

**COURSE OF STUDY Classical Philology, Literatures and History of the Antiquity**

**ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025**

**ACADEMIC SUBJECT History of Christianity and the Churches**

General information	
Year of the course	I
Academic calendar (starting and ending date)	I 23.09 – 10.12.2024
Credits (CFU/ETCS):	6
SSD	History of Christianity and the Churches – M-STO/07
Language	Italian
Mode of attendance	Attendance is regulated by the Academic Course Guidelines.

Professor/ Lecturer	
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Telephone	
Department and address	“Santa Teresa dei Maschi”, Strada Torretta, first floor
Virtual room	
Office Hours (and modalities: e.g., by appointment, online, etc.)	Tuesday and Wednesday, 10.00-12.00, by appointment.

Work schedule			
Hours			
Total	Lectures	Hands-on (laboratory, workshops, working groups, seminars, field trips)	Out-of-class study hours/ Self-study hours
150	42		108
CFU/ETCS			
6			

<b>Learning Objectives</b>	Enhancing the philological and text-critical skills of the students, the course aims to examine the contribution offered by philology to the reconstruction of the history of ancient Christianity and to introduce students to a direct work on literary sources, which will be discussed and evaluated with specific reference to the historical-Christian information contained.
<b>Course prerequisites</b>	Knowledge of Latin and Greek languages. Basic knowledge of the main historical events of the Late Antiquity is required.

<b>Teaching strategie</b>	The course is based on an interdisciplinary didactic method, through face-to-face lectures that are integrated with slides and deepened by workshops. The course also offers some lectures given by experts from different Italian and foreign Universities.
<b>Expected learning outcomes in terms of</b>	
<b>Knowledge and understanding on:</b>	Understanding the textual primary sources and documents referred to the spreading of Christian religion within the Roman empire (I-VI A.D.).



	<p>Acquisition of a methodology that allows a philological analysis of the sources relating to the diffusion of Christianity in different historical and geographical contexts.</p> <p>Analysing -with a critical method- the literary works written by Christian authors.</p> <p>Commenting upon the ancient Christian and patristic texts (I-VI A.D.), focusing the main themes, the meaningful elements and the formal peculiarities.</p>
<b>Applying knowledge and understanding on:</b>	<p>Acquiring an analytical research methodology based on critical analysis of the Christian textual sources.</p> <p>Capability to apply the acquired knowledge into interdisciplinary contexts, making historical comparisons with other ancient religious systems.</p> <p>Interpreting Christian texts critically.</p>
<b>Soft skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making informed judgments and choices</li> </ul> <p>Develop the ability to learn and interpret the data of the discipline deemed useful for determining autonomous judgments, including reflection on social, scientific or ethical issues connected to them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making judgments</li> </ul> <p>Developing personal analysis skills through case studies.</p> <p>Understanding methods and contents of Christian exegesis.</p> <p>Conveying the acquired knowledge into more composite hermeneutic contexts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicating knowledge and understanding</li> </ul> <p>Using a rigorous and accurate specialized language.</p> <p>Elucidating topics, issues and contents with mastery of language and originality to specialist and non-specialist interlocutors.</p> <p>Stating clearly the results of a case study or a personal research related to some subject matters of the course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacities to continue learning</li> </ul> <p>Capacity to deal critically with main themes and specialized studies on Christianity.</p> <p>Capacity to interpret and discuss the current research inquires and results with a high level of autonomy.</p>
<b>Syllabus</b>	
<b>Content knowledge</b>	<p>Texts from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> century will be read and commented on, in relation to the main themes of the history of Christianity and their peculiar contextual and formal elements. In particular, documents such as: New Testament, apocryphal texts, acts of martyrs, patristic texts, historiography texts will be analyzed.</p>
<b>Texts and readings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M. Pesce, <i>Gesù e i suoi seguaci. Identità e differenze</i>, Morcelliana, Brescia 2020, pp. 25-50; 113-144; 223-230.</li> <li>• I. Aulisa, C. Schiano, <i>L'immagine del giudeo, l'immagine dell'eretico. La costruzione dell'ortodossia cristiana tra antichità e alto medioevo. Una prospettiva di ricerca</i>, in "Henoch" 44, 2022, pp. 229-241.</li> <li>• <i>I codici di Nag Hammadi. Prima traduzione italiana integrale</i>, a cura di A. Annese, F. Berno, D. Tripaldi, Carocci, Roma 2024, pp. 13-21; 139-190; 469-476; 661-667.</li> </ul>
<b>Notes, additional materials</b>	<p>Non-attending students are required to contact the professor directly who will provide additional bibliography to integrate the institutional program.</p>



<b>Repository</b>	The didactic material is available at the Library of Archaeology and Christian Studies of the Plexus of Santa Teresa dei Maschi.
<b>Assessment</b>	
Assessment methods	At the end of the course, every student has to take an oral exam, that concerns the topics included in the bibliography and the analyzed primary sources.
Assessment criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledge and understanding The student has to know the historical context of the spreading of the Christian religion (from Palestine to Mediterranean basin, from origin to 6th century); explain, read and interpret critically the primary sources analyzed during the course, relating literary genres, authors, contents and cultural context of reference.</li><li>• Applying knowledge and understanding The student must apply the knowledge acquired in relation to the development of Christianity in interdisciplinary contexts and to elaborate historical and cultural comparisons with other religious civilizations of the ancient world.</li><li>• Autonomy of judgment Critical reasoning skills. Evaluate the critical attitude not only towards the discipline being studied, but more generally towards contemporary reality.</li><li>• Communicating knowledge and understanding Ability to develop the skills necessary to undertake subsequent studies in the field of Christianity with critical capacity and autonomy.</li><li>• Communication skills Quality of exposition, competence in the use of specialized vocabulary, ability to connect the various topics studied.</li><li>• Capacities to continue learning Critical ability; acquire knowledge of bibliographic tools and methods for the study of Christian disciplines.</li></ul>
Final exam and grading criteria	The student must be able to trace the evolution of Christianity from its origins up to the sixth century. He will have to demonstrate that he is aware of the main issues relating to the relationship between Christianity and paganism and between Christianity and other religious faiths, in particular Judaism. He must be able to deal with and explain topics such as the construction of Christian identity with logical coherence and mastery of language; the process of formation of the canonical and apocryphal writings; the establishment of the first ecclesial communities; the evolution of Christian historiography. The exam is considered passed when the grade is greater than or equal to 18. Evaluation scheme: - Insufficient evaluation - 18-21: sufficient evaluation - 22-24: fair evaluation - 25-27: good evaluation - 28-30 (with possible attribution of honours): very good or excellent evaluation.
<b>Further information</b>	In order to discuss the final thesis in the discipline it is necessary to have attended the lessons given during the course.



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	<p>The topic of the thesis will be agreed with the student following an interview with the Professor, during which the student will be able to illustrate his/her course of study, his/her interests and his/her skills. The mastery of both Latin and Greek languages and philological method is also required.</p>
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