

**COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	CASS
<b>Programme:</b>	
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	5
<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Religions and Cults of the Roman Empire</b>
<b>Course Code:</b>	RLG 5800
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Rosanna Graziani (Rome)
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	120
Lectures:	45
Seminar / Tutorials:	
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
<b>Semester:</b>	Fall/Spring/Summer
<b>Credits:</b>	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

**Course Description:**

ITALIAN STUDY CENTRES ONLY. This course focuses on the religious experience of Late Antiquity, which opened the way to medieval civilization and, eventually, to modern Western culture. It examines the beliefs present within the Roman Empire (I – IV century A.D.), including the most significant religions, cults and mystical movements – a fascinating picture of this important historical period. Visits to museums and places of archeological importance in Rome, will illustrate the connection between the material and the religious.

**Prerequisites:**

**Aims and Objectives:**

This course aims to enlighten students as to:

- the characteristics of each significant religion or cult and its historical context
- the influence of one religion or cult upon another
- the physical elements of a religion or cult, as illustrated by the archeological sites, buildings, statues, and paintings studied.

- the reasons behind Roman religious policies

### **Programme Outcomes:**

This is a stand alone course not associated with a degree programme.

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:  
<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-schools/academic-registry/program-and-course-specifications.aspx>

### **Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- demonstrate detailed knowledge of the characteristics of each significant religion or cult and its historical context
- demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the influence of one religion or cult upon another
- demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the physical elements of a religion or cult, as illustrated by the archeological sites, buildings, statues, and paintings studied.
- demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the reasons behind Roman religious policies

### **Indicative Content:**

- Site visits
- Graeco-Roman Religion and the Olympic gods
- Roman State Religion
- Classical Mystery Cults
- Oriental Mystery cults of the Roman Empire
- The Imperial cult
- Magic in Rome, and Roman religious policy
- The Jewish background to Christianity
- Jews, Christians and Romans. Persecution and martyrdom.
- Constantine and the primacy of Christian Religion in the Western World

### **Assessment:**

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board (formerly Learning & Teaching Policy Committee) and located at: <http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/>

### **Teaching Methodology:**

The course consists of lectures and presentations, and in class discussions, for which students will need to prepare by reading specified material. There will also be visits

