



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## **ARKN23, Cross-cultural Religious Interactions in the Ancient World, 7.5 credits**

*Interkulturella religionsmöten under antiken, 7,5 högskolepoäng*  
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2023-06-14 to be valid from 2023-09-01, spring semester 2024.

### **General Information**

The course is offered as a stand-alone course. It can normally be included in a general qualification for both first and second-cycle studies.

*Language of instruction:* English

#### *Main field of studies*

Archaeology and Ancient History with specialization in Archaeology

Archaeology and Ancient History with specialization in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History

Archaeology and Ancient History

Archaeology and Ancient History with specialization in Historical Archaeology

Archaeology and Ancient History with specialization in Historical Osteology

#### *Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

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### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to:

### **Knowledge and understanding**

- account for current theories and methods for the study of inter-cultural religious interactions in the ancient Mediterranean,
- identify and account for central questions regarding the development of the religions of the Mediterranean during the Hellenistic and Roman periods (around 300 BCE to 300 CE), considering inter-cultural interactions and their social, political and economic contexts,

### **Competence and skills**

- independently be able to choose and apply appropriate theories and methods in a case study concerning the interplay between different religious cultures,

### **Judgement and approach**

- critically discuss theoretical perspectives in the study of ancient religions,
- reflect on ancient religious phenomena based on a broader political, economic, social and cultural context.

## **Course content**

The purpose of the course is to analyse interactions between religions in a multi-ethnic, multicultural and highly connected Hellenistic and Roman Mediterranean (from 300 BCE to 300 CE). The students will gain familiarity with current theories and methods in the research around inter-cultural interactions and religious contacts during the Classical Antiquity. Through case studies, based on literary, epigraphic and archaeological sources, they will also be able to explore different examples and consequences of the interplay between polytheistic and monotheistic traditions. By focusing on the religious exchange between religions, the students are invited to challenge the traditional historiographic idea that Greco-Roman "paganism", Judaism and Christianity developed in separate social spheres as delimited "cultural packages", and the modern dichotomy between "polytheism" and "monotheism". Other subjects touched on in the course include the dissemination and use of religious ideas, the construction of religious identities and foreignness, the importance of religious solidarity in connection with migration, the competition between religions, cross-border religious expression and the relationship between mystery cults and Christianity.

## **Course design**

Teaching consists of lectures and seminars. The seminars (5-7) are compulsory. Absence from a compulsory seminar is compensated by a written assignment.

## **Assessment**

Assessment is based on an individual and independently written assignment.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

*Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.*

## Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

## Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have completed first-cycle courses in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History, archaeology, historical archaeology, historical osteology, history, Greek, Latin, history of science and ideas, history of religions, Jewish studies, Old and New Testament exegesis or equivalent knowledge.

Oral and written proficiency in English corresponding to English 6/B from Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement.

## Further information

- The course is offered at the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, Lund University.
- The students are expected to have good written and oral proficiency in English.
- The number of credits allocated for course content that is shared in whole or in part with another course can only be credited once for a degree.
- For further details, see current registration and information materials.

Subcourses in ARKN23, Cross-cultural Religious Interactions in the Ancient World

Applies from V24

2401 Cross-cultural Religious Interactions in the Ancient World, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction