

COURSE OUTLINE

(1) GENERAL

SCHOOL	HUMANITIES		
ACADEMIC UNIT	DEPARTMENT OF MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES		
LEVEL OF STUDIES	UNDERGRADUATE		
COURSE CODE	AYE-55	ΕΞΑΜΗΝΟ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ	8
COURSE TITLE	THE MAGICAL AND MYSTICAL TRADITION OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN		
INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES		WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS	CREDITS
		3	5
COURSE TYPE	Special background		
PREREQUISITE COURSES:			
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION and EXAMINATIONS:	Greek		
IS THE COURSE OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS	-----		
COURSE WEBSITE (URL)			

(2) LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning outcomes
<p>By the end of the course students should be capable to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ the terminology, the methodological tools and the new research trends in the academic study of magic and mysticism in antiquity ✓ the special characteristics and development of the magical phenomenon in the eastern Mediterranean ✓ the interaction, osmosis and transformation of magico-religious symbols in the multicultural environment of the eastern Mediterranean ✓ the archeology of magic ✓ the ontology and semantics of the Egyptian magical system of thought and practice (heka) ✓ Egypt as interactive topos of the ancient Greek and Christian theologians ✓ the peculiarities of the mystical tradition and theurgical philosophy of Late Antiquity ✓ the mystical revival, esoteric anti-enlightenment and modernism
(3) SYLLABUS
<p>Terminology, methodological tools and new research trends in the academic study of magic and mysticism. Tracing magic in the Aegean world of the Bronze Age. Ontology and semantics of the Egyptian magical system of thought and practice (heka). The socio-political components and configurations of the magical phenomenon in Pharaonic and Greco-Roman Egypt. Sacramental forms and traditions. The mystical phenomenon during Late Antiquity (Neoplatonism, Hermeticism, Gnosticism). The concepts of the soul and human existence in</p>

relation to the divine in the mystery cults of Late Antiquity. The Egyptian mystery religious tradition and its role in the Christian theology. The role of the Alexandrian hermeneutic tradition in the creation of orthodox mystical theology. The philosophical and theological aspects of Jewish mysticism (Kabbalah). Tracing the mystical current in its timeless manifestations, as well as the diverse phenomenological ways of its intake, metamorphosis and revival in the esoteric currents and occult movements of the newer and contemporary European scene.

(4) TEACHING and LEARNING METHODS - EVALUATION

DELIVERY	Face-to-face	
USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY	Use of the e-class platform	
TEACHING METHODS	Activity	Semester workload
	Lectures	39 hours (1.56 ECTS)
	Study hours	83 hours (3.32 ECTS)
	Final Exams	3 hours (0.12 ECTS)
	Course total	125 hours (5 ECTS)
STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION	<i>Summative evaluation</i> <i>short-answer questions</i> <i>Essay</i> <i>Oral examination</i> Evaluation procedure is stated on the e-class platform	

(5) SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Selected bibliography:

Assmann, J. (2001), *The Search for God in Ancient Egypt*, Ithaca/London

Ebeling, F. (2011), *The Secret History of Hermes Trismegistus: Hermeticism from Ancient to Modern Times*, Cornell: Cornell University Press

Collins, D. (2008), *Magic in the Ancient Greek World*, Oxford: Blackwell.

Frankfurter, D. (1998), *Religion in Roman Egypt: Assimilation and Resistance*, Princeton

Frankfurter, D. ed. (2019), *Guide to the Study of Ancient Magic*. Religions in the Graeco-Roman World, 189, Brill.

Gosden, C. (2020), *History of Magic*, Penguin.

Greenwood, S. & E.D. Goodwin (2016), *Magical Consciousness*, Routledge.

Lehrich, Ch. (2012), *The Occult Mind. Magic in Theory and Practice*, Cornell: Cornell University Press

Magee, Glenn Alexander, ed. (2016), *The Cambridge Handbook of Western Mysticism and Esotericism*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Pinch, G. (1995), *Magic in Ancient Egypt*, London

Quirke, S. (2000), *Ancient Egyptian Religion*, London

Ritner, R.K. (1994), *The Mechanics of the Ancient Egyptian Magical Practices*, OIP, Chicago

Versluis, Arthur. *Magic and mysticism: An introduction to Western esotericism*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2007

Αθανασιάδη, Π. (2017), *Η Άνοδος της Μονοδοξίας στην Ύστερη Αρχαιότητα*, Αθήνα: Εστία.

Ζάρρας, Κ. (2021), *Το Δένδρο των Ψυχών: Άνθη από την Καμπαλά του Ζοχάρ*, Θεσσαλονίκη: Αρχέτυπο

Παπανικολάου, Α. (2021), *Μυστική Γνώση*, Αθήνα: Gutenberg

Παχής, Π. (2010), *Οι Ανατολικές Λατρείες της Ελληνορωμαϊκής Εποχής: Συμβολή στην Ιστορία και τη Μεθοδολογία της Έρευνας*, Θεσσαλονίκη

Παχής, Π. (2010), *Η Λατρεία της Ίσιδας και του Σάραπι: Από την Τοπική στην Οικουμενική Κοινωνία*, Θεσσαλονίκη

Σαρίσχουλη, Π. (2011), *Πλουτάρχου Περί Ίσιδος και Οσίριδος: Ο Μύθος*, Θεσσαλονίκη

- *Related academic journals:*

Aegyptiaca. Journal of the History of Reception of Ancient Egypt

<https://journals.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/aegypt>

Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism

<https://brill.com/view/journals/arie/arie-overview.xml>

Correspondences

<https://correspondencesjournal.com>

Gnosis: Journal of Gnostic Studies

<https://brill.com/view/journals/gnos/gnos-overview.xml>

Religion

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rrel20/current>

The International Journal of the Platonic Tradition

<https://brill.com/view/journals/jpt/jpt-overview.xml>