



Master JewChriS

Jewish and Christian Scriptures History, Exegesis, Reception

*Scriptura non potest intelligi theologicè,
nisi antea intellecta sit grammaticè*

Philip Melanchthon

The Master *Jewish and Christian Scriptures: History, Exegesis, Reception* (JewChriS) is designed to help graduate students navigate the history of Biblical sources across the Jewish and Christian traditions, with lectures of prominent international scholars of the related fields. Students will be presented the texts of the Jewish and Christian Bibles in their historical development and will be led through the paths of the major Jewish and Christian exegetical traditions. They will develop critical skills in the study of textual history, translations, exegesis, and hermeneutics.

Directors

Edmondo Lupieri (Loyola University Chicago, Em.)

Laura Bigoni (Alma mater studiorum University of Bologna)

Scientific Committee

Luca Arcari (University of Naples Federico II), Eberhard Bons (University of Strasbourg / FSCIRE),

Laura Carnevale (University of Bari Aldo Moro), Davide Dainese (Alma mater studiorum

University of Bologna / FSCIRE), Anna Mambelli (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

/ FSCIRE), Alberto Melloni (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia / FSCIRE / La Sapienza

University of Rome), Daniela Scialabba (Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome / FSCIRE)

Course Overview

Why? The Master JewChriS promotes a critical understanding of the historical development of Jewish and Christian Scriptures and the plurality of their exegetical traditions, both in the ancient and modern world. It is designed to help graduate students establish their path into independent research in the field of religious studies, leading to possible PhD candidacies and scholarly publications.

What? **50 lectures, 5 modules** (10 classes of 1.5h each); 4 standard modules + a thematic section whose program changes every year. The language of the course is English.

Module 1: *Texts and Contexts. Jewish and Christian Scriptures: Beyond the Concept of Canonicity* (coordinators: Laura Carnevale and Edmondo Lupieri).

Module 2: *Exegesis between Translations and Traditions* (coordinators: Luca Arcari and Anna Mambelli).

Module 3: *From Lorenzo Valla to the Semantic Web* (coordinators: Laura Bigoni and Davide Dainese).

Module 4: *Hermeneutics and Meanings* (coordinators: Eberhard Bons and Daniela Scialabba).

Module 5: *War and Peace: Voluntary Death and Martyrdom from Antiquity to the Present* (collective coordination by the scientific committee).

Who? Anyone who holds a bachelor's degree in any field related to the study of religious traditions and has an interest in Biblical languages, history, translations, exegesis, and reception.

When? Lectures will run from January to June 2026 in **intensive weekends** (Friday and Saturday, 10a.m.-4p.m. GMT +2). **Additional beginner-level language courses** are optional and will run in evening sessions during the course. Languages offered include Biblical Hebrew, Aramaic, Ancient Greek, and Latin.

Where? Lectures will take place at the Fondazione per le scienze religiose, Via San Vitale 114, Bologna and online.

How? To apply, send an email to jewchris@fscire.it with a CV, a brief cover letter with your motivations to follow the course, and your language skills. Please note that for those who do not have a good command of Hebrew, Greek, and Latin the additional language courses will be strongly recommended. **Applications for the 2026 edition** can be sent until **16th December 2025**. The scientific committee will let you know about your admission by 31st December 2025.

How much? The course is promoted and sustained by FSCIRE. The fee for enrolled students is **100 euros**. Additional language courses will cost 100 euros each.

Teaching Staff

Alpi Federico, University of Florence / FSCIRE

Annese Andrea, University of Bologna

Arcari Luca, University of Naples Federico II

Bellantuono Antonella, Catholic University of Lille

Ben Dov Jonathan, Tel Aviv University

Bianchi Costanza, FSCIRE

Bigoni Laura, University of Bologna

Bons Eberhard, University of Strasbourg / FSCIRE

Bottanelli Valentina, FSCIRE

Cacciari Antonio, University of Bologna

Capone Alessandro, University of Salento

Carnevale Laura, University of Bari Aldo Moro

Caruso Fabio, Loyola University Chicago

Castelli Emanuele, University of Messina

Cecere Giuseppe, University of Bologna

Consonni Manuela, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Cusimano Fabio, Ambrosiana Library in Milan

Dainese Davide, University of Bologna / FSCIRE

Facchini Cristiana, University of Bologna

François Wim, KU Leuven

Garribba Dario, Pontifical Theological Faculty of Southern Italy San Luigi in Naples

Gerace Antonio, University of Bologna

Ghidini Chiara, University of Naples L'Orientale

Hartman Dorota Maria, University of Naples L'Orientale

Ilba Giovanni, Theological Faculty of Central Italy in Florence

Knohl Israel, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Lupieri Edmondo, Loyola University Chicago, Em.

Mambelli Anna, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia / FSCIRE

Mantelli Sincero, Theological Faculty of Emilia Romagna / Pontificium Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum

Mariotti Giulio, ISSR Guardini, Trento

Melloni Alberto, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia / FSCIRE / University of Rome La Sapienza

Monella Paolo, Kore University in Enna

Moro Caterina, University of Rome Roma Tre

Najman Hindy, University of Oxford

Napolitano Marianna, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia / FSCIRE

Pasqual Valentina, University of Bologna

Passarotti Marco, Sacro cuore Catholic University in Milan

Patrizi Luca, University of Turin

Rotondo Arianna, University of Catania

Saccenti Riccardo, University of Bergamo

Scardia Daniela, University of Salento

Scialabba Daniela, Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome / FSCIRE

Secco Vittorio, Waldensian Faculty of Theology – Humboldt University of Berlin

Sievers Joseph, Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome

Silvera Myriam, University of Palermo

Tripaldi Daniele, University of Bologna

Urciuoli Emiliano Rubens, University of Bologna

van Henten Jan Willem, University of Amsterdam

Vinel Françoise, University of Strasbourg

Course Structure

Module 1

Texts and Contexts. Jewish and Christian Scriptures: Beyond the Concept of Canonicity
(coordinators: Laura Carnevale and Edmondo Lupieri)

1. *Methodological Issues and Bibliographical Suggestions* (Laura Carnevale – Edmondo Lupieri, 1.5h)
2. *Historical Context. History of the Israelite/Jewish World Until the Exile Included* (Caterina Moro, 1.5h)
3. *Historical Context. Second Temple Judaism and Christian Origins* (Dario Garribba, 1.5h)
4. *Historical Context. Second Temple Judaism and Christian Origins* (Luca Arcari, 1.5h)
5. *The Texts. Canonical and Non-Canonical Jewish Scriptures* (Laura Carnevale – Edmondo Lupieri, 1.5h)
6. *The Texts. Canonical and Non-Canonical Jewish Scriptures* (Laura Carnevale – Edmondo Lupieri, 1.5h)
7. *The Texts. Canonical and Non-Canonical Early Christian Scriptures. Paul and New Testament Epistolography* (Giulio Mariotti, 1.5h)
8. *The Texts. Canonical and Non-Canonical Early Christian Scriptures. Synoptic Gospels and Acts* (Edmondo Lupieri, 1.5h)
9. *The Texts. Canonical and Non-Canonical Early Christian Scriptures. John and Revelation* (Luca Arcari, 1.5h)
10. *The Texts. Canonical and Non-Canonical Early Christian Scriptures. Apocryphal New Testament* (Vittorio Secco, 1.5h)

Module 2

Exegesis between Translations and Traditions (coordinators: Luca Arcari and Anna Mambelli)

1. *Traditions, Translations, Exegesis. Traditions and Fluxes of Transmission in Ancient Judaism + The 'Perfect' Translation as an Anthropological Topic in the Epistle of Aristeas* (Luca Arcari, 1.5h)
 2. *Traditions, Translations, Exegesis. Traditions, Fluxes of Transmission and Translations in early Christian Writings* (Dorota Hartman, 1.5h)
 3. *The Greek Versions of the Bible between Translation, Revision, Rewriting, and Exegesis. The Greek Versions of the Bible in Ancient Judaism* (Eberhard Bons – Daniela Scialabba, 1.5h)
 4. *The Greek Versions of the Bible between Translation, Revision, Rewriting, and Exegesis. The Greek Versions of the Bible in Ancient Judaism* (Anna Mambelli, 1.5h)
 5. *The Greek Versions of the Bible between Translation, Revision, Rewriting, and Exegesis. The Greek Versions of the Bible in Ancient Judaism* (Israel Knohl 1.5h)
 6. *The Greek Versions of the Bible between Translation, Revision, Rewriting, and Exegesis. Origen's Hexapla: The Ancient Example of a Polyglot Bible* (Antonio Cacciari, 1.5h)
 7. *The Sheperd of Hermas and its Translations* (Emanuele Castelli, 1.5h)
 8. *The Latin Versions of the Bible. The Latin Versions of the Bible: The 'Vetus Latina' and the Vulgate* (Sincero Mantelli, 1.5h)
 9. *The Coptic Versions of the Bible; The Bible in the Nag Hammadi Manuscripts* (Costanza Bianchi, 1.5h)
- Guest lecture: Reading and Translating the Writings of Nag Hammadi Today** (Andrea Annese – Daniele Tripaldi, 1.5h)
10. *The Armenian Versions of the Bible; The Bible in Ancient Armenian Literature* (Federico Alpi, 1.5h)

Module 3

From Lorenzo Valla to the Semantic Web (coordinators: Laura Bigoni and Davide Dainese)

1. *Philologia sacra et profana in Dialogue* (Laura Bigoni, 1.5h)
2. *Erasmus and His Legacy* (Antonio Gerace, 1.5h)
3. *Maimonides' Exegesis in Spinoza* (Myriam Silvera, 1.5h)
4. *Confessionalization and Holy Scripture: The Bible between the 16th and 17th Centuries* (Wim François, 1.5h)
5. *Reading the Bible in the Age of Reason: The Jewish Legacy between the 18th and 19th Centuries* (Cristiana Facchini, 1.5h)
6. *Theology, Linguistics, and Computing: Father Busa and His Legacy* (Marco Passarotti, 1.5h)
7. *Introduction to the Semantic Web* (Valentina Pasqual, 1.5h)
8. *Editing Texts Digitally: The TEI Initiative and Alternative Approaches* (Paolo Monella, 1.5h)
9. *Sacred Book and Sacred Library in the Digital Age* (Fabio Cusimano, 1.5h)
10. *Between Methodological Innovation and Textual Resilience: Studying Sacred Texts Today* (Davide Dainese – Anna Mambelli, 1.5h)

Module 4

Hermeneutics and Meanings (coordinators: Eberhard Bons and Daniela Scialabba)

1. *"Do You Understand What You Are Reading?" (Acts 8:30): Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics.* Understanding and Interpreting Biblical Texts (Eberhard Bons – Daniela Scialabba, 1.5h)
2. *There Is Not Only One Bible – Diversity of Ancient Texts and Diversity of Interpretations A.* Different Editions, Different Texts, Different Meanings (Hindy Najman, 1.5h)
3. *The Origins of Jewish and Christian Exegesis.* From Qumran to Rabbinic Exegesis; Specific Features of Rabbinic Exegesis (Jonathan Ben Dov, 1.5h)
4. *The Origins of Jewish and Christian Exegesis.* Currents of Patristic Exegesis (Alessandro Capone – Daniela Scardia, 1.5h)

Guest lecture: *Poetic Exegesis* (Arianna Rotondo, 1.5h)

5. *There Is Not Only One Bible – Diversity of Ancient Texts and Diversity of Interpretations.* The Usage of Different Bibles in the Various Christian Churches (Eberhard Bons – Daniela Scialabba, 1.5h)
6. *Does the Bible Lend Itself to Different Interpretations? Ancient and Medieval Exegesis.* Medieval Readings of the Bible (Riccardo Saccenti, 1.5h)
7. *Does the Bible Lend Itself to Different Interpretations? Ancient and Medieval Exegesis.* (Françoise Vinel, 1.5h)
8. *The Bible in Contemporary Controversies.* Hermeneutics of the Book of Job (Manuela Consonni, 1.5h)
9. *The Bible in Contemporary Controversies.* The Bible in Political Debates in the Middle East (Antonella Bellantuono, 1.5h)
10. *The Bible in Contemporary Controversies.* The Bible in Political Debates in Russia (Marianna Napolitano, 1.5h)

Module 5

War and Peace (collective coordination by the scientific committee)

1. *Introduction* (Alberto Melloni, 1.5h)
2. *Martyr: History of a Word, a Word in History* (Edmondo Lupieri – Laura Bigoni, 1.5h)
3. *Bible* (Jan Willem van Henten, 1.5h)
4. *Bible* (Joseph Sievers, 1.5h)
5. *Second Temple Judaism* (Giovanni Ibba, 1.5h)
6. *Ancient Christianity* (Emiliano Rubens Urciuoli, 1,5h)
7. *Quran* (Luca Patrizi, 1.5h)
8. *Islam* (Giuseppe Cecere, 1.5h)
9. *China* (Valentina Bottanelli, 1.5h)
10. *Japan* (Chiara Ghidini, 1.5h)

Language Courses: 30h, weekly

Teachers: **Laura Bigoni** (Greek), **Fabio Caruso** (Latin), **Giulio Mariotti** (Biblical Hebrew), **Eberhard Bons** (Aramaic), **Costanza Bianchi** (Coptic)



Calendar

All time references are CEST time zone!

Friday 10-11:30am (Session 1), 11:30-12:00am (break), 12:00-1:30pm (Session 2), 1:30-2:30pm (lunch break), 2:30-4:00pm (Session 3) + 4:30-6pm *guest lectures*

Saturday: 10:11-30am (Session 4), 11:30-12:00am (break), 12:00-1:30pm (Session 5) + 3:00-4:30pm *guest lectures*

January 23: Module 1, Sessions 1,2,3

January 24: Module 1, Sessions 4,5

February 6: Module 1, Sessions 6,7,8

February 7: Module 1, Sessions 9,10

February 20: Module 2, Sessions 1,2,3

February 21: Module 2, Sessions 4,5

March 6: Module 2, Sessions 6,7,8

March 7: Module 2, Sessions 9,10 + *guest lecture*

March 20: Module 3, Sessions 1,2,3

March 21: Module 3, Sessions 4,5

April 10: Module 3, Sessions 6,7,8

April 11: Module 3, Sessions 9,10

May 8: Module 4, Sessions 1,2,3

May 9: Module 4, Sessions 4,5

May 22: Module 4, Sessions 6,7,8

May 23: Module 4, Sessions 9,10 + *guest lecture*

June 5: Module 5, Sessions 1,2,3

June 6: Module 5, Sessions 4,5

June 19: Module 5, Sessions 6,7,8

June 20: Module 5, Sessions 9,10

Language courses: online, once a week for the duration of the course.

Ancient Greek: Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30pm. January 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26, June 2, 9 (with optional catch-up lessons June 16, 23).

Latin: Tuesdays, 3:30-5:00pm. January 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26, June 2, 9 (with optional catch-up classes June 16, 23)

Biblical Hebrew: Thursdays, 2:00-3:30pm. January 23, 30, February 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 9, 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4, 11, 18, 25.

Aramaic: Tuesdays, 5:00-6:30pm. January 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26, June 2, 9 (with optional catch-up lessons June 16, 23).

Coptic: tbd