

CLA 6805 sections 638F (distance); 638W (on-campus)  
**Classical Traditions: ROMAN RELIGION**  
Fall 2021

Tuesdays 7:00-9:00 p.m. EST in Zoom (see 'Zoom Conferences' in Canvas)

Instructor: Dr. Velvet L. Yates

Email: vyates@ufl.edu (or Canvas mail)

Office Hours by appointment

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

To gain an appreciation of the unique facets of Roman religion through both a topical and historical approach, using both primary and secondary sources.

### **TEXTBOOKS**

REQUIRED: *Religions of Rome, Vol. I A History, and Vol. II, A Sourcebook*. M. Beard, J. North, and S. Price, Cambridge University Press, 2007. Note: Vol. I is organized chronologically, Vol. II by subject matter.

ALSO: We'll be translating excerpts from Cicero's *De Natura Deorum* Book I, but I will provide pdf's of the text and commentary.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

a headset microphone is recommended for this class. Students using their device's built-in microphone may cause feedback and distortion for others in the class.

### **POLICIES AND GUIDELINES**

1. The class time is short, so please give it your full attention for the full class period. Please let me know ahead of time if you have a scheduling conflict for a particular class, and we can accommodate you (and not deduct from the attendance grade). If you do need to leave the class for a short period to attend to something (like a small child), that's fine - just let me know (by e.g. a private message in Zoom).
2. The weekly homework assignment must be uploaded in Canvas by midnight Monday. Late homework will be accepted only with a very good reason, and will receive half credit.
3. There will be a translation assignment, a ritual/service re-enactment, and a final paper or project in addition to the regular weekly readings and discussions. On all work submitted for credit, the following pledge is implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."
4. Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.
5. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the

quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).

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## **CAMPUS RESOURCES** (some of these won't apply if you're outside Gainesville)

### Health and Wellness:

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

*Counseling and Wellness Center:* [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

*Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

*University Police Department:* [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

*UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

### Academic Resources:

*E-learning technical support:* Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

[Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

[Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

[Teaching Center](#): Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

[Writing Studio](#): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

*Student Complaints On-Campus*: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)

*On-Line Students Complaints*: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#)

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**GRADING** See <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> on grading policies.

30% Attendance and participation (incl. assigned reading discussion boards)

15% Translation presentation

DUE TUES. OCT. 12, 7:00 p.m. EST (post report in Canvas, and give oral presentation in class)

15% Ritual Re-enactment (400-800 word report plus bibliography, plus class presentation)

DUE TUES. NOV. 16, 7:00 p.m. EST (post report in Canvas, and give oral presentation in class)

5% Paper topic statement (1 sentence) and outline

DUE FRI., NOV. 5, 11:59 P.M. EST: post in Canvas

15% Rough draft of paper and writing meeting [at least 1000 words, or c. 6-7 pages of Times New Roman size 12 font, double spacing]

DUE FRI., NOV. 19, 11:59 P.M. EST: post Word document in Canvas; writing meetings on Tues., 11/30

20% Final paper [c. 3000 words, or c. 12 pages of Times New Roman size 12 font, double spacing, exclusive of abstract (optional) and bibliography]

DUE MON., DEC. 13, 11:59 P.M. EST: post in Canvas

**Grading Scale**

A 100-93

A- 90-92

B+ 89-87

B 86-83

B- 80-82

C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	70-72
D	69-67
D	66-63
D-	60-62
E	59 or lower

## **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

### WEEK 1: Introductions

T 8/24

Reading assignment for next week: Beard Vol. I, Ch. 1 ('Early Rome') and Vol. II, Ch. 1 ('Earliest Rome')

### WEEK 2: Earliest Rome

T 8/31

Reading assignment for next week: Vol. I Ch. 3 ('Religion in the Late Republic'); Beard Vol. II, Ch. 2 ('The Deities of Rome'); Beard

### WEEK 3: The gods

T 9/7

Reading assignment for next week: Beard Vol. I Ch. 4 ('The place of religion: Rome in the early Empire'); Beard Vol. II Ch. 3 ('The calendar')

### WEEK 4: Division of time

T 9/14

Reading assignment for next week: Beard Vol. I Ch. 5 ('The boundaries of Roman religion'); Beard Vol. II Ch. 4 ('Religious Places')

### WEEK 5: Division of space

T 9/21

Reading assignment for next week: Beard Vol. I Ch. 6 ('The religions of imperial Rome'); Beard Vol. II Ch. 5 ('Festivals and ceremonies')

### WEEK 6: Festivals and ceremonies

T 9/28

Reading assignment for next week: Beard Vol. I Ch. 7 ('Roman religion and Roman Empire'); Beard Vol. II Ch. 6 ('Sacrifices')

### WEEK 7: Sacrifices

T 10/5

Reading assignment for week 9: Beard Vol. I Ch. 8 ('Roman religion and Christian emperors'); Beard Vol. II Ch. 7 ('Divination and diviners')

WEEK 8: Translation presentations in class

T 10/12

(Reading assignment for next week: see Week 7)

WEEK 9: Auspices and divination

T 10/19

Reading assignment for next week: Beard Vol. II Ch. 8 ('Priests and priestesses')

WEEK 10: Priests and priestesses

T 10/26

Reading assignment for next week: Beard Vol. II Ch. 11 ('Threats to the Roman order');  
Beard Vol. II Ch. 10 ('Rome outside Rome')

WEEK 11: beyond Rome

T 11/2

Reading assignment for next week: Beard Vol. II Ch. 9 ('Individuals and gods: life and death')

**PAPER TOPIC STATEMENT (1 sentence) and OUTLINE due FRI., NOV. 5, 11:59 P.M. EST**

WEEK 12: Life and death

T 11/9

Reading assignment for week 16: Beard Vol. II Ch. 13 ('Perspectives')

WEEK 13: Ritual re-enactments in class

T 11/16

**ROUGH DRAFT OF FINAL PAPER DUE FRI., NOV. 19, 11:59 P.M. EST**

WEEK 14:

**T 11/23 NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING**

WEEK 15: individual rough draft meetings

[Reading assignment for next week: see Week 12]

T 11/30

WEEK 16: The afterlife of Roman religion

T 12/7

**FINAL PAPER DUE MON., DEC. 13 11:59 P.M. EST**