

CLCV 2103 | RELI 2735: Greek Religion

Time

WF 10:05-11:25

Instructor

Yukai Li

Email

yukaili@cunet

Office Location

Paterson 2A56

Office Hours

TBD

TA info

TBD

Course Description

This course is a broad introduction to religion in the ancient Greek world. The concept of religion under consideration will not be limited to beliefs and doctrines. Instead, we will build up a picture of Greek religion in all its aspects by examining the history of Greek religion from the Neolithic period, the various practices and rituals, the relationship between religion and classical Greek society, the impact of religion on politics and diplomacy, and the interaction between Greek religion and other areas of intellectual and cultural activity, including literature, science and medicine, and philosophy.

Learning Outcomes

- Understanding of the cultural and historical contexts for ancient Greek religion, in particular in the archaic and classical periods.
- Understanding of the relations between religious practices and mythological accounts.
- Knowledge of divinities, mystery cults, and sites of worship.
- Ability to evaluate the role of religion in ancient Greek society and culture, including its relation to politics, literature, medicine, and philosophy.

Texts*Required*

Mikalson, J. D. 2021. *Ancient Greek Religion* (3rd ed). ISBN: 9781119565628. [From here abbreviated M.](#) ~\$60, also available at the library

Optional (selections will be provided)

Burkert, W. 1991. *Greek Religion: Archaic and Classical*. ISBN: 9780631156246. [From here abbreviated as GR.](#)

- All other readings will be provided.
- Readings in parentheses are optional for further exploration.

Evaluation

- Written response 1: 20%
- Written response 2: 30%
- Midterm exam: 25%
- Final exam: 25%

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

- There will be an in person midterm exam during class time (**Feb. 27**) and an in person final exam to be scheduled during regular exam period. These will consist of knowledge-based multiple choice questions, and will also test your conceptual understanding of the material.

- There will also be two written responses to prompts which will allow you to demonstrate your ability to synthesise knowledge, work with primary sources, and produce an argument. The first will be due at the same time as the midterm exam (**Feb. 27**), and should be around 800 words in length. The second will be due on the last day of classes (**Apr. 8**), and should be around 1,200 words. The prompts for these will be provided two weeks before they are due.
- For both written assignments, you may be invited to discuss your work with myself or a T.A. This **oral section** should not require further preparation on your part, but you will wish to preserve your notes and rough drafts to talk through your ideas and the process of your writing.
- Assigned readings should be completed before the class for which it was assigned. Students are expected to attend all lectures. Students are responsible for all missed work, regardless of the reason for absence.

Generative AI use

There will be no need or occasion for the use of generative AI in this course. This is because students will be developing critical skills in synthesising ideas, organising evidence, and producing an argument.

Statement on Academic Integrity

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as ‘presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.’ This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT)
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own
- failing to acknowledge sources with proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty follows a rigorous process for academic integrity allegations, including reviewing documents and interviewing the student, when an instructor suspects a violation has been committed. Penalties for violations may include a final grade of “F” for the course.

Students may not submission of substantially the same piece of work more than once for academic credit without permission.

Statement on Student Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>

Requests for Academic Accommodations

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (students.carleton.ca/course-outline).

Course Schedule

	Topics & lectures		Readings (Optional)
Week 1	Introductions	Intro and organisation	M. ch1
		The experience of the sanctuary	
Week 2		Historical overview	
	Greek prehistory & early religions	Religion in the Bronze age	Fortson 22-9; (GR 10-53)
Week 3		The Indo-European inheritance	
	Olympian gods	Olympian gods 1	M. ch2 32-8; (GR 119-70)
Week 4		Olympian gods 2	
		Olympian gods 3	Selections from Homer, Hesiod, Homeric Hymns
Week 5		Olympian gods 4	
	Religion & <i>polis</i>	The idea of the <i>polis</i>	M. ch3 68-78; (M. ch6)
Week 6		Institutions of <i>polis</i> religion 1	
		Institutions of <i>polis</i> religion 2	(Flower)
Winter break (Feb. 16-20)			
Week 7	Religion & <i>polis</i>	The civic and the personal	M. ch7 172-9 (rest of ch7, ch5)
	Midterm exam		
Week 8	Hero & cult	Death and the hero	M. ch2 38-50; Ekroth; (GR 190-215)
		Heroes in myth and cult	
Week 9	Myth, ritual & mysteries	Sacrifice: ritual and meaning	M. ch3; ch4 78-84
		Eleusinian mysteries	
Week 10		Mystery religions	(GR 276-304)
	Magic, daemons, astrology		
Week 11	Intersections: health, philosophy, archaeology	Sanctuary healing	Hippocratic <i>Sacred Disease</i> ; (Nutton ch7)
		“Sacred disease”: Religion and Hippocratic medicine	
Week 12		Philosophers on the gods	M. ch4 68-78
	Archaeology & architecture		
Week 13	Later history	Religion in the Hellenistic world	M. ch8

University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses (December 2025)

Academic Dates and Deadlines

This schedule contains the dates prescribed by the University Senate for academic activities. Dates relating to fee payment, cancellation of course selections, late charges, and other fees or charges will be published in the Important Dates and Deadlines section of the Registration Website.

Grading System at Carleton University

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion can be found [here](#). [Grade Appeal Process Information](#)

Student Rights and Responsibilities at Carleton

Carleton University strives to provide a safe environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, free of injustice and characterized by understanding respect, peace, trust, and fairness.

The [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#) governs the non-academic behaviour of students. Carleton University is committed to building a campus that promotes personal growth through the establishment and promotion of transparent and fair academic and non-academic responsibilities.

Academic Accommodations

Academic accommodation refers to educational practices, systems and support mechanisms designed to accommodate diversity and difference. The purpose of accommodation is to enable students to perform the essential requirements of their academic programs. At no time does academic accommodation undermine or compromise the learning objectives that are established by the academic authorities of the University.

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the *Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances*, are outlined on the [Academic Accommodations website](#).

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes can be [found here](#).

Addressing Human Rights Concerns

The University and all members of the University community share responsibility for ensuring that the University's educational, work and living environments are free from discrimination and harassment. Should you have concerns about harassment or discrimination relating to your age, ancestry, citizenship, colour, creed (religion), disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, place of origin, race, sex (including pregnancy), or sexual orientation, please contact the [Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities](#) at equity@carleton.ca.

Academic Consideration Policy

As per the [Academic Consideration Policy](#), if students encounter extenuating circumstances that temporarily hinder their capacity to fulfil in-class academic requirements, they can request academic consideration. The

Academic Consideration for Coursework is only available for accommodations regarding course work. Requests for accommodations during the formal exam period must follow the [official deferral process](#).

NOTE: As per the Policy, students are to speak with/contact their instructor before submitting a request for Academic Consideration. Requests are not automatically approved. Approving and determining the accommodation remains at the discretion of the instructor. Students should consult the course syllabus about the instructor's policy or procedures for requesting academic consideration. [More information here](#).

Academic Integrity Policy

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as 'presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.' This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

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- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgment
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own
- failing to acknowledge sources with proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor.

The Associate Dean of the Faculty follows a rigorous process for academic integrity allegations, including reviewing documents and interviewing the student, when an instructor suspects a violation has been committed. Penalties for violations may include a final grade of "F" for the course.

Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of extenuating circumstances, as defined in the [Academic Consideration Policy](#), may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made.

The application for a deferral must:

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office no later than **three (3) working days** after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation. In cases of short-term extenuating circumstances normally lasting no more than five (5) days, students must complete the University's self-declaration form which is included in the deferral application found on the [Registrar's Office website](#). Additional documentation is required in cases of extenuating circumstances lasting longer than five (5) days and must be supported by a medical note specifying the date of onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [here](#).

Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of extenuating circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work. Requests for academic consideration are made in accordance with the [Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical or Other Extenuating Circumstances](#).

1. Students who claim short-term extenuating circumstances (normally lasting up to five days) as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor. If the instructor requires supporting documentation, the instructor may only request submission of the University's self-declaration form, which is available on the [Registrar's Office website](#). The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule.
 - a) Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. In all cases, formative evaluations providing feedback to the student should be replaced with formative evaluations. In the event the altered due date must extend beyond the last day of classes in the term, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for the work not submitted and submit the student's earned grade accordingly; the instructor may submit a change of grade at a later date. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.
2. In cases where a student is not able to complete term work due to extenuating circumstances lasting for a significant period of time/ long-term (normally more than five days), the instructor and/or student may elect to consult with the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses) or Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) to determine appropriate action.
3. If a student is concerned the instructor did not respond to the request for academic consideration or did not provide reasonable accommodation, the student should follow the appeals process described in the [Academic Consideration Policy](#).
4. If academic consideration is granted, but the student is unable to complete the accommodation according to the terms set out by the instructor as a result of further illness, injury, or extraordinary circumstances beyond their control, the student may submit a petition to the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses)/Graduate Registrar (graduate courses). Please note, however, that the course instructor will be required to submit an earned final grade and further consideration will only be reviewed according to established precedents and deadlines. (More information: [Undergraduate](#).)

Department Contact Information

Digital Humanities (Minor), Bachelor of the Humanities, Greek and Roman Studies, and
MEMS:
300 Paterson Hall
CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Religion and Digital Humanities (Graduate):
2A39 Paterson Hall
Religion@cunet.carleton.ca