

COURSE DETAIL

MAGIC IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

Country

Ireland

Host Institution

University College Dublin

Program(s)

University College Dublin

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Classics

UCEAP Course Number

107

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

MAGIC IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

UCEAP Transcript Title

MAGIC/ANCIENT WORLD

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.00

UCEAP Semester Units

2.70

Course Description

Magic had a central place, alongside religion, in everyday ancient Greek and Roman lives. What beliefs did people in antiquity have about magic and how it worked? To answer these questions, the course explores the descriptions of ancient witches, sorcerers, shamans, necromancers, oracles, ghosts, spells, and love potions, and evidence of curses, voodoo dolls, and amulets from the ancient magic in more modern times (e.g. witch hunts, astrology, and Harry Potter). The relationships between magic and ancient religion, Christianity, medicine, the law, philosophers, and the everyday lives of people from all levels of ancient society are key to this inquiry. Students use the sources to consider what the Greeks and Romans thought magic was, how they thought it worked, and why they used it.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

GRC30290

Host Institution Course Title

MAGIC IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

Host Institution Campus

UC Dublin

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Greek & Roman Civilization

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