



Visiting Professor Program Academic Year 2024/2025

TEACHING COMMITMENT: 24 hours

COURSE TITLE

Approaches to Sacred Texts

TEACHING PERIOD

2nd term

SCIENTIFIC AREA

Religious Studies

LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH

Italian

COURSE SUMMARY

In this course we will study the attitude of various religious traditions towards sacred or authoritative texts. In every society, authoritative texts form the basis of various social discourses. Reading old texts and applying them to the present, necessarily contains a paradox: on the one hand the authoritative text is unchangeable, whereas daily life is constantly changing. This requires a mechanism by which the texts are constantly made relevant and can always be approached from new questions.

The various ways in which this process takes place will mainly be studied on the basis of the Bible, i.e. in in Judeo-Christian tradition, and Islam. For comparative purposes also other cultural contexts will be considered, such as Classical Antiquity and other religions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Acquiring a deeper understanding of the mechanisms by which authoritative texts are made relevant and constantly interpreted in new ways.

Acquiring knowledge of the research tools to investigate and interpret sacred texts and their place in various societies and religious traditions.

VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE

Ability to read (in the original language) and interpret texts of the Jewish, Greek and Arabic religious traditions.

CONTACT REFERENT

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