

## **Religion, Race, and Ethnicity in the Ancient Mediterranean Fall, 2014**

The terms religion, ethnicity, and (less frequently) race are often used in discussions of the ancient Mediterranean. In recent years, however, they have been coming under increasing interrogation: Do the ancients themselves think in such categories? Even if they do not, can the categories be analytically useful for modern scholars? This is intended to be a deeply comparative course to which students bring their own sets of expertise in order to create a cross-cultural conversation.

### **Goals**

By the end of this course you should:

1. Be familiar with the primary theoretical works on religion, race, and ethnicity that are most useful to study of the ancient world;
2. Gain insight on whether or how different Mediterranean societies conceive of the categories religion, race, and ethnicity;
3. Create new knowledge, either uncovering how a specific culture, author, etc., understood and used one or more of these categories or applying modern analytical categories to ancient data;
4. Become more comfortable and proficient publicly presenting and defending your own research and constructively critiquing that of others;
5. Learn to write annotated bibliographies;
6. Develop your ability to write a scholarly paper that has at least a stone's throw chance of being published.

### **Instructor**

Professor Michael Satlow, Religious Studies and Judaic Studies.

### **Structure of the Class and Expectations**

The first few classes we will be reading and discussing theoretical literature on these categories, mostly dealing specifically with the ancient world. The second part of the class will focus on more specific scholarly discussions. In the final part, students will present their own research for discussion and critique. More formally, the expectations are:

*Attendance and Participation* (10% of grade): Goes almost without saying.

*Presentations* (30% of grade). You will make three presentations in this class. After each, you will come see me to discuss it:

- Lead one class discussion;
- Lead a discussion of your paper;
- Respond to a paper

*Annotated Bibliography* (20% of grade). At the end of this syllabus is a tentative bibliography. We will not read everything on this list as a class. We will divide up the readings on this list and prepare short, 2-4 sentence summaries of at least some of this list.

*Final Paper* (40% of grade). This is normally a 15-20 page paper of original research. You will precirculate the paper to the class where you will receive feedback from both a formal respondent and the group as a whole. You will then meet individually with me about it. The final paper is due on December 18. If you need more time, come speak to me.

### Schedule

Please note that this is preliminary.

<b>September 4</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
<b>Week of: September 8 and 15</b>	<b>What is “Ethnicity”?</b> (2 classes) Reading: Satlow 2005; Barth, 1998, 9-38, 74-85; Hutchinson and Smith 1996, 3-45, 111-116, 189-202; Jenkins 1997, pp. 3-15, 40-87; Levine 1999; Smith 1986; Malešević 2004
<b>Week of September 22</b>	<b>Ethnicity, Case 1: Israelites</b> Reading: Skjeggstad 1992; Sparks 1998, 3-93; Thompson 1997; Hess and Wapnish 1997; Finkelstein and Silber, 2001, 97-122; Berlin 2005
<b>Week of September 29</b>	<b>Ethnicity, Case 2: Greeks</b> Reading: Gruen 2013; Hall 1997, 1-67, 111-142; Hall 2002, 1-29, 172-228; Malkin 2001, 29-112
<b>Week of October 6</b>	<b>What is “Race”?</b> Reading: Isaac 2004, 1-51; Loveman 1999; Omi and Winan 2014, 14-24 (chapter 1); Hippocrates 1923
<b>Week of October 13</b>	<b>Race, Case 1: Curse of Ham</b> Reading: Aaron 1995; Heschel 2009; McKenzie 1997; Johnson 2004, 27-72
<b>Week of October 20</b>	<b>Race, Case 2: Christians</b> Reading: Buell 2005, 1-62, 116-37, 166-9; Heschel 2010, tbd; Johnson 2007, 19-66, 137-148; Lieu 1995
<b>Week of October 27</b>	<b>What is “Religion”?</b> Reading: Boyarin
<b>Week of November 3</b>	<b>Religion, Case 1: Jew or Judean?</b>

	Reading: Baker 2009; Mason 2007; Satlow 2013; Schwartz, D.R. 2007; Schwartz, S. 2011
<b>Week of November 10</b>	<b>Religion, Case 2: Religion in Ancient Rome</b> Reading: Rüpke 2012, 172-204; Gordon 2008; Beard, North, and Price 1998, 1:211-244
<b>Week of November 17</b>	<b>Presentations</b>
<b>Week of December 1</b>	<b>Presentations</b>

## Preliminary and Partial Bibliography

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