

**COURSE OF STUDY:** LM 15 – Classic Philology, Literatures and History of the Antiquity

**ACADEMIC YEAR:** 2023-2024

**ACADEMIC SUBJECT:** Themes and texts of ancient Christian literature

General information	
Year of the course	Second Year
Academic calendar	Second Semester (26.02-15.05.2024)
Credits (CFU/ETCS):	6
SSD	L-Fil-Let/06
Language	Italian
Mode of attendance	Attendance is not mandatory, but strongly recommended.

Professor/ Lecturer	
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Telephone	
Department and address	Bari, Città Vecchia, plesso di Santa Teresa dei Maschi – 1 <sup>st</sup> floor
Virtual room	fe78f16
Office Hours	Wednesday 10.00 – 12.00 and by appointment (e-mail, teams)

Work schedule			
Hours			
Total	Lectures	Hands-on (laboratory, workshops, working groups, seminars, field trips)	Out-of-class study hours/ Self-study hours
150	42	0	108
CFU/ETCS			
6	6	0	

<b>Learning Objectives</b>	The course aims to provide students with specific knowledge of the Christian tradition, particularly from a literary and historical perspective, and enable them to acquire the methods of philological analysis of early Christian texts.
<b>Course prerequisites</b>	The student must be aware of the main lines of development of historical processes from antiquity to late antiquity; and know how to independently question the sources on specific issues related to ancient history.

<b>Teaching strategie</b>	Lectures, reading and analysis of literary sources and texts, exercises.
<b>Expected learning outcomes in terms of</b>	
<b>Knowledge and understanding on:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A good preparation on the historical evolution of the main doctrinal movements within ancient Christianity and their relationship with the cultural context.</li> <li>○ The student will be initiated to a critical study of the different types of sources related to the main heretical movements of</li> </ul>

	Christianity of the origins in the Mediterranean basin.
<b>Applying knowledge and understanding on:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The student must achieve an adequate competence in the interpretation of historical events and sources, thus maturing the ability to relate them to the context and showing skills of critical interpretation, contextualization and understanding of the different interpretative plans.</li> </ul>
<b>Soft skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Making informed judgments and choices</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The student will have to be able to process personal and motivated judgments on historical and literary themes and phenomena.</li> <li>○ The student must be able to discuss the modern bibliography.</li> <li>○ The student must develop a critical sensibility in the exegesis of the historical-literary sources.</li> <li>○ The student will have to show particular attention to the applied methodology.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <i>Communicating knowledge and understanding</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The student must have learned the terminology related to ancient Christian literature.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <i>Capacities to continue learning</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The student must show ability to independently apply acquired knowledge and skills to the learning and discussion of literary phenomena different by chronology and themes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Syllabus</b>	
<b>Content knowledge</b>	<p>Canonical, non-canonical and apocryphal. Letters, Gospels and Apocalypses from the Origins to the Peace of the Church.</p> <p>In the first part of the course, the main literary genres of early Christianity and their related themes will be analysed. The development of the main thought forms of early Christianity will then be described through the analysis of the texts they produced. The following part will focus on the literary testimonies that describe the varied doctrines of the different Christianities, their ideological structure, theories, diffusion and different reception, with particular attention to the relations with philosophical culture and pagan religiosity.</p> <p>The course includes the analysis of texts in the language provided in class and available in the form of an online handout, which are useful for an in-depth study of the course topics.</p>
<b>Texts and readings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Claudio Gianotto, <i>I vangeli apocrifi. Un'altra immagine di Gesù</i>, Il Mulino, Bologna 2018.</li> <li>and</li> <li>● Giancarlo Rinaldi, <i>Pagani e cristiani la storia di un conflitto (secoli I-IV)</i>, Carocci, Roma 2016, pp. 309-399.</li> </ul>
<b>Notes, additional materials</b>	The students will be provided with useful materials in digital format (sources, texts, articles) and indicated the main bibliographical tools.
<b>Repository</b>	The material will be available in the course Teams class and on the lecturer's personal page under teaching section.

Assessment	
Assessment methods	Oral exam on the topics addressed in class and on the texts indicated in the program (available in pdf).
Assessment criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Knowledge and understanding:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Understanding of the historical and cultural evolution of the main movements and the main heresies developed in Christianity of the origins in the Mediterranean basin.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Applying knowledge and understanding:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Critical approach to the different types of historical-literary sources.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Autonomy of judgment:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Verification of the acquisition of an autonomous method of investigation and interpretation, including the ability to interact with related disciplines.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Communication skills:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Development of linguistic and methodological skills that allow to effectively transmit ideas and theses to interlocutors with knowledge and skills of various fields and levels.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Capacities to continue learning:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Critical information acquisition and development of an autonomous study method.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Final exam and grading criteria	<p>For the purposes of the evaluation, the degree of knowledge of the main issues related to historical research and the types of sources proper to Christianity of the origins and Late Antiquity and their interpretation will be verified.</p> <p>Particular attention will be paid to the ownership of language and the level of historical-literary skills on sources. The assessment will follow the following docimological parameters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- insufficient grade (&lt;18): lack of basic knowledge and inability to provide a correct interpretation of texts; lack of knowledge of literary history.</li> <li>- sufficient grade (18-21): possession of basic literary knowledge; mainly correct treatment and interpretation of texts but conducted with imprecision and poor autonomy.</li> <li>- positive vote (22-24): possession of literary and historical knowledge of intermediate level; treatment and interpretation of texts correct, but not always precise and autonomous.</li> <li>- Good vote (25-27): possession of literary and historical knowledge of good level; treatment and interpretation of texts fully correct, sometimes not precise and autonomous.</li> <li>- excellent grade (28-30): possession of high-level literary and historical knowledge; correct treatment and interpretation of texts, conducted with autonomy and precision.</li> </ul>