Evidence of Roman piety and worship is at best datable to the second or third century BCE yet traditionally, Romans date the origins of their city to the eighth century BCE when the first religious boundary was drawn by the legendary twins, Remus and Romulus. Using both a thematic and historical approach to a variety of ancient sources, such as literary and technical documents, inscriptions, and visual/material evidence, this course will attempt to answer some of the following questions: What practices and ideas even counted as “religion” in 8th century BCE Rome and later? What do we mean by the term “Roman religion”? Who or what did the Romans worship? How was Roman religion organized? What was the role of women? How did Romans represent/visualize their ideas of the “sacred”? What cultural forms did Roman piety take? Did Romans believe in ghosts? An afterlife? The power of curses? How did the expansion of the empire affect Roman religion? The religions of conquered peoples affect Rome? In this course we will follow the guidance of our textual authors, Mary Beard, John North, and Simon Price by not attempting any specific definition of religion that might place a fence around our perceptions of ancient practices as pious. However, throughout the semester, we will not shy away from the issue of whether anything consistent or essential among Roman religion can be identified synchronically, across time, or diachronically, as part of the changing cultural and political landscape that shaped and was shaped by Rome.

Required Texts:
Highly Recommended Text:


The above three books are available for purchase through the Carleton bookstore.

On Reserve in the Library:

A number of books will be placed on reserve to assist with student assignments and for the purpose of supplemental reading.

A Good introductory series to Ancient Rome is available on YouTube:

1. “Meet the Romans with Mary Beard” Parts 1-3 HD. BBC 2012. Mary Beard is one of the three authors of Religions of Rome. Although the following series is based on Beard’s academic work, the following video is not an academic source.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rggk_H3jEgw

Student Evaluation:

Quizzes: - 50% - Five quizzes worth 10% each Dates TBD

A total of five quizzes, worth 10% each, will be given about every two weeks outside of class time. Quizzes will contain information from lecture material, readings, and any films shown in class. NOTE: In order to do well on the quizzes, weekly attendance in both classes is essential. Quizzes are a way for students to excel in the course, because students will be tested regularly on the course material instead of setting a final exam at the end of the semester. The quizzes will contain information from the first day of classes to the class before each quiz. Each quiz’s material will build on the next one. NOTE: Quizzes will be one hour in length and will be available over a 24 hour period online. Additional time will be allotted to registered Paul Menton students as per their specific accommodations, e.g. 75 minutes instead of 60 minutes to complete a quiz.

1. Midterm – 25% Date: February 29, 2016 Material from the first class up to Midterm.

2. Annotated Bibliography—20% Due Date: March 28, 2016. Students may choose any topic concerning Roman Religion. Assignment details and topics to be posted on CU-Learn. Assignment will consist of a thesis statement and a critical review of six secondary sources. All secondary sources must be academic and sourced from MacOdrum Library. NOTE: NO WWW.SITES FROM INTERNET ACCEPTED FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT. ZERO TOLERANCE ENFORCED; A GRADE OF ZERO ASSIGNED.

3. Individual in-class mini oral presentations- 5% Presentation Dates: April 4 and 6, 2016. A three-five minute oral presentation on the student’s chosen topic for the annotated bibliography. Each student will present his or her topic using one slide to display the subject
matter. Presentation should include thesis statement, approach to topic and any surprise discoveries.

4. No final exam.

**COURSE CALENDAR**: Readings for topics will be available on CULearn, January 6, 2016.

January 6  Introduction to “Roman Religion”.

January 11  *Caveat Emptor*: Origin Myths and Maps. See CU-Learn for readings.


January 18  Part 2: Early Rome: Greek, Etruscan, and Italic influences on Roman Religions. See CU-Learn for readings.


January 27  Divination, Astrology, and Roman Religions. See CU-Learn for readings.

February 1  Sacrifice: A central feature of Roman Religions? See CU-Learn for readings.

February 3  Interpreting the Will of the gods: Priests and Priestesses of Roman Religions. See CU-Learn for readings.

February 8  Religious Meaning within Roman Architecture and Art. See CU-Learn for readings.
February 10  Life, Death, and the Afterlife: Domestic and Familial practices of piety. See CU-Learn for readings.

February 15-19  WINTER BREAK 😊

February 22  Rome vs. The Druids. See CU-Learn for readings.

February 24  Imported ‘foreign’(non mystery) Cults to Rome. See CU-Learn for readings.

February 29- IN-CLASS MIDTERM

March 2  The Mystery Cults (Part 1): Isis, Mithras, Demeter-Persephone, etc. See CU-Learn for readings.

March 7  The Mystery Cults (Part 2): Isis, Mithras, Demeter-Persephone, etc. See CU-Learn for readings.


March 14  The First Emperor of Rome: Augustus and his Influence on Roman Religion (Part 2). See CU-Learn for readings.

March 16  Religion and Ritual in the Roman Military. See CU-Learn for readings.

March 21  Imperial Cults. See CU-Learn for readings.

March 23  The Conversion to Christianity and its Impact on Roman Religions (Part 1). See CU-Learn for readings.
March 28  The Conversion to Christianity and its Impact on Roman Religions (Part 2). See CU-Learn for readings. ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

March 30 Conclusion: The practice of “religion” from a Roman point of view? See CU-Learn for readings.

April 4 Oral Presentations Begin.

April 6 Oral Presentations Finish; Last Day of course.

April 8 Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for fall/winter and winter-term courses.

Late assignments are subject to a 1% penalty per day unless a doctor’s note or some other form of validation for lateness has been provided to the professor.

There are no make-up assignments for this course. Students are responsible for taking note of all assignment due dates, reading all assignment instructions carefully, and managing their time accordingly.
REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

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.

PLAGIARISM
The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- 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;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper quotation marks;
- handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.

GRADING SYSTEM
Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12) B+ = 73-76 (8) C+ = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11) B = 70-72 (7) D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10) B- = 67-69 (6) D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9) C+ = 63-66 (5) D - = 50-52 (1)

F Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY
The last date to withdraw from FALL TERM courses is DEC. 7, 2015. The last day to withdraw from FALL/WINTER (Full Term) and WINTER term courses is APRIL 8, 2016.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/ midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by Nov. 6, 2015 for the Fall term and March 6, 2016 for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

PETITIONS TO DEFER
If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a FINAL assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please contact the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept. Deferrals of a final assignment or take home, in courses without a final examination, must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within 5 working days of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)
College of the Humanities 520-2809 300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809 300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100 2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500 300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850 302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937 501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125 4th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125 4th Floor Library