

COURSE OUTLINE

(1) GENERAL

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| SCHOOL | School of Humanities | | |
| ACADEMIC UNIT | Department of Mediterranean Studies | | |
| LEVEL OF STUDIES | Undergraduate | | |
| COURSE CODE | E-4 | SEMESTER | 6 |
| COURSE TITLE | Searching for the Divine in Ancient Egypt | | |
| INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES | | WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS | CREDITS |
| | | 3 | 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://eclass.aegean.gr/ | | |

(2) LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- ✓ important aspects of the Egyptian belief system,
- ✓ 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 archaeology of the ancient Egyptian religion,
- ✓ the magical phenomenon in ancient Egypt and the materiality of magic
- ✓ the movements of religious ideas, cults and symbols in the multicultural environment of the southeastern Mediterranean during the 2nd and 1st millennia BCE,
- ✓ 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 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

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| DELIVERY | <i>Face-to-face</i> | |
| USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY | Use of the e-class platform | |
| TEACHING METHODS | Activity | Semester workload |
| | Lectures | 39 ώρες (1.56 ECTS) |
| | Study hours | 108 ώρες (4.32 ECTS) |
| | Final Exams | 3 ώρες (0.12 ECTS) |
| | Course total | 150 ώρες (6 ECTS) |
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| STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION | <i>Summative evaluation</i> <i>short-answer questions</i> <i>open-ended questions</i> Evaluation procedure is stated on the e-class platform | |

(4) BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Selected bibliography

- ✓ 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
- ✓ J. Assmann, *The Search for God in Ancient Egypt*, Ithaca/London, 2001
- ✓ J. Assmann, *Death and Salvation in Ancient Egypt*, Ithaca/London, 2005
- ✓ R. S. Bagnall, P. Derow, *The Hellenistic Period: Historical Sources in Translation*, Malden MA/Oxford, 2004.

- ✓ J. Baines, 'Sources of Egyptian temple cosmology: Divine image, king, and ritual performer' in D. Ragavan (ed.), *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, 395-424
- ✓ B.R. Finnestad, 'Temples of the Ptolemaic and Roman periods: Ancient traditions in new contexts' in B. E. Shafer (ed.), *Temples of Ancient Egypt*, Ithaca NY, 1997, 185-317
- ✓ Frankfurter, D. (1998). *Religion in Roman Egypt: Assimilation and resistance*. Princeton University Press
- ✓ Hornung, E. (1982). *Conceptions of God in Ancient Egypt: The One and the Many* (J. Baines, Trans.). Cornell University Press
- ✓ Pinch, G. (2006). *Magic in Ancient Egypt* (Rev. ed.). British Museum Press
- ✓ Ritner, R. K. (1993). *The mechanics of Ancient Egyptian magical practice*. Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Shafer, B. E. (Ed.). (1991). *Religion in Ancient Egypt: Gods, myths, and personal practice*. Cornell University Press
- ✓ W. Stevenson-Smith, *Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt*, New Heaven, 1998
- ✓ Wilkinson, R. (2000), *The Complete Temples of Ancient Egypt*, London

- 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>