



# Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - 2024-2025

## Exchange

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers many English-taught courses in a variety of subjects, ranging from arts & culture and social sciences, neurosciences and computer science, to economics and business administration.

The International Office is responsible for course approval and course registration for exchange students. For details about course registration, requirements, credits, semesters and so on, please [visit the exchange programmes webpages](#).

# Interreligious Hermeneutics and Diversity

Course Code	G_BATRSCC201
Credits	6
Period	P1
Course Level	200
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Religion and Theology
Course Coordinator	prof. dr. D.M.K.H. Grube MA
Examiner	prof. dr. D.M.K.H. Grube MA
Teaching Staff	prof. dr. L.J. Lietaert Peerbolte, dr. P.K. Bindlish, prof. dr. D.M.K.H. Grube MA, prof. dr. C.A.M. van den Berg, dr. P. Coppens, dr. J. Reinke, prof. dr. J.V. Roitman
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Seminar

## Course Objective

After finishing this course, the student:

- is able to critically reflect on the practice of interpretation (in religious contexts)
- has insight into the basic philosophical and theological assumptions which underlie this practice (e.g. that a sacred text is the Word of God);
- has learned to interpret religious texts and other objects of interpretation in a responsible fashion;
- is aware of the fact that the practice of interpretation is culture-bound and differs between religions;
- is able to apply the different methods of interpretation to practical cases;
- has learned that a 'hermeneutical attitude', i.e. being self-reflective and self-critical, is a way of life rather than a method (e.g. with the help of Gadamer)
- has learnt that a 'hermeneutical attitude' implies dialogical competencies, such as (deep) listening.

## Course Content

Hermeneutics is the practice of interpretation. IN the first part, an introduction into hermeneutic philosophy will be provided. IN the second part, the practice interpretation will be traced into different religions. Guiding questions are what criteria are

used for distinguishing between good and bad interpretations? In this course, different theoretical hermeneutic approaches will be discussed.

Particular attention will be given to the notion of the 'author's

intention'? What role does the 'author's intention' play in (many) religions and does this role differ from the role it has in other, secular contexts? What is the relation between the 'author's intention' (or other

interpretative methods) and action? How does the interpretation of religious texts steer the

believers' actions? Different hermeneutic approaches will be traced into

different religions. It will be discussed what (good)

interpretation is in major world religions, such as Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and

Hinduism. Interpretive practices differ even within religions and most religious traditions imply more than one particular practice of interpretation. For example, in Christianity (and other religions), it makes a difference whether believers believe that a text carries God's word or the revelation literally or whether the text reveals the spirit of

revelation. Therefore, attention will be paid not merely to differences in interpretation practices between the traditions, but also

within the traditions. The course will look what consequences these interpretation practices have for different questions, e.g. regarding gender, sexuality, and other issues. .

### Additional Information Teaching Methods

Some seminars will be guest lectures, given by experts of the different religious traditions or research areas.

### Method of Assessment

Written exam, in class participation, additional assignments.

### Literature

The course manual with detailed information, including a list of prescribed literature, will be made available via Canvas.

### Explanation Canvas

The course manual with detailed information will be made available via Canvas.