

CLAS 120: Classical Diversities / Race and Identity in the Ancient World

How did ancient societies define who belonged—and who didn't? This course explores how people in the ancient Mediterranean (like Egypt, Greece, Mesopotamia, and Rome) understood race, ethnicity, and identity. You'll examine how these ideas were represented in texts, art, and material culture, and how they shaped concepts of “self” and “other.”

We'll also look at how these ancient narratives were reused in colonial and modern contexts to justify or challenge racial hierarchies—and how they're being reinterpreted today.

Through readings, discussions, and projects, you'll gain critical tools to explore how the ancient past continues to influence modern debates about race, power, and identity.

This class fulfills the UCSD's DEI requirement.

Summer Session II

Professor Jacobo Myerston