

COURSE OUTLINE

(1) GENERAL

SCHOOL	School of Humanities		
ACADEMIC UNIT	Department of Mediterranean Studies		
LEVEL OF STUDIES	Postgraduate		
COURSE CODE	E1	SEMESTER	1
COURSE TITLE	Archaeology of the ancient Egyptian religion: concomitant influences on the religious and philosophical systems of Late Antiquity in the Mediterranean		
INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES		WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS	CREDITS
		2	6
COURSE TYPE	<i>General background</i>		
PREREQUISITE COURSES:	None		
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION and EXAMINATIONS:	Greek		
IS THE COURSE OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS	-----		
COURSE WEBSITE (URL)	https://aegeanmoodle.aegean.gr/course/view.php?id=727		

(2) LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course students should be capable to:

- ✓ important aspects of the belief system and mortuary ideology of the ancient Egyptians;
- ✓ the movements of religious ideas, cults and symbols in the multicultural environment of the southeastern Mediterranean during the 1st millennium BC;
- ✓ the religious syncretism and the devotional osmosis of the native pharaonic tradition with the Greek religious practice in Greco-Roman Egypt;
- ✓ the recruitment and transformation of the Egyptian religious tradition from the philosophical streams of Late Antiquity;
- ✓ the basic principles of philosophical and technical Hermetism and the possible Egyptian influences on it;
- ✓ the contemporary findings of research on the analysis of the way in which ancient societies operate and behave in matters of faith, worship and social ideology;
- ✓ the different ways of reading the peculiarities and the points of convergence of different cultures and social behaviors in the southeastern Mediterranean of the Hellenistic period;
- ✓ the methodology of study and analysis of primary textbooks and historical sources;

- ✓ the methodology of study and evaluation of the multi-level character of the Egyptian religious tradition.

(3) SYLLABUS

The course examines the character and semantics of ancient Egyptian religion and ritual practice, as well as the subsequent effects on the magical-religious and philosophical tradition of Late Antiquity in the Mediterranean. It analyzes the symbolism of the Egyptian ritual praxis and the religious dramaturgy, emphasizes the interrelated relationship of magic with the religious system of thought and behavior of ancient Egyptians and describes Egyptian moral ideology and burial practices. Particular emphasis is given on the evolution of Pharaonic religion during the Greco-Roman period and the contribution of Greek worldview and theology to the development of a particular religious conviction in the multicultural environment of the Hellenistic world. It outlines the image and meaning of an "other" Egypt as a geopolitical space in which the conditions for the dialectical osmosis of the theological philosophy of Late Antiquity with native Egyptian theology are shaped.

(4) TEACHING and LEARNING METHODS - EVALUATION

DELIVERY	<i>Face-to-face and distance learning. More specifically, lessons are taught in four lectures and two teleconferences through the Big Blue Button modern e-learning platform, with visual support (slides, 3D representations, videos) embedded in PowerPoint presentations (Microsoft), study of ancient sources and relevant bibliography, active participation of students throughout the course through questionnaires and discussion (via the discussion room of the Moodle asynchronous learning platform).</i>	
USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY	Use of the Moodle platform	
TEACHING METHODS	Activity	Semester workload
	Lectures	24 ώρες (0.96 ECTS)
	Study and analysis of bibliography	40 ώρες (2.2 ECTS)
	Essay writing	80 ώρες (2.59 ECTS)
	Teleconferences	6 ώρες (0,24 ECTS)
	Course total	150 ώρες (6 ECTS)
STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION	<i>Summative evaluation:</i> Short essay-analysis of representative texts. Evaluation procedure is stated on the Moodle platform	

(4) ATTACHED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Basic reading:

- ✓ J. Assmann, *The Search for God in Ancient Egypt*, Ithaca/London, 2001
- ✓ Π. Κουσουλής, *Αναζητώντας την Αιώνια Ζωή: Θάνατος και Ταρίχωση στην Αρχαία Αίγυπτο*, Σειρά: Πλοηγός, εκδ. Αρχέτυπο-Μεταεκδοτική, Θεσσαλονίκη, 2004
- ✓ Π. Παχής, *Οι Ανατολικές Λατρείες της Ελληνορωμαϊκής Εποχής: Συμβολή στην Ιστορία και τη Μεθοδολογία της Έρευνας*, Θεσσαλονίκη, 2010
- ✓ Π. Σαρίσχουλη, *Πλουτάρχου Περί Ίσιδος και Οσίριδος: Ο Μύθος*, Θεσσαλονίκη, 2011

- Additional bibliography

- ✓ J. Assmann, *Death and Salvation in Ancient Egypt*, Ithaca/London, 2005
- ✓ J. Assmann, 'Semiosis and interpretation in ancient Egyptian ritual' στο S. Biderman-B.-A. Scharfstein (επιμ.), *Interpretation in Religion (Philosophy and Religion 2)*, Leiden, 1992, σελ. 87-109
- ✓ R. S. Bagnall, P. Derow, *The Hellenistic Period: Historical Sources in Translation*, Malden MA/Oxford, 2004.
- ✓ R. S. Bagnall, *Hellenistic Egypt: Monarchy, Society, Economy, Culture*, Edinburgh, 2007
- ✓ J. Baines, 'Sources of Egyptian temple cosmology: Divine image, king, and ritual performer' στο D. Ragavan (επιμ.), *Heaven on Earth: Temples, Ritual, and Cosmic Symbolism in the Ancient World* (Papers from the Oriental Institute Seminar 'Heaven on Earth' held at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, 2-3 March 2012) (Oriental Institute Seminars 9), Chicago, 2013, σελ. 395-424
- ✓ B.R. Finnestad, 'Temples of the Ptolemaic and Roman periods: Ancient traditions in new contexts' στο B. E. Shafer (επιμ.), *Temples of Ancient Egypt*, Ithaca NY, 1997, σελ. 185-317
- ✓ G. Fowden, *Ο Αιγύπτιος Ερμής: Πράξη και Σκέψη στην Ύστερη Αρχαιότητα* (μτφρ. Γ. Κουσουνέλος), Αθήνα, 2002
- ✓ D. Frankfurter, *Religion in Roman Egypt: Assimilation and Resistance*, Princeton, 1998
- ✓ H. J. Gehrke, H. J., *Ιστορία του Ελληνιστικού Κόσμου* [μετάφραση Α. Χανιώτης]. Αθήνα: Μορφωτικό Ίδρυμα Εθνικής Τραπέζης, 2003
- ✓ G. Hoelbl, *A History of the Ptolemaic Empire*, London, 2001
- ✓ P. Kousoulis & K. Magliveras (eds.), *Moving Across Borders: Foreign Relations, Religion and Cultural Interactions in the Ancient Mediterranean*, OLA 159, Leuven, 2007
- ✓ M. Luther, *Οι Θρησκείες της Ελληνιστικής Εποχής* (μτφρ. Σ. Ξυγαλατάς), Θεσσαλονίκη, 2004
- ✓ I. Moyer, *Egypt and the Limits of Hellenism*, Cambridge, 2011
- ✓ Π. Παχής, *Η Λατρεία της Ίσιδας και του Σάραπι: Από την Τοπική στην Οικουμενική Κοινωνία*, Θεσσαλονίκη, 2010
- ✓ G. Pinch, *Magic in Ancient Egypt*, London, 1995
- ✓ C. Riggs, *The Beautiful Burial in Roman Egypt: Art, Identity and Funerary Religion*, Oxford, 2005
- ✓ R.K. Ritner, *The Mechanics of Ancient Egyptian Magical Practice* (SAOC 54), Chicago, 1993
- ✓ R.K. Ritner, 'Egyptian magical practice under the Roman Empire: The Demotic spells and their religious context', *ANRW II* 18.5 (1995), σελ. 3333-79
- ✓ W. Stevenson-Smith, *Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt*, New Heaven, 1998

- Websites of relevant interest:

- ✓ ABZU (<http://www.etana.org/abzubib>)
[an index of internet ANE resources]
- ✓ TRISMEGISTOS (<http://www.trismegistos.org/>)
[an interdisciplinary portal of papyrological and epigraphical resources]
- ✓ Propylaeum: Virtuelle Fachbibliothek Altertumswissenschaften
(<http://www.propylaeum.de/aegyptologie>)
[a central point for studying the ancient world]
- ✓ Iconography of Deities and Demons in the Ancient Near East
(<http://www.religionswissenschaft.uzh.ch/idd/index.php>)
- ✓ Perseus Digital Library [<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/>]
- ✓ Aegean Egyptology <http://www.aegeanegyptology.gr>