CLSX 225 - Ancient Religions of the Middle East
The Ancient Near East is the crucible out of which the oldest written
texts in the world, along with much art and other artifacts emerged.
These texts bear witness to the ways of life, rituals, and beliefs of
people who lived some 2,500 to 5,000 years ago. This course will
explore the interaction of culture and religion by examining the
historical and social contexts of ancient religious ideas and practices
through careful consideration of texts from ancient Israel, Egypt,
Mesopotamia, Anatolia (the Hittites), Syria, and Palestine. Finally, a
parallel consideration of archaeological evidence for religious beliefs
and practices will be incorporated.

This course is designed to delve into the historical development of the
religious system of Ancient Israel to include the origins of Israelite
monotheism. At what point could Israel claim to be thoroughly
monotheistic, and was there a time that she might be better classified
as henotheistic? Likewise, the history of the major religious systems
of Israel’s neighbors in the Ancient Near East will be fully discussed.

Attention will also be devoted to those places where it can be argued
that Israelite religion has been influenced by the religious tenets,
texts, and/or practices of her neighbors. For example, is the Genesis
creation account directly traceable to the Babylonian Epic of Creation,
Enûma Elish?

The twin goals of this course include the full, historical elucidation of the
religions of the Ancient Near East and the illumination of the origins
and setting of Israelite religion within its ancient Middle
Eastern context. Cross-listed with THEO 226-01.

Section 01:
TTh 3:05-4:20
Dr. James Plott

CLSX 252 - Roman History
An investigation of the Roman state's historical development, from its
foundation to its fall (C8 BCE through C5 CE). We will explore a
range of issues, including the political organs of the Republic and
Empire, nature and consequences of Roman imperialism, hierarchy in
Roman society, role of women, Roman army, paganism, rise of
Christianity, imperial art and architecture, and demise of the Roman
state. Cross-listed with HIST 241-01.

Section 01:
TTh 12:15-1:30
Dr. K.A. Rask

CLSX 255 - Animals in Antiquity
This course explores Greek and Roman attitudes toward non-human
animals, with special attention to views on the mental and emotional
characteristics of animals. Topics include use of animals in
entertainment, food choices, religion and companionship. Cross-
listed with PHIL 254-01.

Section 01:
MW 12:00-12:50
Dr. Stephen Newmyer