

Interaction: Philosophy and Wisdom Traditions —Judaism, Christianity and Islam

Course content

In late Antiquity Jewish, Christian and Islamic theology, mysticism and wisdom traditions emerged and developed against a background of primarily Hellenic philosophical traditions. In this course this development and in particular the transmission, interpretation, and use of texts of wisdom will be studied and compared. In the course, the shared Greek philosophical school tradition will be presented, and a variety of forms of reception and transformation of this heritage during the first millennium will be analyzed and discussed both diachronically and synchronically.

Time Period

Teaching: weeks 5-18 (break in week 16, Easter/Passover), 2018

Compact seminar: Copenhagen March 14-15.

Examination: Paper to be handed in by June 7

Instructors and institution

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Prerequisites

The same as for the program.

Teaching Methods

E-learning, compact seminar, tutorials

Instruction is provided via the internet and through a compact seminar and supported by tutorials at the student's home university. Participation in the course forum on the internet is a requirement, as well as the submission of an essay. Students are provided with a reading list to be read independently aided by introductions and weekly assignments on the internet through Coursesites. The students may be asked to prepare some additional material for the compact seminar.

Examination

The student writes a paper between eight and ten pages in length (19,200 to 24,000 characters including spaces and references but excluding bibliography and table of contents) on a subject, question or material chosen by the student and approved by the teacher. To qualify for the exam the students must complete 80% of the e-learning assignments no later than two weeks before the exam date, i.e. no later than May 24. The first opportunity to do a re-exam is August 26- September 1, 2019, the next January 20-26, 2020. The student must register for an exam by sending an e-

mail to one of the instructors three weeks prior to the exam date. No later than at the time of registration for an exam, remaining assignments must be handed in (6 out of 7 assignments are required to write an exam).

Literature and syllabus

The syllabus includes approximately 1300 pages of secondary scholarly literature and primary texts in translation. Approximately 900 of these pages are defined by the teacher before the beginning of the term. Students choose the remaining approximately 400 pages.

Learning outcomes

The following represent the most important aspects of the learning outcomes. More details may be found in the RRE study plan:

<http://religious-studies.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/RRE-Study-Plan-2017.pdf>

On completion of the course the student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to independently identify and account for the main lines of the traditions of philosophy, wisdom, and mysticism current during late Antiquity
- be able to independently be able to discern and analyse some important examples of wisdom traditions, mysticism, and theological reflection in early Christianity, early Islam and contemporary Judaism, against the background of contemporary wisdom traditions and philosophical schools of late Antiquity
- be able to summarise and account for the way in which wisdom traditions, mysticism, and theological reflection emerged, were transmitted and changed within Judaism, Christianity and Islam, in interaction with wisdom traditions, philosophy, religious practice and sacred texts of late Antiquity and the religions mentioned above

Competence and skills

- be able to read and analyse source texts in translation
- be able to independently compare different attitudes to the development of theology and philosophy in the different traditions
- take a position on interpretations of key passages on the basis of specialised knowledge of historical-critical methods
- be able to argue for an independent position in a research assignment
- be able to critically compare traditions of wisdom, philosophy, and mysticism in late Antiquity, and relate these to present-day perspectives.

Registration

No later than January 15 using the doodle: <https://doodle.com/poll/6bzwyzxd3cdwdgte>. Write also an e-mail to your teacher

(andreas.westergren@ctr.lu.se). Your teacher will then invite you to join the course on CourseSites.