

Crossroads between Christians and Jews in Early Material Culture (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: THEOLOGY or PHILOSOPHY

Course ID: 0353

Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies. Students taking part in the course as a part of their Bachelor's degree program must have completed Course A, Introduction in Philosophy and Theology (30 ECTS credits). Students taking part in the course as a freestanding course are expected to have corresponding prior knowledge.

Educational goals

After completing the course, the student is expected to:

- Describe and compare ancient materials witnessing to Jewish and Christian identities and interactions in the first centuries CE;
- Discuss, assess and problematize the relations between Jews and Christians in the Greco-Roman context, including an appreciation of their varieties;
- Identify and discuss specific monuments and show a knowledge of different geographical areas and their characteristics;
- Assess the methodologies for allocating material remains between faith communities with a view to appreciating and implementing interdisciplinary approaches.

Course content

Early Christian art and culture cannot be understood without reference to contemporary Judaism. To illustrate this vital link, we analyse specific examples of Christian monuments from the ancient Greco-Roman world. We approach these early Christian archaeological remains by taking into account the recent discoveries in the field of Jewish art and open new perspectives on the interaction between these communities at a key moment of their history.

Teaching and examination

Distance course with 4 obligatory meetings on Zoom (3 hrs each, Tuesdays 6-9 pm).

Examination via one oral presentation and one take-home written exam.

[CALENDAR: 5 April, 3 May (oral presentations), 17 May, 31 May, EXAM: 3 June]

Bibliography

Baird, Jennifer A., *Dura-Europos*, Bloomsbury Academic, London, UK, 2018.
Fine, Steven, *Art and Judaism in the Greco-Roman world*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2009[2005].
Jensen, Robin Margaret, *Understanding Early Christian Art*, Routledge, London, 2000.

Reference

Birk, Stine, *Depicting the Dead: self-representation and commemoration on Roman sarcophagi with portraits*, Aarhus University Press, Århus, 2013.
Elsner, Jaś, *Roman Eyes: visibility & subjectivity in art & text*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J., 2007.
Levine, Lee I., *Visual Judaism in Late Antiquity: historical contexts of Jewish art*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 2012.
Mathews, Thomas F., *The Clash of Gods: a reinterpretation of early Christian art*, Rev. edn, Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 1999.
Neis, Rachel, *The Sense of Sight in Rabbinic Culture: Jewish ways of seeing in Late Antiquity*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2013.
Eric C. Smith, *Jewish Glass and Christian Stone. A Materialist Mapping of the "Parting of the Ways"*, London and New York: Routledge, 2018.
Tabbernee, William (ed.), *Early Christianity in Contexts: an exploration across cultures and continents*, Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2014.

See also "Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser" (Course plans: General rules)

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