

RELS 212: MYTHOLOGY OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

Queen's University School of Religion

Taught by: Professor Mariana Dobрева

This course is a journey through the greatest myths of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Levant. Focused on preserved texts, material artefacts, and architecture we examine the mythological themes of creation, chaos and order, love and death, the monstrous, and explanations of evil and misfortune. By comparing the narratives of the Hebrew Bible and cultural legacy of Near Eastern mythology we will observe their similarities and dissimilarities and how the Hebrew Bible transforms the common heritage into radical new concepts of divinity, world, and humankind. This course invites the students to be at times literary, religious, and cultural critics, historians, and archeologists.

Time Commitment per Week

8 hours

Prerequisite

Level 2

Required Textbook/Materials

No

Course Breakdown

The course will be conducted remotely. The reading materials will be provided. Online museum 'visits' are encouraged. Students are expected to participate in discussions and submit written assignments. Office hours will be available over email and zoom. Grading will consist of 2 short quizzes, participation in activities, and a final paper.