

# 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...](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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