natural History* 28.3-4  
WebCT: Graf Chpt 7 ('Words and Acts') of *Magic in the Ancient World*  
\*WebCT: Frankfurter 'The Magic of Writing'  
\*WebCT: Tambiah, 'The Magical Power of Words'

**WEEK 3:**      **Sept 21-25**

TOPIC:            **Contexts III: ghosts**  
READING:        Ogden #108-113, 115-117, 122-127, 138, 140, 144, 150-151  
                      WebCT: Pliny the Younger *Letters* 7.27  
                      WebCT: Garland 'The Special Dead'  
                      WebCT: Matthews 'This Old House Has Ghosts'

DISCUSSION (& WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE) Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>: Does and (how does) magic "work"?  
(Reading: WebCT: Urrea 'For True Healing...' and Goodstein 'Believers Invest in the Gospel of Getting Rich')

**WEEK 4:**      **Sept 28-Oct 2**

TOPIC:            **Cursing: concepts and forms, contexts and efficacy**  
READING:        Ogden #168-191, 198-201, 271-272, 237  
                      Collins pp. 42-49, 64-88  
                      WebCT Versnel 'Beyond Cursing'  
                      \*WebCT: Graf 'Curse Tablets and Voodoo Dolls'  
                      \*WebCT: Faraone 'The Agonistic Context'  
                      \*WebCT: Ogden 'Binding Spells'

TOPIC:            **Love Magic I: context**  
READING:        Ogden: #83, 89, 90-95, 100-101, 202, 204, 244  
                      WebCT: 'Pentagon Confirms...'

**WEEK 5:**      **Oct 5-9**

TOPIC:            Love Magic II: spells for erotic attraction  
READING:        Ogden: # 203-213, 224-229, 239-240, 244, 246  
                      Collins pp. 88-103  
                      WebCT: Winkler 'The Constraints of Eros'  
                      WebCT: Armstrong 'Rage or Romance?'  
                      \*WebCT: Faraone 'Spells for Producing Uncontrollable Passion'

DISCUSSION (& WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE) Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>: Why have women always been cast as the sole practitioners of love magic? (reading: WebCT: Lyons 'Everyday Witchcraft')

**WEEK 6:**      **Oct 12-16 \*\*MONDAY, OCTOBER 12<sup>th</sup>, IS A HOLIDAY\*\***

TOPIC:            **Love Magic III: magic to induce affection (philia)**  
READING:        Ogden #74, 76-82, 234  
                      WebCT: Faraone 'Spells for Inducing Affection'

**WEEK 7:**      **Oct 19-23**

TOPIC:            **Specialists**

READING:        Ogden #1-6, 8, 13-16, 20, 27, 48, 51, 56-61, 67, 115, 127, 148,156  
Collins pp. 27-42, 49-63  
Johnston pp. 144-182  
\*Johnston pp. 109-143

TOPIC:            Witches

READING:        Ogden #66-69, 72, 74-75, 83, 91-107, 218, 238  
\*WebCT: Stratton 'Barbarians, Magic, and Construction of the Other in Athens'  
\*WebCT: Stratton 'Mascula Libido'

**WEEK 8:**      **Oct. 26-30**

TOPIC:            **Healing: amulets, incubation**

READING:        Ogden #13, 51, 235, 248-277  
Collins pp. 104-131  
WebCT: Greenberg 'The Placebo Effect?'

TOPIC:            **Introduction to divination**

READING:        Ogden #63,163-167, 175  
Johnston pp. 1-32  
WebCT: Ripat 'Roman omens, Roman audiences, and Roman history'  
WebCT: Nostradamus' prophecy  
WebCT: 'At Rhode Island Nursing Home, Death Comes Purring'

DISCUSSION (& WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE) Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>: What is the connection between "magic" and "divination"? (Reading: Johnston p. 1-32)

**WEEK 9:**      **Nov. 2-6**

TOPIC:            **Dream interpretation**

READING:        Ogden #55, 245, 266  
WebCT: Artemidorus *On the Interpretation of Dreams* 1.1-25  
\*WebCT: Price 'The Future of Dreams'

CURSE TABLET ASSIGNMENT DUE Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>

**WEEK 10:**     **Nov 9-13 \*\*WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11<sup>th</sup> IS A HOLIDAY\*\***

TOPIC:            **Other forms of divination: necromancy, fixed oracle sites**

READING:        Ogden #56, 59, 61-63, 65, 105, 134-138, 144, 146-151, 153-155, 157-162, 241  
WebCT: Ogden 'Traditional Rites of Evocation'  
Johnston pp. 76-108  
WebCT: Lucian of Samosata *Alexander the False Prophet*  
\*Johnston pp. 33-75

**WEEK 11:**     **Nov 16-23**

TOPIC: **Astrology and Astrologers**  
READING: Ogden #44, 55, 56, 203, 292  
WebCT Barton Chpt 2 'Greece and Rome' in *Ancient Astrology*  
WebCT Ripat 'Expelling Misconceptions'

**WEEK 12:** **Nov 23-27**

TOPIC: **Law and repression of magic and divination**  
READING: Ogden #278-300  
Collins pp. 132-169

**Nov. 30, December 2-3: loose ends, catching up**

FINAL PAPER DUE MONDAY, DEC. 2<sup>nd</sup>

FINAL EXAM FRIDAY, DEC. 18<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-4:30 pm in 2M77.