### Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

#### History of Religions: Classical Antiquity and Early Christianity (A000292)

**Course size**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Study time</th>
<th>Contact hrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>150 h</td>
<td>45.0 h</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020**

- **A (semester 1)**
  - **Language**: Dutch
  - **Teaching method**: lecture
  - **Contact hrs**: 45.0 h

**Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020**

Lannoy, Annelies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecturer-in-charge</th>
<th>LW01</th>
<th>Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Lannoy, Annelies</td>
<td>LW01</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
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Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020

- Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)
- Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (China Track))
- Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (UGent Track))
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - English)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - French)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - German)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - Greek)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - Italian)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - Latin)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - Spanish)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - Swedish)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - German)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Greek)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Italian)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Latin)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Spanish)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Swedish)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - English)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - German)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - Greek)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - Italian)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - Latin)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - Spanish)

(Approved)
Teaching languages
Dutch

Keywords
History of religions, Classical Antiquity, Greek and Roman Paganism, Early Christianity

Position of the course

This basic course wants to give insight into the specific characteristics of the ancient Greco-Roman religions, the fundamental differences between those religions and the current revelation religions and into the place and function of religion in classical societies. Aside from the main characteristics of the public cults, the focus is also on the ancient mystery cults and the so-called “oriental religions” (Cumont) and the parallels with early christianity.

The course introduces the students to the main characteristics of the religious "Umwelt" of early Christianity outside the Greco-Roman context: the Jewish tradition, ancient Middle East, Persia,… The course explains the factors that contributed to the emergence of early Christianity and gives knowledge of synchronic and diachronic diversity of the Christian tradition. It also shows how Christianity adopted and transformed different religious cultures up until 500 AD.

Contents

Classical Antiquity
Introductory chapter on religion in general and the scientific approach to religion. Sketching the morphology of the classical religions: social dimension, religious practices (prayer and rites) presentations on the holy, religious experience. 'New' trends during the Hellenistic and Roman period. Presentation of the most important mystery cults and the so-called "oriental religions".

Christianity
This course deals with the emergence and development of Christianity as part of the religious history of the Hellenistic period. Its starting point is this period, from the third
century B.C. to the Roman period, when the Middle East was characterised by a unity culture with Greek as its main language. Christianity as a historical phenomenon needs to be understood as a result of the influences Judaism underwent from this unity culture, but also from Persian Mazdeism. This course will offer an overview of the spread and development of early Christianity until roughly a century before the emergence of Islam. Special attention will go the immense diversity of early Christianity.

Initial competences
Student have successfully finished secondary school education.

Final competences
1. To have insight into the specific characteristics of the classical religions.
2. To have knowledge of the main points of the different aspects of the classical religions.
3. To know the religious Umwelt of early Christianity.
4. To recognise the factors which have contributed to the rise of Christianity.
5. To understand the synchronic and diachronic diversity of Christianity.
6. To have insight into the borrowing and transformation of several religious cultures by Christianity in a historical perspective.

Conditions for credit contract
Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract
Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods
Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods
• Lecture
• Independent work: personal reading

Learning materials and price
Syllabus (capita selecta from handbooks in Dutch, French and English) and powerpoints available via Minerva
The Bible, Old and New Testament, printed or online for reading assignment.

References
Grieks-Romeins: bibliography in reader
early Christianity:
Extensive bibliography in handbook and on website CSCT

Course content-related study coaching
Lecturer available for questions before and after lectures; fixed contact hours one afternoon a week (as yet to be decided)

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation
Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
Written examination
Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
Written examination
Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation
Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods
Assessment moment
Periodical (100%): written exam
Calculation of the examination mark
Periodical (100%)
--- Klik om te editeren ---

Facilities for Working Students
Facilities:

(Approved)
1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
2. Possible rescheduling of an oral examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Feedback can be given by telephone or during an appointment during office hours

Extra information:
For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy