

Worshipping Gods, Worshipping Mortals in Greek, Roman & Near Eastern Religious Traditions



RST 132 ✪ Winter 2021 ✪ Cai Thorman ✪ CRN 45125 ✪ MWF 12:10-1pm

Course Description: Using both archaeological and textual resources, this course will explore the religious practices of ancient Greek, Roman, and Near Eastern (including Egyptian) cultures. Topics will include gods, sacrifice, festivals, oracles, priesthoods, tomb culture, and sanctuaries. One of the most intriguing subjects will be the worship of mortals regarded as divine. Where was the line between deity and human? Why would someone worship a mortal? How did cults for gods and mortals differ? Such questions will provide fascinating insights into the politics and psychology of the ancient Mediterranean world.

Prerequisite: NONE

GE credit (Old): Arts & Humanities.

GE credit (New): Arts & Humanities, World Cultures and Writing Experience.

Format: Project-based, short writing assignments, quizzes, open-book final exam.

Textbooks:

- Gods in the Desert, by Glenn Holland (available through UCD library online)
- Other electronic readings will be provided by instructor