



COURSE OF STUDY Modern Philology (LM-14)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

ACADEMIC SUBJECT Christian Tradition European Cultures

General information	
Year of the course	Second
Academic calendar (starting and ending date)	Second semester 26.02.2024-15.05.2024
Credits (CFU/ETCS):	6
SSD	History of Christianity and the Churches (M-STO/07)
Language	Italian
Mode of attendance	Optional

Professor/ Lecturer	
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Department and address	Department of Research and Innovation in Humanities, Santa Teresa dei Maschi Building, Bari Old Town
Virtual room	Microsoft Teams, room b5r3fjl
Office Hours	Office hours are on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Santa Teresa dei Maschi Building (by appointment). An appointment can be arranged also before and after each lesson, as well as on line.

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

Learning Objectives	Lessons aim at developing a historical awareness of the impact of the Judeo-Christian tradition on Europe and its cultures (from the Mediterranean basin to the Atlantic), recognising this impact through the analysis of different types of sources (textual, iconographic, monumental).
Course prerequisites	-Knowledge of the Italian language. -Familiarity with the methodological tools of historical research. -Aptitude for the analysis of textual sources. -Some degree of awareness of late antique history and/or early Christian history would be desirable.

Teaching strategies	Face-to-face lessons, supplemented by conferences, round tables and seminar activities, conducted by other lecturers, including lecturers from universities other than Bari. Analysis of textual, iconographic and audio-visual sources will be proposed; classroom discussion will be promoted. Students will be encouraged to present a paper, as well as to speak in public about a topic of specific interest, individually or in groups.
Expected learning outcomes in terms of	
Knowledge and understanding on:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knowledge and understanding on various aspects of the cultural, as well as religious, incidence exerted by Christian tradition on the social and geographical space of the Mediterranean and continental Europe. ○ Knowledge and understanding, on complex texts and visual documents, interpreted according to historical-critical perspectives. ○ Critical knowledge and understanding on Jesus of Nazareth and on the sacred texts of the Judeo-Christian tradition
Applying knowledge and understanding on:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ability to apply knowledge and understanding to the analysis of texts, figures and issues of a historical-religious nature. ○ Ability to apply knowledge and understanding of Christian historical, religious and cultural phenomena to the analysis of contemporary society.
Soft skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Making informed judgments and choices</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ability to make informed judgements on religious assessments based on commonplace ideas. ○ Ability to recognise the cohesive potential and cultural matrix of the Judeo-Christian religious traditions, applying critical judgment on any possible misuse and abuse of it (see Agenda 2030, Goal 16 "Peace and Justice"). • <i>Communicating knowledge and understanding</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ability to communicate the knowledge and understanding of the complex connections and mutual influences between the Christian tradition, its historical manifestations and the European and Western identity. ○ Ability to communicate and foster an open and flexible perspective, cultivating and appreciating religious difference in 21st century Europe (cf. Agenda 2030, goal 16 "peace and justice"). • <i>Capacities to continue learning</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Capacity of identifying and deconstructing mass-media prejudices, stereotypes and doctrinal preconceptions over the impact of Judeo-Christian tradition on the European space.
Syllabus	
Content knowledge	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General overview on the concept of Christian tradition, with reference to Christian History. 2. Jesus in the history and the quest for historical Jesus. 3. <i>Fortleben</i> of Biblical texts, characters and episodes (f.i., Abraham/Isaac; Job; Mary Magdalene) in the European cultures from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic: Christian tradition as the history of biblical reception. 4. The contribution of the Christian tradition to the construction of societies welcoming differences (gender, religious, ethnic) and respecting the person: cf. Agenda 2030 (goal 16 "peace and justice"). 5. CSR - Cognitive Science of Religion. The origins of religion, cognition and culture in an evolutionary perspective.

Texts and readings	<p>A. Mandatory readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M. Simonetti, "Alle origini della tradizione cristiana", in «Vetera Christianorum» 39, 2002, pp. 343-355. - P. Stefani, <i>La Bibbia</i>, Il Mulino, Bologna 2004. - M. Pesce, <i>Chi ha paura del Gesù storico? Ripensare il cristianesimo nel mondo moderno</i>, EDB, Bologna 2015. - A.W. Geertz, <i>Approcci cognitivi ed evolutivisti alla religione. Una collezione di saggi</i>, tr. it, Bologna, Pátron 2020 (this book can be substituted by different texts by the same author written in English). <p>B. A choice of five chapters within two of the following books:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A. Norenzayan, <i>Big Gods. How Religion Transformed Cooperation and Conflict</i>, Princeton University Press, Princeton 2013. - E. Lupieri (ed.), <i>Mary Magdalene from the New Testament to the New Age and Beyond</i>, Brill, Leiden-Boston 2019. - L. Carnevale, <i>Giobbe dall'antichità al medioevo. Testi, tradizioni, immagini</i>, Edipuglia, Bari 2010. - 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. - F. Bermejo Rubio, <i>La invención de Jesús de Nazaret. Historia, ficción, historiografía</i>, Siglo XXI España, Madrid 2018. - A. Lirosi e A. Saggiore (eds.), <i>Religioni e parità di genere: percorsi accidentati</i>, Edizioni di storia e letteratura, Roma 2022. <p>C. A choice of reading from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M. Yourcenar, <i>Fires</i>, English Translation, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, Toronto-New York 1981. - E. Carrère, <i>The Kingdom</i>, English Translation, Hutchinson, London 2017. - J. Saramago, <i>The Gospel according to Jesus Christ</i>, English Translation, Mariner Books, Boston 1994 (and further editions). - N. Tosches, <i>Under Tiberius</i>, Little Brown Company, Boston 2015. - C. Moore, <i>Lamb. The Gospel according to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal</i>, Harper, New York 2002. - R. Calasso, <i>Il libro di tutti i libri</i>, Adelphi, Milano 2019. - E. Lupieri, <i>Cronache dal Trumpistan. Diario di un teologo italiano in America</i>, Di Girolamo, Trapani 2020. - J. Safran Foer, <i>Here I am</i>, Hamish Hamilton, London-New York, 2016.
Notes, additional materials	All readings under A, B, C are compulsory; the five chapters under B must be agreed upon with the instructor. Students who are not able to attend should contact the instructor, who will provide complementary bibliography.
Repository	Texts and readings are available from the University of Bari libraries and/or in a digital format (articles in OpenAccess); otherwise, they will be uploaded on the Teams classroom.

Assessment	
Assessment methods	The assessment method is an oral interview. In agreement with the students, an intermediate examination consisting of a written paper on a topic of specific interest, related to the course, may be added. £
Assessment criteria	<p>Students will be assessed according to their level of achievement of the expected learning outcomes.</p> <p><i>Knowledge and understanding</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Level of knowledge of the historical development of Christianity and the Judeo-Christian tradition, starting with the figure of Jesus.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Level of understanding of both the cultural and religious impact of Judeo-Christian traditions on the social and geographical space of Western world (Europe and beyond). <p><i>Applying knowledge and understanding</i></p> <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). <p><i>Autonomy of judgment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Level of autonomy in making informed judgements and historical-critical analysis regarding superficial and commonplace assessments of the Judeo-Christian religious system, with special reference to the European geographical and cultural space. ○ Ability to discuss historical-religious problems (see Agenda 2030, goal 16 “pace e giustizia”) <p><i>Communicating knowledge and understanding</i></p> <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. <p><i>Communication skills</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clarity, consistency, historical accuracy in communication. <p><i>Capacities to continue learning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Capacity of continuously learning new research perspectives, recognizing mass-media prejudices, stereotypes and doctrinal preconceptions.
Final exam and grading criteria	<p>On the basis of the assessment criteria listed above, the grading criteria will take into account the quality of the students' preparation with reference to the analysed texts and the topics addressed in the classroom.</p> <p>In order to achieve a high or excellent grade, students must have achieved a complete and thorough knowledge of the subject, a high level of autonomy in analysis and critical judgement, and adequate capacity of argumentation and exposition.</p> <p>Measurement criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insufficient assessment - 18-21: sufficient assessment - 22-24: fair assessment - 25-27: good assessment - 28-30 (with possible award of distinction): excellent assessment.
Further information	
	<p>The expected working time for a master's thesis in the subject is around six months; students are therefore required to contact the instructor taking into account this time-schedule.</p>