



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](#).

The Radical Reformation: Anabaptists and other Minorities

Course Code	G_BATRSAL031
Credits	6
Period	P2
Course Level	300
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Religion and Theology
Course Coordinator	prof. dr. M.G.K. van Veen
Examiner	prof. dr. M.G.K. van Veen
Teaching Staff	prof. dr. M.G.K. van Veen
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Seminar

Course Objective

After finishing this course, the student:

- has an overview of medieval ideas on the unity between civic and ecclesiastical community;
- has an overview of the ways in which the Anabaptist ecclesiastical model challenged these ideas on unity;
- has an overview of early-modern debates on coexistence and toleration and the contribution the radical reformation made to these debates;
- is able to analyze early modern texts on religious toleration;
- is able to distinguish between different types of arguments on toleration (social, political, economic, religious);
- is able to analyze modern debates on toleration from an historical perspective.

Course Content

After the reformation had broken the unity of the western church, Europeans had to rethink ideas on unity, relationship between church and state, and the role of the church within the civic community. Dissenters made a significant contribution to the development of new modes of coexistence and to the development of ideas on religious toleration. Their presence as such challenged medieval ideas on unity; their view on the history of the western church called into question the close cooperation between church and state. Dissenters had many reasons to advocate for religious toleration. In their pleas for toleration the dissenters relied on social, political, economic and religious arguments. This course offers an overview of the early modern debates on religious coexistence and toleration and the contribution the radical reformation made to these debates.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

Seminars. Students are expected to prepare two oral presentations on an early modern texts. Enhancing cultural diversity, students will be encouraged to read texts from different contexts and in different languages.

Method of Assessment

Oral presentations (30%)

Take home exam (70%)

Additional Information Target Audience

This course is part of the minor Peace, Theology and Anabaptist-Mennonite Traditions. The course is open to students interested in the history of anabaptism, in debates on religious diversity and peaceful coexistence, and in the dynamics of religious majorities and minorities.