The ancient Mediterranean was a space in which people encountered different cultures on a regular basis. Alongside the Greeks and Romans, flourishing communities of ancient Persians, Phoenicians, Etruscans, Chaldeans, Jews, and Lycians (to name just a few) took advantage of the favorable trade routes that the inland sea afforded, coming into contact with each other and exchanging ideas as well as goods. In this course we will examine what and how the Greeks thought about their experiences with these “other” peoples, how the very idea of “Greekness” emerged in dialogue with these non-Greeks, and how our modern notion of ancient Greece does not always fit the ancient reality. We will take ancient Egypt as our case study, exploring how the Greeks imagined this important Mediterranean power, and how the relationship between Greeks and Egyptians changed quite dramatically over time.