

Department of Classics

Spring 2024 Graduate Courses

ARH4173/ARH5174

Mystery Cults

Dr. Dylan Rogers

Outside of traditional Greco-Roman religious practices, there were devotional activities that we commonly refer to as 'mystery cults.' Many of these numerous cults were concerned with answering questions (especially about the afterlife), and often involved a lengthy initiation process for those wishing to be a part of the cult. Because they were shrouded in secret in antiquity, when we try to understand them today, we must use a panoply of evidence including material culture and various written evidence that still does not provide us with all of the answers we want. In this course, we will explore ancient Greek and Roman mystery cults through a series of case studies, including the Eleusinian Mysteries of Athens, along with the mysteries related to Dionysus, the Great Gods of Samothrace, the Kabeiroi of Boeotia, the Great Mother Goddess (or Cybele), Isis, and Mithras. Using the available material evidence for the practice of these cults (especially through architecture, decorated pottery, and sculpture), we will also examine crucial textual evidence, such as the Bacchic Gold Tablets, Apuleius' Golden Ass, Pausanias, and legislation (such as a law from Andania regulating the dress initiates wore in the mysteries there). We will especially be concerned with the initiates themselves, particularly by reconstructing these cults through a sensory-emotive lens that can unlock the experience of initiates. The course will conclude by examining the rise of a mystery cult that is still practiced today: Christianity.

TR 3:05PM – 4:20PM – WJBG0039

CLA5799-1/ARH6937-1

Cetamura del Chianti

Dr. Nancy de Grummond

This course draws on the archives of the 50 years in which the excavations have been conducted at the site. Students can choose from a wide array of topics from the cultures known from Cetamura— Etruscan, Roman and Medieval Italian. Topics can deal with artifacts (individual or in groups), material types (ceramic, glass, bronze, iron, etc.) archaeological contexts (e.g., offerings in a sanctuary), whole units of excavation (such as a well or a kiln), statistical analysis, documentation and archival issues, museum planning, cultural relationships, economic connections (Roman coins). There is a great deal of latitude in topics. Reports will be oral (one short, one long) and written.

R 3:30PM – 6:00PM - DOD205I

CLA5799-2/ARH6937-2

Greco-Roman Architecture

Dr. Dylan Rogers

This course will provide an overview of the complexities of architecture and the built environment of the ancient Mediterranean world. Through a series of case studies over time and place, we will understand the development of Greco-Roman architecture. As such, we will especially be concerned with the approaches and historiography of architecture in the classical world, especially to situate Greco-Roman architecture within the fields of Classics, Classical Archaeology, and Architectural History. For example, we will grapple with the legacy of the German scholarly approach of *Bauforschung* and how that shapes our understanding of ancient architecture. We will pay particular attention to recent trends in scholarship on Greco-Roman architecture, including: origins of Greek temple architecture; domestic space (especially Greek); processes of design and construction; Vitruvius as an author; interior spaces and experience; regional trends in architecture and urbanism; the reception of classical architecture in the Modern period; sensory experience of architecture.

W 3:30PM – 6:00PM - DOD205I

CLA5931-1/CLA6932-1

Neoplatonism

Dr. Svetla Slaveva-Griffin

Neoplatonism is one of the fastest growing areas of research today in ancient and medieval philosophy and intellectual history. This course will introduce you to the intellectual, philosophical, and religious environment of Late Antiquity (between Constantine's Edict of Milan in 313 CE and Justinian's closing of

the Academy in Athens in 529 CE) in which Neoplatonism grew and became the premier philosophical school in Late Antiquity, transmitting ancient philosophy to the future, medieval, modern, or post-modern. We will study the main philosophical tenets of Neoplatonism with emphasis on metaphysics, physics, and psychology from Plato (429–347 BCE) to Proclus (410–485 CE). There will be a midterm and a research paper. The research paper will give you an opportunity to practice every stage of the research process, from developing an idea to delivering a conference paper.

T 3:30PM – 6:00PM - DOD205I

CLA5931-2

Antony & Cleopatra

Dr. Jeffrey Tatum

The ultimate power couple – up to a point – the careers of Antony and Cleopatra were central to the final years of Ptolemaic Egypt and the Roman republic. We'll unpack the central historical problems of the period. And we'll take a look at the pair's legacy in Rome's literary imagination.

M 3:30PM – 6:00PM – DOD205I

EUH4413/EUH5418

The Roman Empire – Augustan Rome

Dr. Trevor Luke

This course focuses on the origins of the Principate in the Late Republic and Augustus' rule of Rome from the Battle of Actium to his death in 14 CE. This course will introduce students to the cultural, political, social, religious, and institutional changes of the period as interpreted through critical evaluation of the ancient evidence and modern scholarship.

TR 1:20PM – 2:35PM – WJBG0039

FLE5810

Teaching in Classics

Dr. Sarah Craft

This course prepares graduate students in Classics for their role as teachers of undergraduates in lower-level courses in classical civilization, myth and Latin.

F 8:00AM – 11:00AM – DOD205I

GRW4301/GRW5305

Aristophanes *Clouds*

Dr. Francis Cairns

This course will focus on the translation, commentary, and interpretation of Aristophanes' *Clouds* (in Greek).

MW 1:20PM – 2:35PM – DOD205I

GRW5215/GRW6930

Greek Historians

Dr. Joseph Morgan

This advanced language seminar serves as a survey of Greek historical prose of the Classical Period, specifically the works of Herodotus, Thucydides, and Xenophon. In addition to treating major trends in current scholarship on Greek historiography, the course will involve extensive readings in the original Greek, with the goal of increasing reading fluency in the Ionic and Attic dialects. Assigned readings will include, but will not be limited to, passages on the graduate reading lists. Students will leave the course having acquired greater facility with the grammar and syntax of Greek prose and—importantly—the confidence to read extensively in the original language.

TR 1:20PM – 2:35PM – DOD205I

LNW4380/LNW5385

Tacitus

Dr. Trevor Luke

This course focuses on the translation, commentary, and interpretation of the fourth book of Tacitus' most famous work, *The Annals*. One of the most important and studied books of Tacitus, *Annals*, Book IV places us in the middle of the deterioration of Tiberius' regime with the rise of Sejanus.

TR 11:35AM – 12:50PM – DOD205I

LNW5345/LNW6930**Epic Beginnings****Dr. Tim Stover**

In this course, we will read in Latin the first book of each of the following epics: *Aeneid*, *Metamorphoses*, *Bellum Civile*, *Argonautica*, and *Thebaid*. Particular attention will be paid to the authors' poetic techniques, to the connections between each of these texts, and to the socio-political contexts in which these poems were composed.

MW 11:35AM – 12:50PM – DOD205I