

Mythology and Religion

Code: 100421
ECTS Credits: 6

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

The proposed teaching and assessment methodology that appear in the guide may be subject to changes as a result of the restrictions to face-to-face class attendance imposed by the health authorities.

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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 Ganimedes 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 course will be the average between:

- Oral presentation of a topic (30%)
- 1st partial exam (35%)
- 2nd partial exam (35%)

A student who has not taken any of the written tests will be considered "failing".

In the re-assessment, the student will be able to recover the mark corresponding to the tests taken.

If the mark of any of the revaluable parts is less than 3, it will be necessary to re-assess the whole subject.

The revaluation will only be able to do in case that the partial examination was not taken.

or if some of these proofs could not realize in his moment for a reason that can be justified with an official document.

A date for an evaluation activity can only be changed if the absence or non-attendance is justified.

In the event that tests or exams cannot be taken onsite, they will be adapted to an online format made available through the UAB's virtual tools (original weighting will be maintained). Homework, activities and class participation will be carried out through forums, wikis and/or discussion on Teams, etc. Lecturers will ensure that students are able to access these virtual tools, or will offer them feasible alternatives.

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Exam 1	35%	1.5	0.06	2
Exam 2	35%	1.5	0.06	2
Talk on a specific topic	30%	25.5	1.02	2, 1, 4, 3

Bibliography

Diccionaris i obres de consulta

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