

SPRING 2024:

Course Offerings in Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations (AMC)

For more information on the AMC major or courses that fulfill its requirements, please contact Prof. Sophie Crawford-Brown (sc125@rice.edu).

ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH 318/518 Ceramics and Society

Prof. Molly Morgan

T/TH, 1:00pm-2:15pm | Distribution Group 2

This seminar will provide students with the skills and knowledge to describe, characterize, analyze, and draw interpretations from ceramic artifacts commonly recovered from archaeological sites. Through a combination of hands-on projects and discussion themes, the course examines several aspects of archaeological ceramics including their production and distribution, as well as their significance in social, political, economic, and ritual contexts.

ANTH 345/545 The Politics of the Past: Archaeology in Social Context

Prof. Mary Prendergast

W, 1:00pm-3:30pm | Distribution Group 2

An examination of the way that archaeological evidence of the past has been used and viewed by particular groups at different times. Using case studies, the course considers issues of gender, race, Eurocentrism, political domination and legitimacy that emerge from critical analysis of representations of the past by archaeologists, museums, and collectors.

ANTH 355/555 Place, Space, and Landscape: Landscape Archaeology

Prof. Molly Morgan

T/TH, 10:50am-12:05pm

This course provides an overview of the way archaeologists study space, place and landscape, including studies that emphasize ecological, symbolic, political economic and religious aspects. Recent theoretical work on space, place and landscape will be emphasized, as well as archaeological methods of investigation and interpretation, including remote sensing, surveying, and GIS.

ART HISTORY

HART 330 Early Medieval Art

Prof. Denva Gallant

T/TH, 1:00pm-2:15pm | Distribution Group 1 | Cross-list: MDEM 330

This course begins with a study of the art and architecture of the Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Lombards, Celts, Anglo-Saxons, and Merovingians, and the transformation of the Roman World through new Germanic, Barbarian, and Christian forces. The second part of the course considers the cultural Renaissance of the Carolingian and Ottonian Periods under rulers such as Charlemagne and Otto III. The last third of the course focuses on themes of pilgrimage, relics, crusades and the emergence of new monumental tradition in art during the Romanesque Period.

HART 355/555 Vessels and Vase-Painting: Ancient Mediterranean Ceramics in the Menil Collection

Dr. Danielle Bennett

Thursdays, 3:00pm-5:30pm

This course provides an overview of pottery of the ancient Mediterranean world spanning from the Bronze Age to Roman period (ca. 3300 BCE – 400 CE), with a primary focus on ancient Greece. We will examine a broad history of ceramic

production through the vases at the Menil Collection, including production techniques, decoration and subject matter. We will consider archaeological contexts, major themes, and debates in the field as well as in modern museum settings.

HART 377/577 Medieval Manuscripts

Prof. Denva Gallant

Mondays, 1:00pm-3:30pm | Distribution Group 1 | Cross-list: MDEM 377

This seminar explores illuminated European manuscripts from late antiquity through the early sixteenth century. It examines manuscripts' functions, patrons, makers, & materials and technique, as well as such issues as the relationship between text and image and the manuscript's ideological stance. Students will have the opportunity to study original medieval illuminations.

CLASSICAL STUDIES

CLAS 108 Roman Civilization & Its Legacy

Prof. Scott McGill

M/W/F, 4:00pm-4:50pm | Distribution Group 1 | Cross-list: HUMA 111

This course will investigate central aspects of Roman civilization: politics, religion, law, oratory, private life, public entertainment, literature, and visual art and architecture. We will also examine the place of ancient Rome in the western imagination, and the influence of ancient Rome on later politics, literature, and art.

CLAS 235 Classical Mythology: Interpretation, Origins, & Influence

Prof. Hilary Mackie

T/TH, 2:30pm-3:45pm | Distribution Group 1

We will read and analyze some of the most influential Greek myths (including their parallels and permutations in other cultures). Employing insights from a variety of theoretical approaches to myth, we will identify typical story patterns, characters, and events, and the values, anxieties, and aspirations for which they stand.

CLAS 316 Democracy & Political Theory in Ancient Greece

Prof. Harvey Yunis

T/TH, 1:00pm-2:15pm | Distribution Group 1 | Cross-list: PLST 316

The Greeks created political society and studied political society in order to understand and improve it. One particular form of political society, democracy, reached its pinnacle in Athens. We shall attempt to understand how ancient Greeks thought about politics from the rudimentary beginnings in Homer to the complex, incisive arguments of Aristotle.

GREE 102 Elementary Greek II

Prof. Hilary Mackie

M/W/F, 2:00pm-2:50pm

GREE 310/510 Advanced Greek Language & Literature

Prof. Harvey Yunis

T/TH, 2:30pm-3:45pm

This course is open to all students of ancient Greek who have completed GREE 102 or higher. Its focus is translation, grammatical analysis, and literary criticism of ancient Greek texts (prose and/or poetry). Because the assigned Greek texts vary from semester to semester, the course may be repeated for credit.

LATI 102 Elementary Latin II

Prof. Hilary Mackie

M/W/F, 1:00pm-1:50pm | Cross-list: MDEM 102

LATI 202 Intermediate Latin II

Prof. Ted Somerville

T/TH, 10:50am-12:05pm | Distribution Group 1 | Cross-list: MDEM 212

Readings in Virgil. LATI 202 and MDEM 212 are mutually exclusive with LATI 210.

LATI 310 Advance Latin Language

Prof. Ted Somerville

T/TH, 1:00pm-2:15pm

This course is open to all students who have completed LATI 102 or higher. Its focus is on the translation, grammatical analysis, and literary criticism of classical Latin texts (prose and/or poetry). Because the assigned Latin texts vary from semester to semester, the course may be repeated for credit.

HISTORY

HIST 211 Medieval Violence

Prof. Maya Soifer Irish

T/TH, 10:50am-12:05pm | Distribution Group 1 | Cross-list: MDEM 210

Discussion course looks at private and large-scale warfare during the European Middle Ages. It considers how violence was legitimized and carried out, and examines attitudes towards violence and its effects on society. Topics include theoretical approaches to violence, crusading, chivalry, Truce of God, rituals of violence, military technologies, and cinematic portrayals of medieval warfare.

HIST 327 Medieval Borderlands

Prof. Maya Soifer Irish

T/TH, 1:00pm-2:15pm | Distribution Group 1 | Cross-list: MDEM 327

Courses examines the military, political, social and cultural developments on the European frontiers between 500-1500 AD. Topics include colonization and conquest, crusades and Spanish Reconquista, piracy, slavery, encounters with native peoples, spread of Christianity, medieval colonial regimes, map-making and cultural exchanges.

PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 281 History of Philosophy I

Prof. Victor Saenz

T/TH, 2:30pm-3:45pm | Distribution Group 1

Survey of the major philosophers and philosophical systems of ancient Greece, from Parmenides to the Stoics.

RELIGION

RELI 112 Comparing Christianities: Introduction to Early Christianity

Prof. April DeConick

M/W/F, 10:00am-10:50am | Distribution Group 1

This course focuses on understanding the pluralistic nature of early Christianity from its grassroots beginnings in a commune in Jerusalem to its growth in Egypt, Syria, Asia Minor, North Africa, and Rome. Different Christian movements are studied comparatively as well as historically. Take-home exams.

RELI 126 Introduction to Biblical Hebrew II

Prof. Matthias Henze

T/TH, 1:00pm-2:15pm | Cross-list: HEBR 126

Continuation of RELI 125. We will finish the grammar in the second half of this semester and then read selections from the Hebrew Bible.

RELI 308/592 Basic Coptic 2

Prof. April DeConick

M/W, 8:00am-9:15am

Second semester introduction to Coptic grammar and vocabulary, with selected readings from the Coptic New Testament, Nag Hammadi, and monastic literature. Prerequisite: Introduction to Coptic Language I.

RELI 384 Pilgrimage and Crusade

Prof. David Cook

M/W/F, 11:00am-11:50am | Distribution Group 1

Focus on the pilgrimage to Jerusalem and Mecca by Jews, Christians, and Muslims within the context of the crusade period. Also covers the historical religious events of the crusades (approximately 1000-1300) from both a Muslim and a Christian perspective.

RELI 406/506 Christianity and Late Antiquity

Prof. Niki Clements

Wednesdays, 2:00pm-4:50pm

This advanced seminar treats the formation of Christianity as an institutional power in relation to the Roman Empire. Starting with the Edict of Milan in 313 CE, which put an end to persecution of Christians, and closing with the Council of Chalcedon in 451 CE, which established normative Christian doctrine, we will move through this development in seven roughly chronological units.

RELI 442/541 Classical and Contemporary Arabic Texts

Prof. David Cook

Instructor schedules meeting times with students independently.

Study and read classical Arabic texts with the goal of learning the material as well as the syntax and grammar of Arabic.

RELI 611 Readings in Medieval Latin

Prof. Claire Fanger

Instructor schedules meeting times with students independently.

Guided readings in Latin from a range of medieval genres, including medicine, theology, visionary literature. Repeatable for credit.