



[Jon Mikalson](#)

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Research Interests

My primary research is ancient Greek religion as a practised religion and how it is revealed, formulated, and manipulated in Greek literature, history, and life. Particular interests include the relationship between practised religion and ethics, the shaping of religious material by poets for literary purposes, the religious elements of Athenian democratic institutions, and religion's role in the efflorescence of Greek culture in the classical period. As an armchair archeologist I follow with interest new finds and theories about the topography and monuments of Athens.

Selected Publications

- *Popular Greek Religion in Greek Philosophy* (Oxford, 2010).
- *Ancient Greek Religion* (Oxford, 2004).
- *Herodotus and Religion in the Persian Wars* (Chapel Hill, 2003).
- *Religion in Hellenistic Athens* (Berkeley, 1998)
- *Honor Thy Gods: Popular Religion in Greek Tragedy* (Chapel Hill, 1992)
- *Athenian Popular Religion* (Chapel Hill, 1983)
- *The Sacred and Civil Calendar of the Athenian Year* (Princeton, 1975)

Personal

A dedicated Wisconsinite and Madisonian, I benefited from a charismatic but tough high school Latin teacher, then went down the street to the University of Wisconsin to

encounter equally charismatic teachers like Paul MacKendrick, Walter Agard, and Friedrich Solmsen. They sent me off eventually to Harvard where Zeph Stewart and Sterling Dow taught me Greek religion and Wendell Clausen nurtured a love of Vergil. A year at the American School of Classical Studies confirmed and strengthened interests in all things Greek, ancient and modern. Arthur Stocker, Marvin Colker, and a visit in April during the dogwood season enticed me to UVa in 1970, and I remain entranced by the beauty of the place. It has been a great pleasure to see UVa develop into a first-rate university during my 30 years here. I served as Chair of Classics from 1978-1990 and have had several enjoyable years after that as Director of Undergraduate Studies. Occasional years away, as NEH fellow in Cambridge England, as Member of the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, and as Whitehead Professor at the American School in Athens, have been welcome, but one is always happy to return to the countryside, students, and colleagues at Virginia. As a change of pace, I served for three years as Director of the Echols Scholars Program, UVA's undergraduate honors program.