

CLAS/RELS 2027: Magic, Religion and Philosophy

Winter 2014

Exam Short Essay Questions

Prepare short essay answers for all of the following questions. On April 12th, during the exam (worth 50% of the final grade) you will answer all 4 questions. You are not permitted to bring anything into the exam (no texts, no notes, and no pre-prepared answers). The short essays will be worth 60% of the exam (the other 40% will come from short answer questions, based on the list of names and terms provided). For all questions, use examples from the texts in your answer.

- 1. Outline the witch figures in Horace (drawing upon readings 91, 92, 94 in Ogden), Apuleius (readings 104, 105, 107), and Lucan (96 and 155). What are the characteristics of the witch in the Latin literary tradition? While these witches often evoke their lineage going back to Medea and Circe, how are these witches different from their Greek ancestors? Is Lucan's Erictho in fact distinct even from the other Thessalians?**
- 2. Although ghosts are central to Greek and Roman ideas about evocation, necromancy, and reanimation, there are other ways that the dead communicate with the living in the ancient world. Outline the ancient view of ghosts found in Chapter 8 of Ogden (what are the various views about what ghosts *are*? What kinds of influence on or contact with the world of the living do they have? Etc.), and then bring these together with the necromantic practices described in Chapter 9. Specifically, compare the agency of the dead in Chapter 8 with the passivity of ghosts in Chapter 9.**
- 3. Chapters 10 and 11 deal with various curses. Analyse the various examples found in both chapters (e.g. in terms of the similarities and differences between binding, attraction, and repulsion curses, or between curses which seek justice and those which are themselves intended to subvert justice). Compare the idea of the written curse with the idea of the vocal 'incantation' or 'spell.'**
- 4. How do the legal defenses of Apuleius and Boethius (the former's being explicit and the latter's implicit) address the concerns about magic and philosophy found in the other texts in Chapter 14?**