

University of California, San Diego  
Global Seminars I  
Summer 2024

**REL 189 GS**  
**Drama, Politics, Religion**

**Monday & Tuesday**  
**Lectures & discussions**  
**10:00am-1:00pm**

**Wednesday, Thursday Excursions**

**Summer Session I**  
**June 30-August 1**  
**Global Seminar**  
**UCSD**

**Professor: Babak Rahimi**

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This course examines the theatre cultures with a focus on politics and religion. RELI 189 GS in Athens specifically focuses on the history of ancient and modern Greek theatre and shows the importance of theatre in the formation of Greek national identity, while also exploring the relationship between religion and politics from ancient to modern Greece. The historical focus of the course will begin with dithyramb (choral chants in religious ceremonies) in the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E, examine Greek performance culture under the Ottoman rule, and expand on the late eighteenth-century Greek Enlightenment, independence period in 1829, and finally the establishment of modern theatre of the First Athenian School. We will also study several plays by key playwrights such as Gregorios Xenopoulos (1867-1951) and Angelos Sikelianos (1884-1952), whose works include themes such as Greek political history and religious symbolism. While history plays an important role in RELI 189 GS, it is the thematic focus on religion and politics through drama that best describes its content. This course seeks to show how the rise of theatre played a similar role in various parts of Europe and beyond, and that, specific Greece,

theatre helped with the construction of national identity based on an imagined Greek culture tied to language and religion. A part of the course will also be devoted to Romantic theories of national culture through art and drama. RELI 189 GS will include study of ancient Greek dramatic works by Aeschylus (e.g., *Oresteia*) and Sophocles to modern plays such as *Fausta* (1893), *The Soul Father* (1895), and *The Outsider* (1905).

The basic goals of the course are as follow:

1. To acquire basic themes in the study of drama, religion, and politics from antiquity to the modern era.
2. To gain an understanding of religion in its “modern” sense.
3. To understand the relationship between theatre and politics.
4. To gain a familiarity with basic theoretical debates on religion and modernity
5. To improve one’s writing and critical skills.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

1. Jon D. Mikalson, Andrej Petrovic, Ivana Petrovic, *Ancient Greek Religion* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2021).
2. David Wiles, *Greek Theatre Performance: An Introduction* (Cambridge University Press, 2000).

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### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

#### **Assignments:**

Assignments and grades will be determined as follows:

Reading Group Assignments	30%
Final Exam	40%
Excursion reviews	20 %
Class participation	10%

## **EXAMS:**

- **Final exam** is a research paper on a topic of your choice related to the history of Greece. Maximum: 1500 words. Your paper should include bibliography (APA, MLA, etc.); minimum 5 sources, aside from assigned texts. I will provide a study guide for the final exam.

- **Reading Group Assignments:** students will form small group of 3 people and write a group review of the week's assigned texts. The review should be 500 words, max. Your group review can range from critical reflections to a creative work based on an assigned text. No need for citation. Due Sunday 11:59pm, starting the first week.

- **Excursion Review:** After each excursion, you will submit 200 words review of what you experience and in do so relate it to the course material: themes discussed in lecture or assigned texts.

- **Attendance and Participation**

Active participation for each week comprises 10% of your grade. Students are expected to come to the lectures and are required to attend the sections. Students are also expected to have read the assigned reading materials and be prepared to talk about the reading material and lectures during discussion sessions. You can certainly ask questions during the lectures.

- You must complete all parts of the writing assignment, attend section, and take all exams in order to pass the course.

- Please note that make-up exams maybe allowed only in the case of justified reason for absence.

- The writing exam will be a research paper based on your experiences in excursions.

- You must complete all parts of the writing assignment, attend section, and submit all exams in order to pass the course.

## **CLASS POLICY & GUIDELINES:**

### **Late Papers**

You must complete all assigned papers in a timely manner to pass the course. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for each class that they are late.

### **Plagiarism**

The major part of your course assignments and exams involves writings based on your assigned reading. So, make sure to cite your sources, either quoted directly or paraphrased, so to avoid plagiarism. In other words, submit your own original work! See me if you have any questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism. If you are caught cheating you will automatically fail the course.

### **Assistance**

In case of disability that may require accommodation, please see me. ☺

## **Schedule for the course**

- Monday and Tuesday: 10:00 am – 4:00pm lectures.
- Wednesday and Thursday – Excursion only day.

## **Schedule of Lectures**

### **WEEK 1: June 30-July 4**

**June 30, Monday: Orientation in the morning**

**\*Lecture in a Classroom**

**10am-12:00pm**

**lunch**

**2:00-4:00pm**

- **Tour of Athens**

**July 1, Tuesday: Ancient Democracy: Agora**

**July 2, Wednesday: Excursion**

**July 3, Thursday: Excursion**

**WEEK 2: July 7-11**

**July 7, Monday: Sophocles**

**July 8, Tuesday: Aeschylus**

**July 9, Wednesday: Excursion**

**July 10, Thursday: Excursion**

**WEEK 3: July 14-18**

**July 14, Monday: Athenian Democracy, Civic Rituals, Drama**

**Lecture site: The Civil Religion of the Polis**

**July 15, Tuesday:**

**July 16, Wednesday: Excursion**

**July 17, Thursday: Excursion**

**WEEK 4 July 21-25**

**July 21, Monday: Enlightenment Greek Theatre and Nationalism**

**July 22, Tuesday: Enlightenment Greek Theatre and Nationalism**

**July 23, Wednesday: Excursion**

**July 24, Thursday: Excursion**

**WEEK 5 July 28-August 1**

**July 28, Monday: Modern Greek Theatre and Nationalism**

**July 29, Tuesday: Modern Greek Theater and Nationalism**

**July 30, Wednesday: Excursion**

**July 31, Thursday: Excursion**

**August 1, Conclusion & Goodbye dinner**