**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.

### Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>LW01</th>
<th>lecturer-in-charge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lannoy, Annelies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offering</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Study Time</th>
<th>Contact Hrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (semester 1)</td>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>Gent</td>
<td>guided self-study</td>
<td>15.0 h</td>
<td>45.0 h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A (semester 1)</td>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>Gent</td>
<td>online lecture</td>
<td>30.0 h</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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>
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Contact hrs

Study time

Credits (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Course size

5.0

Study time

150 h

Contact hrs

45.0 h

(Accredited)
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - Spanish)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - Swedish)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Greek)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Italian)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Spanish)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Swedish)  
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject India)  
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Japan)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Latin - Greek)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Latin - Italian)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Latin - Spanish)  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Latin - Swedish)  
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures  
Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology  
Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies  
Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences  
Bachelor of Arts in History  
Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures  
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy  
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject Linguistics and Literature)  

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  

(Approved)
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
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%)

(Approved)
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