Carleton University   **2025-2026**

<div align="center">

CLCV 2104A/RELI2737B; Fall Term
The College of the Humanities

CLCV2104A / RELI2737B
ROMAN RELIGION(S)

Dr. Timothy Pettipiece
Course Email: TimothyPettipiece@cunet.carleton.ca

</div>

Time: Mon and Wed (11:35-12:55)
Office hours: Wednesdays 1:30-3:30 PM (PA 2A51)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will introduce students to aspects of ancient Roman religion by tracing the diverse cultures of piety and ritual practice that proliferated throughout the history of Rome, including both Republican and Imperial periods. Material will be presented through a historical-critical lens that seeks to understand the role and function of religion in ancient society and culture. In addition to lectures, students will be required to engage with course content through in-class Knowledge Application Exercises.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

-students will acquire basic disciplinary vocabulary from both Classics and Religious Studies
-students will discover the diversity of religious cultures of the Roman world
-students will approach material from both thematic and chronological perspectives
-students will apply course concepts to analyses of primary source material

COMMUNICATION

Email is the best way to contact me about course-related issues (see above), and I will do my best to respond within 24 hours during weekdays, 48 hours during weekends. I am also available in-person during regular office hours, or by appointment.

ATTENDENCE AND SCHEDULING

This is an in-person course, not an independent study, and contains a number of assignments and activities that must be completed in-class. Dates for all assignments and activities are indicated below, therefore you should arrange your non-academic schedule accordingly.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Valerie M. Warrior, *Roman Religion* (Cambridge University Press, 2015) (approx. $35)

EVALUATION

Midterm	25%	(in-class Oct 15)
Knowledge Application Exercise (x 5)	25%	
Research Paper or OPP	25%	(due Dec 3)
Final Exam	25%	(in-person during exam period)

LECTURE TOPICS AND READINGS

Sept 3   Course Introduction

Sept 8   "Religion" in the Graeco-Roman World

Sept 10   Historical Overview I: Early and Republican Rome

Sept 15   Gods and Goddesses

Sept 17   **Knowledge Application Exercise 1: Adopting a New Cult?**

Sept 22   Priests and Priestesses   Secondary Source: Beard, "Sexual Status of Vestal Virgins"

Sept 24   Sacred Time and Space

Sept 29   Ritual and Sacrifice   Secondary Source: Aldrete, "Hammers, Axes, Bulls, and Blood"

Oct 1   **Knowledge Application Exercise 2: Create a votive offering**

Oct 6   Magic and Divination

Oct 8   Death and the Afterlife   Primary Source: Cicero, *Dream of Scipio*

Oct 13   **Knowledge Application Exercise 3: Decoding the Mysteries**

Oct 15   **Midterm (in-class, covering material from Sept 8- Oct 13)**

Oct 27   Historical Overview II: Rome and Its Empire

Oct 29   God-Emperors of Rome   Primary Source: Seneca, *Apocolocyntosis of Divine Claudius*

Nov 3   Religion and Empire

Nov 5   **Knowledge Application Exercise 4: Is the emperor a god?**

Nov 10   The Universal Goddess   Primary Source: Lucian, *On the Syrian Goddess*

Nov 12   "Barbarian" Wisdom

Nov 17   God(s) of the Philosophers   Primary Source: Plotinus, *Life of Porphyry*

Nov 19   **Knowledge Application Exercise 5: Reconstructing an Ancient Text**

Nov 24   *no class

Nov 26   Twilight of the Idols   Sallustius, *On the Gods and the World*

Dec 1   Sailing to Byzantium

Dec 3   **Knowledge Application Exercise 6: The Altar of Victory?**

Final Exam (in-person during exam period)

IN-CLASS KNOWLEDGE APPLICATION EXERCISES (25%)

Students are expected to participate in and complete <u>five of six</u> Knowledge Application Exercises. These are in-class activities designed to encourage in-person engagement with course material and real-time reflection on concepts and themes from readings and lectures.

No special preparation is necessary, other than doing the assigned course work, as instructions and any necessary materials will be provided in class. Credit for exercises will be based on participation and submission of completed materials.

Completed Exercise materials must be handed in at the end of the class in which the activity is conducted and cannot be done at a later or alternate date. Since five out of the six exercises will count towards the final grade, one of them can be missed with no penalty. However, there will be no opportunity to make up additional missed exercises.

<u>IMPORTANT NOTE:</u> In order to encourage focus and engagement by participants, use of laptops and cellphones are not permitted during the Knowledge Application Exercises (except for those with clear PMC accommodation requirements). Students who are unwilling to comply with this policy, which is limited to these specific classes only, will be required to exit the classroom and will forfeit that portion of their activity grade.

RESEACH PAPER or OPEN POSSIBILITIES PROJECT (25%)

Students may choose between producing a short research paper or an alternate project, both of which involve a deeper dive into an aspect of Roman religion. Both options must make use of primary sources and academic research. AI tools may be used for brainstorming, planning, and development, as long as you disclose which tools were used and how (see below).

Option 1: Short Research Paper
Write a (2500 word) research essay on one of the following themes (or another topic of your choice approved by me verbally or over email)

Possible topics
-major and minor deities (in-depth profile of a particular deity or group of deities)
-temples and sacred spaces (study of a particular site or group of sites)
-priests and priestesses (examination of specific religious specialists)
-magic and mystery (exploration of ancient magical practices or mystery religions)
-religion and empire (analysis of imperial cult, Roman religious policy, relations with religious minorities)

Requirements
1) The paper must have a title page with your name and student number clearly indicated
2) The main text of the paper must be at least 2500 words. This word count <u>does not</u> include Title Page, Works Cited, and AI Use Disclosure
3) The paper must be based on a clearly defined theme or research topic
4) The paper must incorporate at least three primary sources (ancient texts or artifacts) and five secondary sources (scholarly books, chapters, or articles). These should be indicated on the Works Cited page

5) Use of Chicago style citation for in-text references and Works Cited
6) Text must be double-spaced, standard 12-point font, and standard margins
7) Add to the end of your essay a brief description of what AI tools were used and how, or a statement that you chose not to use AI tools for any stage of research and writing.

Option 2: Open-Possibilities Project
Instead of a paper, students may choose to produce a (small scale) creative or technical project that examines an aspect of Roman religion. This is also a research-based project, since it must make use of both primary and secondary sources, but it allows for the incorporation of alternate media, genres, technologies, and techniques. For this option whatever you create must be accompanied by a 1000-word critical commentary that explains your selection of sources, choices of media, and interpretation of the topic. Note: All option 2 projects must be approved by me (verbally or by email).
*Option 2 may involve costs for project materials

Possible Projects
-a short story or historical fiction (set during a ritual or religious festival, making use of historical details)
-a museum exhibit (including panel designs, artifact descriptions, and curatorial commentary)
-scripted dialogue (between historical / mythological figures on religious themes)
-visual art project (graphic novel, zine, painting, sculpture, mosaic, or 3D printed model)

Requirements
1) Size of creative / technical component will vary, but should be completable within the term
2) the OPP concept must be based on at least 3 primary and 5 secondary sources
3) Project must be accompanied by a 1000-word critical commentary
4) Use of Chicago style citation for references and Works Cited
5) Text must be double-spaced, standard 12-point font, and standard margins
6) Add to the end of your critical commentary a brief description of what AI tools were used and how, or a statement that you chose not to use AI tools for any stage of research, production, and writing.

Responsible AI Use (for both options)
There is no question that AI provides powerful tools to assist with research, writing, and design, but the full extent of their impact on academia remains to be seen. Both students and faculty are trying to figure out what the limits and boundaries are. As your professor, my aim is to minimize the anxiety and confusion around the AI issue. Therefore, for this assignment students will not be penalized for using AI tools or rewarded for not using them. It is entirely up to each person to decide for themselves. It is perfectly fine if you choose not to use them. However, if they are used, how they are used matters. As such, here are limits and expectations in the context of this course.

You may use AI tools to:
-find a research topic, brainstorm ideas, explore design possibilities
-initial surveys of sources or scholarship
-proofread, edit, and revise

You may not use AI tools to:
-generate an entire essay or project
-produce fake primary or secondary sources
-avoid critical thinking and engagement with research materials

Disclosure Required

For the sake of transparency and fairness students are required to add an AI Use Disclosure at the end of their research paper or critical commentary describing in a short paragraph how AI tools were used (if at all). Failure to disclose any and all use of AI tools will result in an automatic grade of F.

IMPORTANT NOTE: I also reserve the right to require an in-person meeting with students to discuss their paper or project prior to assigning a final grade.

Evaluation Criteria

Research Paper	100%	Open Possibilities Project	100%
Well defined topic or theme	10%	Well defined topic or theme	10%
Use of primary sources	25%	Use of primary sources	20%
Engagement with secondary scholarship	25%	Engagement with secondary scholarship	20%
Style, structure, and presentation	10%	Design, execution, and presentation	20%
Critical analysis	20%	Originality	20%
Citations and AI Use Disclosure	10%	Citations and AI Use Disclosure	10%

ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND EXPRESSION

While a university is a place where the free exchange of ideas ought to be welcomed and encouraged, that can only be done within well-defined and mutually understood pedagogical parameters. As a professor, it is my job to maintain a learning environment focused on the academic goals described in this syllabus. My knowledge and expertise are limited to a certain set of subject areas, and I do not intend to use the course as a platform for advocacy on issues outside of that scope, nor is it designed as an open arena for debating any and all issues of the day. What you are learning may help you understand or contextualize those larger issues, but we will be focusing our efforts on the assigned course material.

University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses (July 21 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.

Copies of Written Work Submitted

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

Online Learning Resources

On this page, you will find resources collected by Carleton Online to help you succeed in your online courses; Learning Strategies and Best Practices, Study Skills, Technology and Online Interaction and Engagement.

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:
> - 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.

Co-operation or Collaboration

An important and valuable component of the learning process is the progress a student can make as a result of interacting with other students. In struggling together to master similar concepts and problems

and in being exposed to each other's views and approaches, a group of students can enhance and speed up the learning process. Carleton University encourages students to benefit from these activities which will not generally be viewed as a violation of the Policy. With the exception of tests and examinations, instructors will not normally limit these interactions.

Students shall not co-operate or collaborate on academic work when the instructor has indicated that the work is to be completed on an individual basis. Failure to follow the instructor's directions in this regard is a violation of the standards of academic integrity. Unless otherwise indicated, students shall not co-operate or collaborate in the completion of a test or examination.

Group Work: There are many cases where students are expected or required to work in groups to complete a course requirement. Normally, students are not responsible for violations of this policy committed by other members of a group in which they participate.
More information on the process here.

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.

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.**

Course Sharing Websites and Copyright
Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own

2

educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or

distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non- commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).
More 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.

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.

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.

1. 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 | Graduate).

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 include the University's self-declaration form, which can be 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.

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.

Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

Make sure that you are aware of the separate deadlines for Financial and Academic withdrawal!

Making registration decisions in Carleton Central involves making a financial and academic commitment for the courses you choose, regardless of attendance. If you do not attend, you must withdraw in Carleton Central within the published deadlines to cancel your registration. A fee adjustment is dependent on registration being canceled within the published fee deadlines and dependent on your course load. A course dropped after the deadline for financial withdrawal will receive a grade of Withdrawn (WDN), which appears on your official transcript.

Even if you miss the deadline for financial withdrawal, you might decide to drop a course to avoid a failure or a poor grade showing up on your student record and bringing down your CGPA. It is your responsibility to drop the course via Carleton Central within the published deadlines (see Academic Withdrawal).

If you are considering withdrawing from a course, you may want to talk to an advisor first. Course withdrawal may affect your student status, as well as your eligibility for student funding, immigration status, residence accommodation and participation in varsity sports, etc. Additionally, remember that once you choose your courses, you must use the "Calculate amount to pay" button to determine the correct amount of fees to pay.

Carleton Central is your one-stop shop for registration activities. If you are interested in taking a course, make sure to complete your registration. Simply attending a course does not mean you are registered in it, nor is it grounds for petition or appeal.

Mental Health and Wellness at Carleton

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/

Emergency Resources ([on and off campus](#))

- Suicide Crisis Helpline: call or text 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For immediate danger or urgent medical support: call 9-1-1

Carleton Resources

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: https://carleton.ca/wellness/
- Health & Counselling Services: https://carleton.ca/health/
- Paul Menton Centre: https://carleton.ca/pmc/
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): https://carleton.ca/csas/
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: https://carleton.ca/equity/

Off Campus Resources

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: call 613-238-3311, text 343-306-5550, or connect online at https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/
- Mental Health Crisis Service: call 613-722-6914 or toll-free 1-866-996-0991, or connect online at http://www.crisisline.ca/
- Empower Me Counselling Service: call 1-844-741-6389 or connect online at https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/
- Good2Talk: call 1-866-925-5454 or connect online at https://good2talk.ca/
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: for online or on-site service https://walkincounselling.com

The Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement

The Centre for Indigenous Initiatives is proud to offer culturally centered individual counselling to students who self-identify as First Nation, Metis or Inuk. Through this service, Indigenous students can access confidential, individual sessions for support with personal, mental health or academic challenges.

Department Contact Information

Bachelor of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall
Religion@cunet.carleton.ca

Digital Humanities (Graduate) 2A39 Paterson Hall
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

Digital Humanities (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

MEMS (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca