

Text: Christian Tradition: Early Christian Martyrdom, Greek and Latin

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, based on Latin and Greek Christian 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-literature and –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, one Latin and one Greek. 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-literature and ideology.

Time period

Teaching: week 35-49. Allowance will be made for: the compact seminar in Oslo, September 16-20 (a break).

Compact seminar: Lund, November 7-8

Exam: Paper to be handed in no later than December 20; question will be announced on December 16.

Responsible teacher and institution

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Learning outcome

The student will acquire:

- Advanced knowledge of an important theme or an important text within Christianity.
- Advanced knowledge of the history of scholarship on formative Christianity pertaining to the theme of early Christian martyrdom.
- Skills in analysing, discussing and interpreting primary source texts.
- The skills to communicate the acquired knowledge of the subject matter in writing.
- The competence to develop their own scholarly specialisation and to navigate with confidence in interdisciplinary, complex and unpredictable academic processes in professional and academic settings.
- The competence to actively participate in innovative scholarly work.

Prerequisites

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

Form of teaching; course activities

The teaching will combine Compact seminar, tutorials and e-learning.

Required reading

The syllabus will include:

- No more than 30 pages of primary texts in Latin or Greek. The individual student must choose between the Latin and the Greek part.
- Approximately 1000 pages of secondary scholarly literature and primary texts in translation defined by the teacher before the beginning of the term.
 - 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. 650 pages; made available at tutorial as master copy or through CourseSite.

Examination form

The student is given four days to write a paper of between eight and ten pages (in all 19,200-24,000 characters) in length on a subject, question or material chosen by the teacher. To qualify for the exam the students must complete 80% of the e-learning assignments.

Assessment form and form of co-examination: Graded and with internal co-examination.

General rules for examination and complaint

https://studerende.au.dk/en/studies/subject-portals/arts/exams/?utm_source=mitstudie&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=mitstudie_Arts&utm_content=Info%20om%20eksamen&cHash=4fdcb68687841d90f48a743e29fe3e5f