

Course Number

Classics 370

Course Title

Belief, Practice, Politics

Quarter/Year

Spring 2021

Day/Time

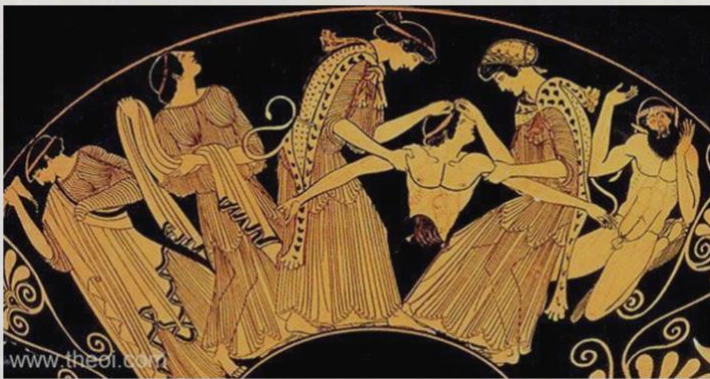
TTh 2-3:20pm

Instructor

Weinritt

Degree/Distro Fulfillment

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Course Description:

Did the Greeks and Romans believe in their myths? How was ancient religion practiced day in and day out? What role did the rites and rules of cult worship play in regulating the lives of citizens and non-citizens, like women and slaves? This course offers an introduction to how religious beliefs and practices shaped life in the ancient Mediterranean by combining literary, material, and comparative evidence. In the second half of the quarter, we take a deeper dive into two religious rites practiced by societal Others—the worship of Bacchus by noble women and the lifelong service to Cybele by castrated priests—and how the high visibility of these norm-breaking individuals in literature lay bare the anxieties of the elite male citizenry.

Image: Red-figure cup showing the death of Pentheus by the Bacchae. Douros Painter. c. 480 bce. Kimball Art Museum.

Required Textbooks

TBA

Assessments

Midterms, Final Paper