

**DRAFT**

**IFFEC SEMINAR – GREECE, JAN 3-11, 2014**  
**NORTH PARK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
Instructors: Max Lee and Klyne Snodgrass

**COURSE AIM**

To develop students understanding of early Christianity in the context of Graeco-Roman culture and religion.

**OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate increased knowledge of Graeco-Roman culture and religion;
2. demonstrate increased knowledge of ancient history and geography;
3. apply their knowledge to the interpretation of relevant New Testament texts.
4. have specific knowledge about particular issues such as slavery, attitudes toward women, and ideas of human transformation.

**CONTENT**

The course includes:

1. guided reading in selected primary and secondary sources on Graeco-Roman culture and religion;
2. classes on Graeco-Roman culture and religion and its relevance for New Testament Interpretation;
3. guided visits to selected archaeological sites in central Greece.

**PRE-REQUISITES**

None, but those who have taken an introductory course on Paul and the Early Church will obviously have a good foundation to build upon.

**PROCEDURE**

Attendance at the seminar and its associated classes represents a significant time commitment. In addition there will be some preparatory reading (approx. 500 pages) and a research paper to be completed after the seminar.

**REQUIREMENTS**

1. Attendance at the IFFEC seminar in Greece.
2. A reading report listing all items read by the student in preparation for the seminar.
3. A research paper of 5000 words to be submitted by March 15, 2014.

**GRADING**

Research Paper	40%
Preparatory Reading	30%

Attendance and Participation at Seminar	30%
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## PREPARATORY READING

### Primary Sources

Euripides, *The Bacchae* (London: Penguin, 1973), 191-244

**Note:** A play from the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C., the plot of which is instructive both for ancient understandings of the divine and of the place of women in society

Apuleius, *Metamorphoses* (aka 'The Golden Ass') Book XI

The best translations are J.A. Hanson in the Loeb Classics Series or P.G. Walsh in the World's Classics series from Oxford University Press

**Note:** A novel from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D., dealing with pagan religious experience and devotion. The action takes place largely in Kenchreai near Corinth.

Aristotle in P. Garnsey, *Ideas of Slavery from Aristotle to Augustine* (Cambridge: CUP, 1996), 107-27

**Note:** The book is a secondary source, but in this chapter Garnsey helpfully gathers together excerpts dealing with slavery from various writings of Aristotle.

Plato, 'Phaedrus' in *Plato Vol. 1* (H.N. Fowler ed. in Loeb Classics Series), 465-505

**Note:** A famous speech from a dialogue on love in which Socrates speaks of the nature of the soul.

Plutarch, 'Advice to the Bride and Groom' in *Moralia Vol. 2* (F.C. Babbit ed. in Loeb Classics Series), 299-346.

**Note:** Advice from the late first/early second century A.D. to a couple about to marry on the respective roles of husband and wife.

Plutarch, 'Consolation to his Wife' in *Moralia Vol. 7* (P.H. de Lacy and B. Einarson eds. In Loeb Classics Series), 575-605.

**Note:** A letter from a father in the late first century A.D. to his wife on hearing of the death of their daughter.

'The Rule of the Iobacchoi' in M.W. Meyer (ed.), *The Ancient Mysteries: A Sourcebook* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1987), 95-99

**Note:** The regulations of a society of worshippers of Dionysus in Athens in the second century A.D.

## Secondary Sources

J. Gould, 'On Making Sense of Greek Religion' in P.E. Easterling and J.V. Muir (eds.), *Greek Religion and Society* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985), 1-33

P. Cartledge, 'The Greek Religious Festivals' in P.E. Easterling and J.V. Muir (eds.), *Greek Religion and Society* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985), 98-127

J.A. Harrill, *The Manumission of Slaves in Early Christianity* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1995), 11-17, 30-56

J. Murphy O'Connor, *St. Paul's Corinth: Texts and Archaeology* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2002), 177-200

S. Pomeroy, *Goddesses, Whores, Wives and Slaves: Women in Classical Antiquity* (London: Random House, 1975), 149-204

S. Price, 'Delphi and Divination' in P.E. Easterling and J.V. Muir (eds.), *Greek Religion and Society* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985), 128-54

J.D. Mikalson, *Ancient Greek Religion* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2005), 68-132

G.D.R. Sanders, 'Urban Corinth: An Introduction' in D.N. Schowalter and S.J. Friesen (eds.), *Urban Religion in Roman Corinth* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2005), 11-24

**Total Preparatory Reading:** 453 pages

**Optional:** Archaeological web-sites – see Corinth Computer Project (<http://corinth.sas.upenn.edu>), American School of Classical Studies at Athens (<http://www.ascsa.edu.gr>), University of Chicago excavations at Isthmia (<http://humanities.uchicago.edu/orgs/isthmia>), Ohio State University excavations at Isthmia (<http://isthmia.osu.edu>).

**PROVISIONAL CLASS SCHEDULE (there may be some changes to the timing of classes)**

**Friday Jan 3 – Travel Day for those traveling from the U.S.**

**Saturday Jan 4 – All participants arrive at the Greek Bible Institute in time for dinner at 7:30 pm**

**SUNDAY – Jan 5** 8:00 Breakfast  
9:30 Departure for Church (Central Free Church Athens)  
10:30-11:40 at Church Service  
12:00 sack lunch and Visiting the National Museum  
2:30 Return to the College or stay in the city and return on their own by bus.

**MONDAY – Jan 6** 7:30 Dinner at the College  
Greek Orthodox Holiday EPIPHANY (shops are closed). Possibly include the Orthodox litany at the sea where a cross is cast into the waters; if so, the teaching schedule for this day will be adapted.  
8:30 Breakfast  
9:30 **Seminar Classes I & II:** Introduction to Graeco-Roman Society and Religion (M. Lee)  
Orientation to Delphi (M. Lee)  
11:30 Coffee Break  
12:00 **Seminar Class III:** The Place of Women in Graeco-Roman Society (K. Snodgrass)  
1:30 Lunch at the College  
3:30 **Seminar Class IV:** The Place of Slaves in Graeco-Roman Society (K. Snodgrass)  
4:30 Coffee and cake  
5:00 **Seminar Class V:** Orientation to Corinth and Isthmia (M. Lee)

**TUESDAY – Jan 7** 7:30 Dinner at the College  
8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 Visiting Athens  
• *Roman Forum*  
• *Areopagus*  
• *Acropolis / Parthenon*  
• *Acropolis Museum (closes @ 5:00)*  
5:30 Departure  
7:30 Dinner at the College

**WEDNESDAY – Jan 8** 7:00 Breakfast  
8:00 Visiting Delphi (closes @ 3:00)  
(2 ½ hours trip one way)

**Sack lunch** –allow time for visiting shops, coffee etc (have some cash!)

3:30 Departure

7:30 Dinner at the College

**[Can we work in a Wednesday evening service at a Free Church?]**

**THURSDAY – Jan 9** 8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Visiting Epidaurus and the port city of Nafplion  
[2 hours one way]

**Sack lunch** –allow time for visiting shops, coffee etc (have some cash!)

*a. Stay at Nafplion for dinner and depart at 9:00 for the College.*

OR

*b. Return to the College for dinner at 7:30 or 8:00.*

**[2<sup>nd</sup> Option** –stay at the College for Seminar Classes

1:30 Lunch at the College

Free afternoon and evening

Or Free time

4:30 Coffee and cake

5:00 **Seminar Class IV & V:** Study of Selected Texts from 1 Corinthians

7:30 Dinner at the College]

**FRIDAY – Jan 10** 7:00 Breakfast

8:00 Visiting Corinth

- *Museum and Forum*
- *Acrocorinth*
- *Cenchreae*
- *Isthmus / Diolkos*

6:00 Departure

7:30 Dinner at the College

**SATURDAY – Jan 11** 7:00 -8:00 Breakfast

Departures

## RESEARCH PAPER

Students will write a paper focussed on ONE of the following texts:

- R.L. Fox, *Pagans and Christians* (New York: Knopf, 1987)  
R. MacMullen, *Paganism in the Roman Empire* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1981)  
D.B. Martin, *Slavery as Salvation: The Metaphor of Slavery in Pauline Christianity* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990)  
W. Meeks, *The First Urban Christians* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1983)  
A.D. Nock, *Conversion: The Old and the New in Religion from Alexander the Great to Augustine of Hippo* (Oxford: Clarendon 1993, reprinted John Hopkins Press, 2000)  
B.W. Winter, *After Paul Left Corinth* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001)  
A. Wire, *The Corinthian Women Prophets* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1990)

Having read the selected text, students will submit a 1-2 page proposal (to either Professor Lee or Professor Snodgrass depending on the text chosen) detailing (i) the questions raised by the selected text which the paper will address, (ii) the proposed structure of the paper, and (iii) additional proposed bibliography. They will write the final paper after discussing their proposal with the professor. Where appropriate, papers will be expected to show the relevance of the material studied to the interpretation of specific New Testament texts.