

## The Classical Tradition in Western History (A002345)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 5.0**

**Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027**

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Formisano, Marco

LW07

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

**crdts**

**offering**

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

reception studies; the classical tradition; Nachleben; metamorphosis and transformation; Ovid; post-human; identity.

**Position of the course**

This course offers an introduction to an important segment of Western culture: the reception of the *Metamorphoses* of Ovid and the transformation of human and non-human subjectivities. Participants in this course shall observe the role of Greek and Roman culture in the construction of Western concepts of identity, in particular in contemporary texts and films.

**Contents**

This course consists of two parts.

In the first three meetings we shall discuss the most important terminology and approaches in reception studies.

In the second part we shall consider the complex and variegated reception of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (1st century CE) in modern texts and movies. In particular, we shall discuss three kinds of reception of this highly influential Latin poem: 1) direct reworking of and clear references to episodes from the *Metamorphoses*; 2) thematic correspondences between Ovidian tales and modern literature and film; 3) Ovidian style of representation.

**Initial competences**

To have an elementary knowledge of European history and art history as acquired in secondary education, complemented with general historical and cultural historical courses in Ba1, or having acquired these competences in another way.

**Final competences**

- 1 Being able to elucidate and actively apply central theoretical concepts and cultural-critical terms from the course.
- 2 Being able to elucidate and identify various forms of reception.
- 3 To have general insight into the perception and creative use of the classics within new cultural products from different periods and cultural movements.
- 4 Being able to autonomously gain insights into the forms, functions and cultural contexts of classical reception pertaining to specific cultural products and to communicate those insights in a scientific manner.
- 5 Being able to autonomously formulate a critical perspective on the contemporary social relevance of the course contents.
- 6 Knowledge of the metamorphosis as a central topic in both ancient and

contemporary art and culture.

#### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

#### **Conditions for exam contract**

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

#### **Teaching methods**

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

#### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

(on line) frontal lesson, (on line) group discussion; independent study; plenary sessions; (on line) group work .

#### **Study material**

None

#### **References**

Further reading will be announced by the teacher and if necessary made available on UFORA.

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

Feedback and questions during contact and office hours (also on line)

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Written assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Written assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Assignment

#### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

#### **Extra information on the examination methods**

Written exam: specific information will be shared with the students during classes

Paper: students write an analysis of a cultural product of their choice

Active participation (presentation)

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

Written exam: 40%

Paper: 40%

Presentation: 20%

#### **Facilities for Working Students**

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.

2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year

3. Alternative time for feedback is possible

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy