

FYSE 1465a: Feasts and Festivals in the Ancient World

Fall 2015

T/R 9.30-10.45, AXT 301

Office Hours: T 2-3, W 9:30-10:30; R 1-2; by appointment

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In this course we will examine Greek and Roman feasts and religious festivals through an exploration of mythology, ritual, and sacrifice. While ancient myths revealed tensions between the human world and the natural and divine orders, festivals commemorating the myths offered opportunities to enact and resolve these tensions ritually. As feasts figured prominently in festivals, we will also seek to understand how food and drink, and the contexts in which they were consumed, served as markers of ethnicity, social class, and gender. Lastly, we will investigate the meaning of prohibitions against certain foods, including beans, raw flesh, and human meat.

Texts: All readings will be posted on the course website. You can find the website here: go/feastsandfestivals

Requirements: You must attend regularly. This class meets twice times a week. You are expected to be in class all days and to participate in some capacity. I understand that not everyone participates in extroverted ways. This course will combine class general and small group discussions, lectures, activities, and short writing assignments in class. There are many ways to participate in this course. Most importantly, you must demonstrate engagement with the readings and material. Consequently...

Computer/Cell Phones: Please do not use them in class. There are days when you will need your computer in class. I will send you an email 24 hours in advance to notify you if you need your computer.

Grading: There are four different types of assignments for which you will be graded.

1) Short Written Assignments = 6% each (there are a total of 5).

These assignments are marked by **** in the syllabus. Please note that one is missing from this syllabus. This will allow us to incorporate an activity as we are moved to do so.

2) Papers = 10% each (there are a total of 4; two analytic, one creative, one persuasive).

3) Final Paper = 15%

4) Daily Comments = 15% 20 total.

There are comments concerning the reading. In your comment please identify the main point(s) of the reading, and what you found most interesting. These comments are not meant to be long—only 200-250 words (for reference, the course description above is 100 words). Sometimes I will offer questions for you to consider as you are reading. Please use these questions to guide your reading. You may wish to respond to one of these questions in your daily comment.

You must submit comments via email by 9.00 am on the day of class in order to receive credit. Please type them directly into the email. Do not send them as attachments. You are only responsible for submitting these on days when there are no other assignments due in class. There are a total of 22 of these class days. You must submit 20 comments (or the two lowest grades will be dropped). You are responsible for keeping track of many you have done.

Papers Requirements: 4-5 pages, spacing 1.5, times/helvetica, submitted by email as word document (or you can share your paper with me through google docs). All papers must be submitted by 7.59 pm unless indicated otherwise. All papers require in-text citations and a works cited page (format MLA). A citation guide for primary sources in classics will be posted under "course materials."

Here is a link to Middlebury's citation guide: go/citations

You may also find this link useful: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Writing and Academic Mentor: A mentor has been assigned to work with our class. You will meet Delia in the next couple of weeks. She will be available to work with you on your papers. As we approach the date for our first writing assignment, we will discuss the necessary preparations for your first meeting with Delia.

The Honor Code: Please familiarize yourself with the Middlebury's honor code. You will be required to include the pledge on all submitted papers. We will discuss the honor code throughout the semester, but feel free to ask specific questions if you have any. I am always happy to meet with you in person or to discuss questions over email.

Readings: The dates for the readings listed below reflect the day on which they will be discussed in class. Please note that the syllabus is subject to change. All readings will be posted on the course website. Please be sure to check the course website often. I send out reminders after class concerning the readings and homework for the next class. All emails will be posted on the course website under "course announcements."

Part One: Rome

Unit One, Nature versus Culture

Week One **Hesiod, Meat, and Marriage**
(R 17 Sept) Primary Source: Hesiod, *Works and Days*, lines 1-128; *Theogony*, lines 492-616.
Secondary Source: Vernant, Jean-Pierre. "At Man's Table: Hesiod's Foundation Myth of Sacrifice." *The Cuisine of Sacrifice Among the Greeks*. Eds. Marcel Detienne and Jean-Pierre Vernant. Trans. Paula Wissing. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1989. 21-86. (Pages 21-43.)

Week Two **Hesiod, Meat, and Marriage/Sacrifice in Practice**
(T 22 Sept) Secondary Source: Zeitlin, Froma, *Playing the Other: Gender and Society in Classical Greek Literature*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996. ("Signifying Difference: The Case of Hesiod's Pandora," pages 53-74.)
Blundell, Sue. *Women in Ancient Greece*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1995. ("Creation Myth," pages 20-24.)
(R 24 Sept) Primary Source: Rice, David G. and John E. Stambaugh, *Sources for the Study of Greek Religion*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2009. ("Sacrifices," pages 81-88.)
Secondary Source: Zaidman, Louise Bruit and Pauline Schmitt Pantel, *Religion in the Ancient Greek City*. Trans. Paul Cartledge. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002. ("Rituals"/"Cult Practices," pages 27-54.) Discussion of paper one prompt.

Week Three **Library Seminar/Homeric Feasts?**
(T 29 Sept) Library Skills Seminar.
Primary Source: Homer, *Iliad*, Book 23.
Secondary Source: Hughes, Dennis D. *Human Sacrifice in Ancient Greece*. New York: Routledge, 1991. ("Funerary Ritual Killing in Greek History and Literature, pages 49-56.); Burkert, Walter. *Homo Necans. The Anthropology of Ancient Greek Sacrificial Ritual and Myth*. Trans. Peter Bing. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1983. ("Funerary Ritual," pages 48-58.)
(R 1 Oct) Primary Source: Homer, *Odyssey*, Book 9.
Secondary Source: Nieto Hernández, Pura. "Back in the Cave of the Cyclops." *The American Journal of Philology* 121.3 (2000): 345-66.

Thursday, October 1, 6:00 pm: Class dinner hosted by Ross Commons.

Week Four **Cannibalism/Writing Lab**
(T 6 Oct) Primary Source: Selections from Pindar; Seneca, *Thyestes*.
Secondary Source: Burkert, Walter. *Homo Necans*. Trans. Peter Bing. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1983. ("Werewolves Around the Tripod Kettle," pages 83-103.)
(R 8 Oct) ****Writing Lab: Please come to class with a rough draft or annotated outline of your paper.

******Paper 1, Rough Draft: Due Friday, Oct. 9, 7.59 pm. Please email me your paper as a word or google doc. Your paper will be returned to you with comments by the end of the day on Sunday, Oct. 11.**

Unit Two, Belonging and Not Belonging

Week Five **The Athenian Festival Calendar/Eleusis**

(T 13 Oct) Secondary Source: Zaidman and Schmitt Pantel, "The Festival System: The Athenian Case," pages 102-111; Iddeng, Jon W. "What is a Greco-Roman Festival? A Polythetic Approach." *Greek and Roman Festivals. Content, Meaning, and Practice*. Eds J. Rasmus Brandt and Jon W. Iddeng. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012. 11-31; Maurizio, Lisa. "The Panathenaic Procession: Athens' Participatory Democracy on Display?" *Democracy, Empire, and the Arts in Fifth-Century Athens*. Eds Deborah Boedeker and Kurt A. Raaflaub. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1998. 297-317;

(R 15 Oct) Primary Source: Rice and Stambaugh, "Eleusis," pages 129-45.

Secondary Source: Clinton, Kevin. "The Mysteries of Demeter and Kore." *A Companion to Greek Religion*. Ed. Daniel Ogden. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. 342-56; Morgan, Janett. "Women, Religion, and the Home," 297-310. ("Festivals and Female Movement.")

Paper 1, Final Draft: Due Friday, Oct. 16, 7.59 pm. Please email me your paper as a word or google doc.

Week Six: Research Skills Seminar/Dionysus

(T 20 Oct) Research Skills Seminar

(R 22 Oct) Primary Source: Rice and Stambaugh, "Dionysus," pages 146-57; Euripides, *Bacchae*.

Secondary Source: Cole, Susan Guettel. "Finding Dionysus." *A Companion to Greek Religion*, 327-41.

Week Seven: Insiders and Outsiders at Mealtime

(T 27 Oct) Primary Source: Menander, *Dyskolus*.

Wilkins, John M. and Shaun Hill, *Food in the Ancient World*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2006. ("The Social Context of Eating," pages 41-78.)

(R 29 Oct) ****Writing Lab: Please come to class with a rough draft of your letter and writing process narrative.

Paper Two, Final Draft: Due Friday, Oct. 30, 7.59 pm. Please email me your paper as a word or google doc.

Part Two: Rome

Unit One: Meat, Wheat, Dining, and Feasts in Rome

Week Eight: Etruscan and Roman Sacrificial Practices

(T 3 Nov) Primary Source: Primary Source: Shelton, Jo-Ann. *As the Romans Did*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998. ("Religion and Philosophy," pages 359-78.)

Secondary Source: Warden, Gregory. "The Blood of Animals: Predation and Transformation in Etruscan Funerary Representation." *New Perspectives on Etruria and Early Rome*. Eds. Sinclair Bell and Helen Nagy. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2009. 198-214; Beard, Mary, John North, and Simon Price. *Religions of Rome. Volume 1*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998. ("Finding the religion of the early Roman," pages 1-18.)

(R 5 Nov.) Primary Source: Shelton, "Religion and Philosophy," pages 378-86.)

Secondary Source: Beard, North, Price, *Religions of Rome. Volume 1*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998. ("Gods and Goddesses in the life of Rome"/"Religion and Action"), pages 30-54. Discussion of "Spotlight on Roman Festivals Day," November 19.

Week Nine: Comedic Cooks and Satirical Feasts

(T 10 Nov) Primary Source: Plautus, *Pseudolus*.

Secondary Source: Gowers, Emily. *The Loaded Table: Representation of Food in Roman Literature*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993. ("An Approach to Eating," pages 1-49); Laura Banducci, "The Delayed Feast: the festival context of Plautus' *Pseudolus*," <http://www.didaskalia.net/issues/8/30/>

(R 12 Nov) Primary: Petronius' *Satyricon*, "Trimalchio's Dinner Party."

Secondary: Ruden, Sarah. *Petronius. Satyricon*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2000. ("Who Was Petronius Anyway?" pages 129-31.)

Friday, November 13, 6:00 pm: Roman food cooking session hosted by Ross Commons.

Week Ten: Roman Festivals

(T 17 Nov) ****Writing Lab: Please come to class with a rough draft or annotated outline of your paper.

(R 19 Nov) Spotlight on Roman Festivals: Group presentation. (I will provide you with a selection of articles; your task will be to present the article to the class.)

Paper Three, Final Draft: Due Sunday, Nov. 22, 11.59 pm. Please email me your paper as a word or google doc.

Part Four: Roman Dietary Constraints and Identities

Week Eleven: Athletic Spectacles and Diets

(T Nov. 24) Primary Source: Warrior, *Roman Religion. A Sourcebook* (Games, Religion, and Politics), pages 115-26.

Secondary Source: Dunkle, Roger. *Gladiators. Violence and Spectacle in Ancient Rome*. New York: Routledge, 2008. ("Gladiator Games in Action," pages 66-96 (lots of images); Kyle, Donald. *Spectacles of Death in Ancient Rome*. New York: Routledge, 1998. ("Arenas and Eating: Corpses and Carcasses as Food?" pages 184-212.)

Week Twelve: Medical Approaches and Food Taboos

(T Dec. 1) Primary Source: Galen, selections; Hippocratic Corpus, selections.

Secondary Source: Wilkins and Hill, "Medical Approaches to Food," pages 211-46.

(R 3 Dec) Primary Source: Plutarch, *On Eating Meat*.

Secondary Source: Michael Beer, *Taste or Taboo*. Trowbridge: Prospect Books, 2010.

("Vegetarianism"/"Beans," pages 28-53.)

Week Thirteen: Bacchanalia/Discussion of Papers

(T 8 Dec) Primary Source: Livy, 39.8-19 (<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/livy39.asp>);

Warrior, Valerie. *Roman Religion. A Sourcebook*. Newburyport, MA: Focus Publishing, 2002.

("Accepting New Gods, Cults, Rituals," pages 83-98.)

Secondary Source: Beer "Restrictions Upon Alcohol," pages 84-100.

(R 10 Dec) ****Class Debate (preparation for paper four; please come to class with notes for the class debate)/Discussion of Final Paper.

Paper Four, Final Draft: Due Friday, Dec. 11, 7.59 pm. Please email me your paper as a word or google doc.

Final Paper: Due Friday, Dec. 18, 7.59 pm. Please email me your paper as a word or google doc.

Summary of Paper Deadlines:

****Paper 1, Rough Draft: Due Friday, Oct. 9, 7.59 pm.

Paper 1, Final Draft: Due Friday, Oct. 16, 7.59 pm.

Paper Two, Final Draft: Due Friday, Oct. 30, 7.59 pm.

Paper Three, Final Draft: Due Friday, Nov. 22, 11.59 pm.

Paper Four, Final Draft: Due Friday, Dec. 11, 7.59 pm.

Final Paper: Due Friday, Dec. 18, 7.59 pm.