Religion, Race, and Ethnicity in the Ancient Mediterranean
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The terms religion, ethnicity, and (less frequently) race are often used in discussions of the ancient Mediterranean. In recent years, however, they have been coming under increasing interrogation: Do the ancients themselves think in such categories? Even if they do not, can the categories be analytically useful for modern scholars? This is intended to be a deeply comparative course to which students bring their own sets of expertise in order to create a cross-cultural conversation.

Goals
By the end of this course you should:

1. Be familiar with the primary theoretical works on religion, race, and ethnicity that are most useful to study of the ancient world;
2. Gain insight on whether or how different Mediterranean societies conceive of the categories religion, race, and ethnicity;
3. Create new knowledge, either uncovering how a specific culture, author, etc., understood and used one or more of these categories or applying modern analytical categories to ancient data;
4. Become more comfortable and proficient publicly presenting and defending your own research and constructively critiquing that of others;
5. Learn to write annotated bibliographies;
6. Develop your ability to write a scholarly paper that has at least a stone's throw chance of being published.

Instructor
Professor Michael Satlow, Religious Studies and Judaic Studies. My office is on the second floor of the Judaic Studies office at 163 George St. (corner of George and Brook). My office phone is 863-3911 and email is Michael_Satlow@brown.edu. You are always welcome to contact me for an appointment. I will make myself accessible in a variety of ways (from lunches to virtual hangouts) and I strongly encourage you to drop by!

Structure of the Class and Expectations
The first few classes we will be reading and discussing theoretical literature on these categories, mostly dealing specifically with the ancient world. The second part of the class will focus on more specific scholarly discussions. In the final part, students will present their own research for discussion and critique. More formally, the expectations are:

Attendance and Participation (10% of grade): Goes almost without saying.

Presentations (30% of grade). You will make three presentations in this class. After each, you will come see me to discuss it:

- Lead one class discussion;
- Lead a discussion of your paper;

- Respond to a paper

Annotated Bibliography (20% of grade). At the end of this syllabus is a tentative bibliography. We will not read everything on this list as a class. We will divide up the readings on this list and prepare short, 2-4 sentence summaries of at least some of this list.

Final Paper (40% of grade). This is normally a 15-20 page paper of original research. You will precirculate the paper to the class where you will receive feedback from both a formal respondent and the group as a whole. You will then meet individually with me about it. The final paper is due on December 18. If you need more time, come speak to me.

Schedule

Please note that this is preliminary. ***We will be moving the day and time of this class, probably to Monday or Tuesday.*** The schedule will also be adjusted to take into account the number of students and their interests. A final schedule, created with your input, will be distributed the second or third week of class.

September 4	**Introduction**
Week of: September 8 and 15	**What is "Ethnicity"? (2 classes)** Reading: Satlow 2005; Barth, 1998, 9-38, 74-85; Hutchinson and Smith 1996, 3-45, 111-116, 189-202; Jenkins 1997, pp. 3-15, 40-87; Levine 1999; Smith 1986; Malešević 2004
Week of September 22	**Ethnicity, Case 1: Israelites** Reading: Skjeggestad 1992; Sparks 1998, 3-93; Thompson 1997; Hess and Wapnish 1997; Finkelstein and Silber, 2001, 97-122; Berlin 2005
Week of September 29	**Ethnicity, Case 2: Greeks** Reading: Gruen 2013; Hall 1997, 1-67, 111-142; Hall 2002, 1-29, 172-228; Malkin 2001, 29-112
Week of October 6	**What is "Race"?** Reading: Isaac 2004, 1-51; Loveman 1999; Omi and Winan 2014, 14-24 (chapter 1); Hippocrates 1923
Week of October 13	**Race, Case 1: Curse of Ham** Reading: Aaron 1995; Heschel 2009; McKenzie 1997; Johnson 2004, 27-72
Week of October 20	**Race, Case 2: Christians**

	Reading: Buell 2005, 1-62, 116-37, 166-9; Heschel 2010, tbd; Johnson 2007, 19-66, 137-148; Lieu 1995
Week of October 27	**What is "Religion"?** Reading: Boyarin
Week of November 3	**Religion, Case 1: Jew or Judean?** Reading: Baker 2009; Mason 2007; Satlow 2013; Schwartz, D.R. 2007; Schwartz, S. 2011
Week of November 10	**Religion, Case 2: Religion in Ancient Rome** Reading: Rüpke 2012, 172-204; Gordon 2008; Beard, North, and Price 1998, 1:211-244
Week of November 17	**Presentations**
Week of December 1	**Presentations**

Preliminary and Partial Bibliography

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Baker, C. 2009. "From Every Nation under Heaven: Jewish Ethnicities in the Greco-Roman World," in L. Nasrallah and E. S. Fiorenza, eds., *Prejudice and Christian Beginnings*. Minneapolis, 79-99.

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Boyarin, Work in Progress

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Gordon. 2008. "Superstitio, Superstition and Religious Repression in the Late Roman Republic and Pricipate (100 BCE – 300 BCE)," in S.A. Smith and A. Knight, eds., *The Religion of Fools? Superstition Past and Present.* Oxford, 72-94.

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Johnson, Hodge, C. 2007. *If Sons, Then Heirs: A Study of Kinship and Ethnicity in the Letters of Paul*. Oxford.

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Lefkowitz, M. and G.M. Rogers. 1996. *Black Athena Revisited.* UNC Press.

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