COURSE DETAIL

RELIGIONS IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN
Country Ireland
Host Institution Trinity College Dublin
Program(s) Trinity College Dublin
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Religious Studies
UCEAP Course Number 108
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title RELIGIONS IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN
UCEAP Transcript Title RELIG: ANC MEDITERR
UCEAP Quarter Units 5.00
UCEAP Semester Units 3.30

Course Description

Employing literary sources as well as inscriptions, funerary art and ancient iconography, and other archaeological finds, this course investigates the religious beliefs and practice of the various peoples and civilizations of the ancient Mediterranean from ancient Egypt to Imperial Rome, focusing on the study of ancient rituals (e.g., burial customs, animal and human sacrifice) and on Mediterranean myths and mythologies (e.g., dying-and-rising deities in Egypt, Syria and ancient Greece). Students reflect on the methodological challenges of studying ancient religions, focusing on the problem of interpreting fragmentary evidence, understanding ancient definitions of religion and magic, and distinguishing between private and public devotion in ancient societies. The course provides an opportunity to think about such questions as: "Did people in antiquity believe in their myths?", "Why did the Egyptians mummify their dead?", "What is the significance of the ancient myths of Osiris, Gilgamesh and Baal?", and "Did the ancient Phoenicians and Carthaginians practice human sacrifice?"

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
REU12741

Host Institution Course Title
RELIGIONS IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.tcd.ie/media/tcd/religion/pdfs/programme-handbooks/2025-26_RTPS_Vis...

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies

Course Last Reviewed
2025-2026

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