

OIKOS/HIERON/NIA/ÖAI/SIA

2023 SPRING SCHOOL

APRIL 5-16

RMA/PHD

## Sanctuaries and the Sacred



Floris van den Eijnde  
Utrecht University

Michael Kerschner  
Leiden University/ÖAI



Netherlands Institute at Athens



SWEDISH  
INSTITUTE  
at ATHENS

ÖAW



Universiteit  
Leiden

## 1. Basic information

Course title:	Sanctuaries and the Sacred
Course code:	GKRMV16005
Block:	3
ECTS:	5
Level:	RMA-PhD
Course instructors:	Dr. F. van den Eijnde ( <a href="mailto:f.vandeneijnde@uu.nl">f.vandeneijnde@uu.nl</a> ) Dr. M. Kerschner ( <a href="mailto:m.kerschner@arch.leidenuniv.nl">m.kerschner@arch.leidenuniv.nl</a> )
Contact:	By mail or appointment
Max. participants:	Ca. 10-15
Eligibility and application:	Participation in the Spring School is open to RMA/PhD students with a relevant interest and background in the topic of the School. To apply, send a short motivation and CV to the course instructors.

## 2. Course Description

*Sanctuaries and the Sacred* focuses on the development of sacrality (“sacredness”) in Greek sanctuaries from the Late Bronze age to the Hellenistic period. Sacrality defined social, cultural and political life at its very core: it determined not only the proper way of conduct of humans with regard to the gods, but also defined social relationships between humans by posing strict (often implicitly understood) rules. This embeddedness of Greek religion is thus key to understanding many forms of social, cultural and political interaction in the Greek world.

During this course, we ask why sanctuaries developed into the principal centers where societal ideas about divinely sanctioned conduct came together and from which these ideas in turn emanated. We will be studying the various constituent components that made up sanctuaries as centers of religion: human actors, ritual practice, mythological traditions and demarcation and structural organization of sacred space. We will question how sacrality interacted with political power, the economy, arts and architecture. We will furthermore seek to understand sacrality outside of sanctuaries proper: How did curses, oaths and invocations shape the “profane” world? And how did sacrality shape public spaces?

Central to this course is participation in the Spring School excursion to the sacred sites of Arcadia on the Peloponnese (April 9-16, 2023). The Spring School is organized by OIKOS (the national research school for Classical Studies in the Netherlands) in collaboration with HIERON (International Network for the Study of Ancient Greek Sanctuaries), the Dutch Institute at Athens, the Austrian Archaeological Institute at Athens, and the Swedish Institute at Athens. The course will also include attending the conference *Distant Deities, Central Places* (April 5-8, 2023) at the Swedish Institute at Athens. Examination will be in the form presentations both on- and off-site and, and a short review of the conference attended.



### **3. Site visits in Greece**

During our stay in Greece, we plan to visit the following sacred places:

- Sanctuary of Zeus at Olympia
- Temple of Apollo at Bassae
- Sanctuary of Artemis at Lousoi
- The Asklepieion at Pheneos
- Sanctuary of Zeus at Lykaion
- Temple of Athena Alea at Tegea
- Theatre and remains of Megalopolis
- Sanctuary of Despoina at Lykosoura
- Temple of Athena at Alipheira
- Sanctuary of Zeus at Nemea

### **4. Course Objectives**

After the course, the student will have attained the following course objectives:

- Deepening of knowledge of and insight into historical developments with regard to the theme of the course
- Deepening of knowledge of the historiographic tradition in the field of the theme of the course
- Deepening of knowledge of theories about the subject
- Knowledge of several relevant case studies in the field of the subject

After the course, the student will have attained the following learning objectives and skills:

- Critically reflect and actively participate in the discussion of the theme during the lectures
- Apply concepts, historiography and theory around the theme of the course
- To develop and elaborate a problem with regard to self-selected cases
- Apply the knowledge gained in the course on theory and historiography to chosen cases
- Conduct independent research by consulting secondary literature
- Show consider skills of presentation commensurate with the level of the course.