

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 correspondances 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 insight 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. Classes are not recorded.

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