Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Christianity (A002907)

Course

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020
A (semester 1) Dutch lecture 30.0 h
guided self-study 10.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020
Praet, Danny LW01 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020

- Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies) 5 A
- Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (China Track)) 5 A
- Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (UGent Track)) 5 A
- Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject India) 5 A
- Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Japan) 5 A
- Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures 5 A
- Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology 5 A
- Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies 5 A
- Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences 5 A
- Bachelor of Arts in History 5 A
- Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures 5 A
- Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy 5 A

Teaching languages

- Dutch

Keywords

The Emergence of Christianity, the historical Jesus, the historical development of and the diversity within Christianity.

Position of the course

This basic course gives students knowledge of the main characteristics of the religious "Umwelt" of early Christianity: the Jewish tradition, Greco-Roman, Persian,.... The course presents students with insight into the problems connected to the study of the historical Jesus: what can we know about this man, his activities and different responses to his life and teachings? The course also teaches students about the factors that contributed to the emergence of early Christianity. Students will get to know the synchronic and historical diversity of the Christian tradition and will receive insight into the way Christianity adopted and transformed different religious cultures.

Contents

This course deals with the emergence and development of Christianity as part of the religious history of the Hellenistic period. From the third century B.C. to the Roman period, 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. The historical Jesus should also be understood in this context, although the
sources for his life and teachings pose some serious problems. The spread of Christianity to the East and to the West implied a diversified process of acculturation that resulted in different forms of Christianity in the Latin West, in Celtic or Germanic cultures, in the Greek Middle-East or Sassanid Persia. The history of Christianity has too often been studied from a North-Western-European perspective. This course will offer an overview of the spread and development of early Christianity until the emergence of Islam, and a brief glance at the presence of Christian communities in the present day East. There will also be a brief overview of Christianity’s historical development up until the modern period. Given this diversity, the modern period will be studied rather in the way of capita selecta.

Initial competences
Students have successfully finished secondary school.

Final competences
1. To have knowledge of the main characteristics of the religious “Umwelt” of early Christianity: the Jewish tradition, Greco-Roman, Persian,…
2. To have insight into the problems connected with the study of the historical Jesus.
3. To be able to reflect critically on what we can know about this man, his activities and different responses to his life and teachings?
4. To have insight into the factors that contributed to the emergence of early Christianity.
5. To have insight into the way Christianity adopted and transformed different religious cultures.

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
Guided self-study, lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods
Formal lectures.
The students must read parts of the Bible in preparation of the lectures.

Learning materials and price
Learning material on Minerva.
The Bible, Old and New Testament, printed or online for reading assignment.

References
Extensive bibliography on Minerva and on website CSCT.

Course content-related study coaching
Available for questions before and after lectures; fixed contact hours one afternoon a week (as yet to be decided). Full study-vademecum (e.g. examples of types of questions for exam) included in the syllabus.

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
Written exam both with open and closed questions both on knowledge and insight. The exam is in line with the intended final competences and is explained in the guide included in the course book.

Calculation of the examination mark
Periodical: exam (100%)

Facilities for Working Students

(Proposal)
1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Alternative time for feedback

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