

# Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2020-2021

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

Due to Covid 19, the education and evaluation methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)  
Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	guided self-study	15.0 h
			online lecture	30.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

Lannoy, Annelies	LW01	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021

	crdts	offering
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 Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - French)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - English)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French -	5	A

(Approved)

Spanish)		A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Swedish)	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 Linguistics and Literature (main subject Latin - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Latin - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Latin - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Latin - Swedish)	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
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject Linguistics and Literature)	5	A

#### 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 up until 500 AD.

Exchange students may take this course. No knowledge of Dutch is expected. However, exchange students do get an alternative written exam.

#### 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. 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 to 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

Guided self-study, online lecture

#### Extra information on the teaching methods

- Online Lectures (in Dutch): streaming of interactive lectures via Bongo, and recorded video-lectures
- Independent work: personal reading in preparation of the online lectures

#### 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%)  
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## Facilities for Working Students

### Facilities:

- 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](#)