

SPRING 2010

RE 230-001 Ancient Greek and Late Ancient Religion

Prof. Olga Solovieva
Tue, Th 2:10-3:30 p.m.

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Course Description:

This course will provide an introduction to a variety of religious expressions found in Ancient Greek and Hellenistic societies. By looking at the materials drawn from mythology, ritual and philosophical texts, hagiography, poetry, and drama, we will explore diverse perspectives on cosmos, the nature of god(s) and the access to the divine, the human self and its potentials and discontents, and other fundamental issues articulated in ancient and late ancient religious practice and thought. At once fascinating and unsettling, distant and familiar, these religious worlds present an important test to our contemporary religious and scholarly sensibilities. Our goal is to learn how to approach them in a truly reflective—i.e., critical yet empathetic—way.

