

Text : Early Christian Martyrdom, Latin (10 ECTS)

Course content

Jesus was judged by the Roman governor Pilate and executed. In the succeeding decades and centuries up until the beginning of the fourth century Christians clashed with different levels of authorities, from emperors through governors and to local councils. This course will, primarily based on Latin texts, focus on the character of and motives behind such clashes and study one of the reactions of the Christians: The development of a Christian martyr-ideology.

The teaching is structured according to the abovementioned focus. We will begin by exploring the context in which Christian martyr-ideology developed, i.e. the persecution of the Christians in the Roman Empire. Through this we approach two primary texts, two early examples of Christian martyr-literature. These texts are very diverse, one (the Martyrs from Scilli) is written in a form that resembles a Roman court record, the other apparently consist of three parts: one part apparently written by a young, recently converted and imprisoned Christian women, Perpetua; the second apparently written by a Christian who joined her and some other imprisoned recent converts because he, as their teacher worried about them; the third written by an anonymous author/editor who narrated about their actual execution at in the stadium in Carthage at the celebration of an imperial birthday. The two primary texts will allow us to continue our discussion of the character of and motives behind the persecution, but they will also allow us to discuss the development of Christian martyr-ideology.

Time period

Teaching: week 35-49. Allowance will be made for: the compact seminar in Oslo, September 18-23 (a break).

Compact seminar: Lund, November 6-8.

Exam: Paper to be handed in no later than December 22; those with a fixed exam will receive the question on December 18.

Responsible teacher and institution

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Learning outcome

The student will acquire:

- * Comprehensive knowledge of Early Christian Martyrdom.
- * Skills in analysing, discussing and interpreting primary source texts in Latin.
- * The ability to demonstrate such skills and communicate such knowledge in writing.

Prerequisites

In addition to the general requirements for the program, a minimum of 10 ECTS of Latin

Form of teaching; course activities

The teaching will combine:

- * Compact seminar in Lund (see above for more details).
- * Tutorials at your home university.
- * Distance learning, with written assignments. E.-tivities on the e.-learning platform CourseSites.

Required reading

The syllabus will include:

- * No more than 30 pages of primary texts in Latin.
- * 1000 pages of secondary scholarly literature and primary texts in translation. Two thirds of this syllabus are fixed, one third is chosen by the student but subject to approval by the teacher (cf. article 6.7).

Fixed syllabus

- * Jakob Engberg, Impulsore Chresto. Opposition to Christianity in the Roman Empire, c. 50-250 AD, Peter Lang 2007; to be borrowed from a library or purchased by the student.
- * a compendium off app. 350 pages; made available at tutorial as master copy or through CourseSite.

Examination form

If the student has participated regularly, actively and satisfactorily in a course (cf. article 6.2), she or he may choose between a free and a fixed written examination. A student failing to fulfil these requirements must sit a fixed written exam.

In the free written examination, the student writes a paper of between eight and ten pages on a subject, question or material chosen by the student and approved by the responsible teacher. In the fixed written examination, the student is given four days to write a paper of between eight and ten pages on a subject, question or material provided by the responsible teacher. Papers written for both the free and the fixed examination must have the following form:

* A translation into English of a passage of primary text in an ancient language.

* A commentary on this text.

* A discussion of a question of relevance to the theme of the course based both on the translated text and on other parts of the syllabus.

General rules for examination and complaint

<http://www.au.dk/en/internationalcentre/international-housing-office/exchange/studies/proever/guidelinesonexaminations/>