

Mythology and Religion

Code: 100421
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500243 Classics	OT	3	0
2500243 Classics	OT	4	0

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Prerequisites

The subject does not presuppose previous knowledge of the students but it will be advisable that they are already familiar with Greek myths at the basic level. It will work on documents in Greek and, occasionally, in Latin, but the translation will be facilitated so that the subject can also be followed by students who do not have sufficient command of the ancient languages.

Objectives and Contextualisation

Mythology and religion are linked in ancient societies in such a narrow way that it is often difficult to discern the "religious" of the "profane". Life was myth and religion and beliefs and rites penetrated all areas of the private and public life of ancient peoples. Greece was especially prolific in the creation of a rich and complex mythological universe that we must know in depth if we want to study in depth the Greek texts, Greek literature, history and society, as well as philosophy and politics. This interdisciplinary dimension is essential for a good education in Humanities in general, and in Classical Studies in particular.

In Greek (and Latin) literary texts, then, myth, worship and ritual are omnipresent, to such an extent that it is impossible to achieve a suitable interpretation capacity without the knowledge of this whole frame of mythical and cultural references. On the other hand, over the last fifty years, notable advances have been made in this field. With the competition of various disciplines such as anthropology, psychology and sociology, the understanding we are reaching from the sense of myth and the Greek rite and its impact on the individual, family and society, make this discipline one of the most attractive for any student who aspires to an in-depth knowledge that goes beyond the traditional approach, perhaps more attentive to the mythological anecdote and its diverse symbolic and iconographic interpretations.

We propose two general objectives:

1. To reflect on the myth environment and its relationship with the ritual from different perspectives.
2. Carry out a critical analysis of textual and iconographic documents.

Competences

Classics

- Obtaining information from the study of written Greek and Latin sources, that allow to access several aspects of the realia (sociocultural reality of the ancient world).
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

Learning Outcomes

1. Detecting and extracting historical and cultural relevant data from ancient sources.
2. Enunciating a discourse (drawing up an article or oral presentation) about the complex myth-ritual and its cultural and social implications.
3. Using epigraphic texts as historical and literary sources.
4. Using the main computing and data management tools, as well as the information and communication technologies in the specific field of the classical studies.

Content

I. Introduction: myths and religion in Greece

- I.1. Definition of concepts: myth and ritual
- I.2. Types of myths: cosmogonic, theogonic, anthropogonic, eschatological, etiological, foundational, theological, heroic, etc.
- I.3. Ritual procedures: prayers and offerings.
- I.4. The sacrifice: the myth of Prometheus and the origin of sacrifice.
- I.5. Types of sacrifices

II. The cult of the gods of the Olympic pantheon

- II.1. The cult of the main gods: Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Athena, Apollo, Artemis, Aphrodite, Hermes
- II.2. Symbolism and iconography
- II.3. Urban, extra-curricane sanctuaries
- II.4. Pan-Hellenic sanctuaries and festivals: Olympia and Delphi
- II.5 Myths and heroic cults associated with the sanctuaries of the Olympic gods.

III. Life and death: myth and worship of the agrarian and catholic deities

- III.1. Myths from beyond
- III.2. The Hades
- III.3. Demeter and Persephone
- III.4. Myths of catabasis
- III.5. Concepts of the soul.

IV. Mystical cults

- IV.1. The myth of Orpheus and Orphism
- IV.2. Orphic conceptions: the immortality and transmigration of the soul
- IV.3. Orphic Cosmogonies and their relationship with the Hesiod Teogonia
- IV.4. Mystical cults and initiations: Eleusis, Cibeles, Cabires, etc.
- IV.5. The myths of Dionysus
- IV.6. The bacers (gender issues)
- IV.7. Urban agrarian Ritus Dionísies
- IV.8. Dionysic Orphic

V. Myths and cults of the heroes

- V.1. The cult of the heroes: problematic
- V.2. Myths and cult heroics
- V.3. Hairy, Hippolyte, Hyacinth, Heracles, Achilles and Iphigenia

VI. Ritus of transition

- VI.1. Ritus of the life cycle

- VI.2. Initiations and rites of passage: Brauron and arkteia
- VI.3. Fluvial cults, travestism, ekdysia
- VI.4. Achilles to Esciros
- VI.5. Spartan agony and cretia
- VI.6. Homoerotic initiation: the myths of Ganimeses and Pelops

- VII. Myths and rites of purification
- VII.1. Concepts of impurity and purification
- VII.2. Ritus of purification
- VII.3. The cases of Odysseus and Orestes
- VII.4. Myths of human sacrifice: Iphigenia
- VII.5. The scapegoat (pharmacose)
- VII.6. Catapontism: Faetont, Hippolyte, Mirtil and Ino-Leucothea, etc.
- VII.7. The foundation of colonies as rites of purification.

Methodology

The teaching methodology of this subject will consist of combining the theoretical explanations of each one of the subjects with texts in translation that serve to illustrate and apply the acquired knowledge.

Throughout the course, a selection of texts will be provided to work in class. Other complementary ones may be added, depending on the needs and interests of the students.

The proposed agenda is a maximum desideratum. In other words, it can hardly be developed in its entirety. However, it offers systematization for students who want to complete it with readings later on their own.

The teachers will develop the I-III blocks in their theoretical explanations and with the commentary in class of literary and iconographic material.

Students, by groups, will choose a topic from among those proposed in blocks IV-VII and will give a summary in writing, a selection of texts and images to comment and an exposition in class with the same format of classes ordinary. The summaries of each subject will be supervised by the teachers, the copy will be provided to the rest of the group and will be subject to evaluation in the second part.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Exhibition of subjects according to the programming of the subject	32	1.28	4
Participation in class discussion	15	0.6	2
Type: Supervised			
Talk	14.5	0.58	2, 4, 3
Work in cooperation	15	0.6	2, 4, 3
Type: Autonomous			
Reading of bibliography	25	1	4
Research	20	0.8	4, 3

Assessment

The final grade of the subject will be the average between:

- Attendance and participation in class (10%)
- Oral presentation of a subject (20%)
- 1st partial exam (35%)
- 2nd partial exam (35%)

It is important for the student to take into account that the assessment includes regular attendance in class and the completion and delivery of activities proposed in class within the established deadlines. Non-continuous assistance without justification and the fact of not delivering the activities within the extravagant term presuppose the loss of the right to the continuous evaluation.

"The student not presented" will be considered to have failed to perform any of the written tests.

Upon reassessment, the student can retrieve the note corresponding to the two partial exams and to the oral presentation.

If the note of any of the revaluable parts is less than 3, it will be necessary to recover it, although the average grade of the subject is approved.

The revaluation can only be done if the partial exams or the oral presentation are suspended and the average mark of the subject is less than 5, or if one of these tests can not be performed in his At this time for a reason that can be justified by an official document.

Only one date of an evaluation activity can be changed if the absence or non-delivery can be justified by an official document.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Attendance and participation in class	10%	25	1	2, 1
Exam 1	35%	1.5	0.06	2
Exam 2	35%	1.5	0.06	2
Talk and paper on a specific topic	20%	0.5	0.02	2, 4, 3

Bibliography

Diccionaris i obres de consulta

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