

New interdisciplinary courses



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Spring semester 2021

Where and when?

“Gods - rituals - beliefs: key concepts of pagan Greek and Roman religion:

Date: Start date 5/3/2021

Time: Friday, 10:15 – 14h (Every second week)

ECTS: 3

Registrations via KSL

Deadline: 14/3/2021

Positive Organizations: Understanding Happiness and Well-being at Work:

Date: Start Date 24/2/2021

Time: Wednesday, 12:15-16h, (Every second week)

ECTS: 5

Registrations via KSL

Deadline: 12/2/2021

Protest in the Middle East: social and political mobilisations in the 20th and 21st century:

Date: Start date: 24/02/2021

Time: Wednesday, 12.15-14.00 (Every week)

ECTS: 5

Registrations via KSL

Deadline: 14/02/2021

Gods - rituals - beliefs: key concepts of pagan Greek and Roman religion (KSL Number 470114)

Lecturer: Gunther Martin, Institute for classical philology, University of Bern; Christine Luz Martin, Department of Classical Studies, University of Basel

This course will introduce some fundamental concepts that characterize the religion of Greeks and Romans from the archaic through the imperial periods. Among the topics covered will be state religion, mystery cults, apotheosis, literary gods, pollution, religious foundation of ethics, the nature of the soul, magic, philosophy and/vs religion etc. Participants are invited to explore unfamiliar ideas and phenomena and to compare them with those of the Judaeo-Christian culture. Classes will be held in an interactive format where the participants are encouraged to actively contribute to the discussion of the topics and be given the opportunity to explore their personal interests and positions.

Positive Organizations: Understanding Happiness and Well-being at Work (KSL Number 458854)

Lecturer: Dandan Pang, Department of Work and Organizational Psychology

Workplace changes are accelerating (e.g., digitalization, globalization, and flexibilization). However, many employees experience them as major challenges instead of opportunities, which become the sources of insecurity and fear in everyday work. The Covid-19 pandemic has worsened the situation, resulting in more uncertainty and pressure for individuals and organizations. To prepare for the changing nature of future work, it is particularly important to switch our focus from correcting what is wrong at work to building positive organizations. Based on the field of Positive Psychology, the idea of a positive organization is that people can find joy, commitment, significance, and fulfillment at work (i.e., "flourishing" according to Martin Seligman). We will focus in-depth on the newest research, principles, and the applications of positive organizational scholarship and positive psychology, which address generative dynamics at work and explores various enablers and mechanisms of individual and organizational well-being.

Protest in the Middle East: social and political mobilisations in the 20th and 21st century (KSL Number 469621)

Lecturer: Isabel Käser, Institute of Social Anthropology

The present-day Middle East has not only been shaped by empires, colonialisation, wars, sanctions, invasions and occupations, but also by protest movements. Particularly since the early 20th century this has led to significant social, legal and political changes, often with regional ramifications. This course will go beyond the prevailing representation of the Middle East as a place of war and destruction, and instead unpacks different moments of political and social ruptures that created new social and political imaginaries and realities. It foregrounds women's movements (Egypt, Iraq), struggles for national liberation (Palestine, Kurdistan), labour movements (Egypt, Turkey), mobilisations around changing personal status codes (Algeria, Jordan), religious movements (Iran, Afghanistan), LGBTQI+ movements (Lebanon), environmental movements (Iraq, Turkey) and anti-corruption and anti-militarist movements (Lebanon, Iraq, Israel) - spanning the last 100 years of Middle Eastern history, up to the most recent anti-government protests in Lebanon, Sudan



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and Iraq. This course draws on interdisciplinary sources and is theoretically situated within critical resistance and social movement studies, political economy and gender studies, in order to gain a more nuanced understanding of the causes, catalysts and long-term ramifications of these movements. Drawing on post-colonial and transnational feminist theory, we also ask how these different movements were and are in conversation with each other, speaking across state borders, forging transnational ties of solidarity.