**DEPARTMENT OF ANCIENT STUDIES**

**ANCIENT CULTURES/ ANTIEKE KULTURE 2nd and 3rd year modules 2022**

* **AK 211/311 ”Kush and Meroe”: an African Culture of the Sudan (IC)**

The Sudan is the home of great ancient cultures. Two periods will be studied – Kush (ca. 880-300 BCE) and Meroe (ca. 300 BCE-300 CE). This region was Egypt’s “rival” in Africa in many ways. Egypt conquered the Sudan, but in certain periods they ruled over Egypt as *pharaohs*. They built more pyramids than the Egyptians and until much later in history. The cultures of this region should be valued in their own right and not only in the light of or as a mere “copy” of Egypt. Some have argued that the culture is more “African” in character than that of Egypt. Attention will be devoted to the role of women, identity, Kush as an African culture and transcultural studies.

# AK 221/321 Greek Drama (SM, AD)

Of all the genres in ancient Athens, drama had the most public face: it was written to be enacted, and up to 15 000 spectators attended a production. Drama was not only entertainment but considered an important religious and social duty. In this course we will study several ancient plays in order to explore themes of relevance to the city: these range from duty to family and the state, war, ‘disruptive’ women and fate.

* **AK 241/341 In bed with ancient societies: Sex in ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome (IC, SM, PB)**

This course explores ancient attitudes to sex and the erotic. The Egyptians believed the first divine pair originated through masturbation and sexual potency was important even in the afterlife and achieved through magic. In Ancient Athens there were state-run brothels for citizen men and the homoerotic relationship between a younger and older man was a social institution. In ancient Roman cities, the image of the phallus was a warning and/or a good luck charm. We will discover that not only are ancient attitudes to sex intriguing but also, in many ways, different from mainstream contemporary ideas about monogamy, prostitution and sexual privacy.

* **AK 251/351 Roman Women (AD, KK)**

From the average Roman matrona to mistresses, mothers or wives of emperors and mythical exempla, this course focuses on the powerful women of ancient Rome from the Republican to the Imperial ages. Through literary, poetic and visual representations, we aim to deconstruct how Roman authors depicted women and provide a holistic view of women’s lives and roles in the Roman world.

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