



General information	
Academic subject	Christian Tradition and European Cultures
Degree course	Modern philology (LM-14)
Academic Year	Second
European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)	6
Language	Italian
Academic calendar (starting and ending date)	Second Semester (27.02.2023 – 19.05.2023)
Attendance	Attendance is advisable.

Professor/ Lecturer	
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Department and address	Department of Research and Innovation in Humanities, Santa Teresa dei Maschi Building, Old Town
Virtual headquarters	Microsoft Teams, room wcmq51c
Tutoring (time and day)	Students are tutored before and after each lesson, as well as on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Santa Teresa dei Maschi Building. It is always advisable to arrange tutoring hours in advance by e-mail.

Syllabus	
Learning Objectives	Lessons aim at providing the students with critical awareness of the influence exerted by the Judeo-Christian traditions on the European and Western cultures. The impact of this tradition will be assessed through the analysis and historical consideration of various types of sources (from texts to images to monuments).
Course prerequisites	-Knowledge of the Italian language. -Familiarity with the methodological tools of historical research. -Aptitude for analysis and textual interpretation. -Familiarity with late antique and/or early Christian history.
Contents	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. General overview on the concepts of Christian tradition, with reference to Christian History.2. Jesus in the history and the quest on historical Jesus.3. The Bible as the "Great Code" of the Western culture and its Reception from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic Shores. <i>Fortleben</i> of Biblical texts, Biblical characters and episodes (e.g. Abraham, Isaac, Job, Jesus, Mary Magdalene).4. CSR - Cognitive Science of Religion. The origins of religion, cognition and culture in an evolutionary perspective.
Books and bibliography	A. Mandatory readings: - M. Simonetti, "Alle origini della tradizione cristiana", in «Vetera Christianorum» 39, 2002, pp. 343-355.

	<p>- P. Stefani, <i>La Bibbia</i>, Il Mulino, Bologna 2004.</p> <p>- M. Pesce, <i>Chi ha paura del Gesù storico? Ripensare il cristianesimo nel mondo moderno</i>, EDB, Bologna 2015.</p> <p>- A.W. Geertz, <i>Approcci cognitivi ed evolutzionistici alla religione. Una collezione di saggi</i>, tr. it, Bologna, Pátron 2020 (this book can be substituted by a different text by the same author written in English).</p> <p>B. Choice of six chapters within two of the following books:</p> <p>- N. Frye, <i>The Great Code. The Bible and Literature</i>, Harcourt, New York 1982 (and further editions).</p> <p>- A. Norenzayan, <i>Big Gods. How Religion Transformed Cooperation and Conflict</i>, Princeton University Press, Princeton 2013.</p> <p>- E. Lupieri (ed.), <i>Mary Magdalene from the New Testament to the New Age and Beyond</i>, Brill, Leiden-Boston 2019.</p> <p>- L. Carnevale, <i>Giobbe dall'antichità al medioevo. Testi, tradizioni, immagini</i>, Edipuglia, Bari 2010.</p> <p>- L. Carnevale, <i>Obbedienza di Abramo e sacrificio di Isacco. La ricezione di un racconto violento tra giudaismo e cristianesimo antico</i>, Il Pozzo di Giacobbe, Trapani 2020.</p> <p>C. Choice of one from the following books:</p> <p>- E. Carrère, <i>The Kingdom</i>, English Translation, Hutchinson, London 2017.</p> <p>- H. Panas, <i>The Gospel according to Judas</i>, English Translation, Hutchinson, London 1977.</p> <p>- J. Saramago, <i>The Gospel according to Jesus Christ</i>, English Translation, Mariner Books, Boston 1994 (and further editions).</p> <p>- N. Tosches, <i>Under Tiberius</i>, Little Brown Company, Boston 2015.</p> <p>- C. Moore, <i>Lamb. The Gospel according to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal</i>, Harper, New York 2002.</p> <p>- R. Calasso, <i>Il libro di tutti i libri</i>, Adelphi, Milano 2019.</p> <p>- E. Lupieri, <i>Cronache dal Trumpistan. Diario di un teologo italiano in America</i>, Di Girolamo, Trapani 2020.</p>
Additional materials	

Work schedule			
Total:	Lectures:	Hands on (Laboratory, working groups, seminars, field trips)	Out-of-class study hours/ Self-study hours:
150	42		108
Hours			
ECTS			
	6		
Teaching strategy			
Face-to-face lessons, seminar activities, class discussions, collective critical reflection on texts and audio-video materials. Students will be encouraged to present a paper, as well as to speak in public about a topic of specific interest. Attendance to round tables, lectures and supplementary seminars on topics related to the course, held by scholars from other Universities, will also be encouraged.			
Expected learning outcomes			
Knowledge and understanding on:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ different aspects of the cultural, historical and religious influence of the Christian tradition over the social and geographical 	

	<p>space of Europe;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ complex texts and visual documents related to Christian tradition(s), placing them into a historical and critical perspective; ○ historical Jesus and sacred texts of the Judeo-Christian tradition(s).
Applying knowledge and understanding on:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ historical and cultural phenomena related to Christianity and to Christian tradition(s); ○ texts, other sources and issues related to historical-religious matters.
Soft skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Making informed judgments and choices</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ critically recognize and appropriately judge religious assessment based on commonplace ideas; ○ recognize the fertile cultural matrix of the Judeo-Christian religious tradition(s), also detecting any incorrect interpretation. ● <i>Communicating knowledge and understanding</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ communicate (also to a non-scholarly audience) the understanding of mutual influences between the Judeo-Christian tradition(s), its historical expressions and the pluralism of the European identity; ○ encourage interlocutors to embrace an open and flexible critical perspective to both historically frame and cultivate religious differences in 21st century Europe. ● <i>Capacities to continue learning</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ability of identifying and deconstructing mass-media prejudices, stereotypes and doctrinal preconceptions over the impact of Judeo-Christian tradition on the European space.

Assessment and feedback	
Methods of assessment	Oral examination, optionally supported by a written paper.
Evaluation criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Knowledge and understanding</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knowledge and Understanding of the cultural, historical and religious influence of the Judeo-Christian tradition on the social and geographical space of Western world (Europe and beyond). ● <i>Applying knowledge and understanding</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ability to apply to the contemporary society both the knowledge of historical and cultural phenomena and the understanding of various types of sources related to Christianity and Judeo-Christian tradition(s). ● <i>Autonomy of judgment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ability to make both informed judgements and historical-critical analysis regarding superficial and commonplace assessments of the Judeo-Christian religious system, with reference to the European geographical and cultural space; ○ ability to discuss historical-religious problems ● <i>Communicating knowledge and understanding</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ability of critically communicating knowledge and understanding of the mutual influences between the Judeo-Christian tradition, its historical expressions and the plural European identity; ● <i>Communication skills</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ clarity, consistency, historical accuracy. ● <i>Capacities to continue learning</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Capacity of continuously learning, investigating, and historically assessing the religious differences in 21st century Europe, also recognizing mass-media prejudices, stereotypes and doctrinal preconceptions on the impact of Judeo-Christian tradition(s) on the European space.
Criteria for assessment and attribution of the final mark	Taking for granted the evaluation criteria listed above, the final mark will be attributed with reference to the quality of the students' knowledge of the texts and books examined, as well as with reference to the topics addressed in the classroom.
Additional information	
	The expected working time for a master's thesis in the subject is <u>no less than six months</u> ; students are therefore required to contact the instructor well in advance of the expected graduation date.