

Please follow this link and fill in the form to register for the course:
<https://nettskjema.no/a/377855> Please register before Monday 4 December 2023.

RRE4206 - Ritual in Early Judaism, Christianity and Islam

Teachers: Thomas Arentzen (thomas.arentzen@lingfil.uu.se) and Anne Katrine de Hemmer Gudme (akgudme@teologi.uio.no)

Course Modules: 1) Ritual Theory; 2) Introducing late ancient rituals in synagogues, churches, mosques, and beyond; 3) Sacred Space; 4) Sacred Time; 5) Purification; 6) Hymns; 7) Mortuary Ritual; 8) Rites of Passage; 9) Ritual, Food, and Fast; 10) Participation and Laypeople; 11) Praying Bodies; 12) Magic and Popular Piety

Course Description:

Religious ritual practices and concepts are an essential part of the three Abrahamic religions Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This course is an investigation of the worship traditions of these three religions as they appear throughout the first millennium CE.

The first part of the course is intended to give students a general knowledge of ritual theory and terminology and of methods in ritual studies. This part of the course will also contain a mapping of the ritual landscape of these three Abrahamic religions, how they differ and how they overlap. Lastly, the first modules will introduce central theoretical concepts such as sacred space and sacred time, and how they are perceived in the three worship traditions.

During the second part of the course, we focus on selected themes in a comparative perspective.

What comprises daily worship for Jews, Christians and Muslims during the first millennium CE? How are ordinary and extraordinary life events framed and affected by ritual practices? How do ritual practices impact lived and embodied experience, gender roles and social hierarchies?

Themes for analysis and discussion are ritual meals and fasts, purification, initiation and rites of passage, prayer, pilgrimage, mortuary ritual, hymns, ritual participation, ritual efficacy and the relationship between ritual and materiality. The interrelationship, mutual influences and differences between the three worship traditions will be explored throughout the course, and there will be an emphasis on applying ritual and liturgical theory to the examples that we study.

Teaching

Teaching is offered in digital form as ten online learning modules, supplemented by a two-day compact seminar in Copenhagen, March 14-15, 2023.

The online learning modules consist of readings, video lectures, chats, discussions and weekly assignments.

Mandatory requirements

10 e-learning assignments throughout the semester. To qualify for the exam the students must complete 80% (min 8 out of 10) of the e-learning assignments.

Examination

The student writes a paper between eight and ten pages in length (19,200 to 24,000 characters including spaces and references but excluding bibliography and table of contents) on a subject, question or material chosen by the student and approved by the teacher.