

OIKOS Course
Exploring Late Antiquity
Spring 2025



OIKOS Course Exploring Late Antiquity

This course focuses on the world of Late Antiquity, with a particular chronological focus on the fourth through the ninth centuries. On the one hand scholars consider Late Antiquity as an ‘independent’ historical period, while on the other hand they regard it as the indispensable link between the Roman world and the Medieval West and Byzantine East. Concepts such as ‘decline and fall’ (Gibbon), ‘change and continuity’, or Peter Brown’s ‘transformation’ have dominated our scholarly discourses of the past decades. However, current research shows that the field is ready for further refinement. The course consists of two parts: a course day with a general introduction and master classes on selected major themes in Amsterdam (April 10th) and the graduate conference “real and imagined boundaries in Late Antiquity” in Ghent (April 28-30th).

In order to complete the course as part of the OIKOS RMA or PhD curriculum for 5 EC, the participants **participate** in the master classes in Amsterdam (April 10th), **attend** at least one day of the three-day conference in Ghent (April 28-30th) and **submit** (a.) a research paper on a topic related to the master classes and/or the conference and (b.) a short reflection/reaction on the conference papers you have attended.

Lecturers: the course day in Amsterdam is being taught by a team of colleagues from the two Amsterdam universities (UvA and VU) and Ghent University (see below for more details). The course is coordinated by Berenice Verhelst (b.verhelst@uva.nl)

Course load: 5 ECTS (if you need less or more EC, please get in touch with the coordinator of the course). Please also indicate if you need a grade for this course.

Literature: Selected readings in preparation of the course day (April 10th) will be announced in advance.

Course programme

April 10th 2025, 10:00-17:00 (with breaks)

Location: Amsterdam

Room and building: BG1 0.16 (Turfdraagsterpad 9, Amsterdam)

Welcome and Introduction (Berenice Verhelst and Daniëlle Sloopjes)

4 master classes on core themes:

- Hagiography (Julie van Pelt)
- Biblical Interpretations (Bas ter Haar Romeny)
- Manicheism (Guillermo Menendez Sanchez)
- The End of Empire: Transformation or Decline? (Martijn Icks)

April 28th-30th

Location: Ghent

Room and building: tba

Graduate conference: Real and imagined boundaries in Late Antiquity

Provisional programme: see separate pdf

See <https://www.gcla.ugent.be/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Ghent-PhD-Conference-2025.pdf> for a detailed description of the conference topic.

Participants in this course are expected to attend at least one day of the Graduate Conference organised by the Ghent Centre for Late Antiquity (28-30 April 2025); see the attached schedule. For this part, they will write a 1000 word reflection (in total) on the papers they attended.

Registration. Interested to participate? Please contact the course coordinator before March 1st. The course will only take place with a minimum of ten registered participants.