BCRE14 Introducing the New Testament

Semester: B  
ECTS: 5  
Duration: 11 weeks  
Contact hours: 22  
Quota: Maximum of 10  
Prerequisite subjects: None

Module Description:

The writings included in the canon of the New Testament have been composed by different authors over a relatively long period of time. Translated in countless languages, the stories and ideas found in the New Testament have played a major role in shaping socio-political, ethical and religious discourses across the centuries and in different cultures and have been a constant source of inspiration in art, music and literature. In this module, students will learn about the most relevant scholarly approaches to the study of the New Testament and its background in Second Temple Judaism and in the Graeco-Roman world, examine the variety of literary genres and the diversity of sources and traditions, which contributed to the development of early Christianity and to the formation of new religious and cultural realities in the Graeco-Roman world, and be introduced to the history of interpretation of the New Testament in antiquity and in contemporary culture.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the content of the writings that form the New Testament, their structure, and the main historical and cultural factors that contributed to their development.
2. Discuss the complex process of the formation of the New Testament and identify the diverse traditions that are represented in it.
4. Analyse the main models of investigation of New Testament literature (e.g. historical-critical, narratological, feminist) and the key methodological issues concerning the study of the New Testament and its origins.
5. Illustrate scholarly views about the New Testament to both specialists and non-specialists, writing well-structured essays, and compiling and using relevant bibliographies.

**Indicative Reading:**


**Assessment:** One 3,000 word essay

**Name of Lecturer(s):**

Profs. Daniele Pevarello and Ben Wold