

## Faculty of Arts and Letters



### ARKE1235 Interprétation de l'image - Introduction aux méthodes iconologiques

[22.5h] 3 credits

This course is taught in the 1st semester

**Teacher(s):** Eric De Waele, Pauline Voute  
**Language:** French  
**Level:** First cycle

#### Aims

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- use the main tools of bibliographic reference, iconographic classification and electronic referencing
- analyse the message behind the composition and the relation between the forms (syntax) and the colours and materials selected by the artist
- operationalise the notion of the function of an image
- recognise the characters and the scenes portrayed in the iconographic collections of Greek and Roman mythology and the Bible.

#### Main themes

This course introduces students to methods of analysing images as a source of information, as a means of communication and mode of expression and as an object to be interpreted by the archaeologist and art historian.

#### Content and teaching methods

1/ Lectures by Prof. P.Voûte: -Notions and definitions concerning the eikon-imago.

-The language of images: \*Lexical and denotative conventions, iconic elements, gestures, signifying roots and shapes.

Introduction to the main iconographic lexikons and dictionaries and how to use them. \*Syntax and connotation ; semantic range and iconic "synonyms"; the problem of iconic homonyms and of identification. -Signifying conventions pertaining to iconic language : colours, lights, composition, axes# -The image, its material support and technique, and the comprehensive reading of their functions and shapes. \*The relation between the image and the viewer :perspectival and spatial conceptions; viewing angle and framing. -Great repertoires :\*the defensive image; \*the beneficial image. \*Old Testament, New Testament, saints and main allegories. -The iconographical Typology. -Functional context : an introduction to the main "decorative programmes" in profane and religious contexts.

2/ Lectures by Prof. E.De Waele : -The traditional iconological analysis : description, iconography, iconology. -The creation of images, combinations of matter and programme. -The sources of the artistic image : text, image and environment. -Great repertoires :\*Graeco-roman divinities, cycles, and myths.

Method :

Lectures illustrated by projections. Commented visits to exhibitions and thematic collections.

#### Other information (prerequisite, evaluation (assessment methods), course materials recommended readings, ...)

The assessment is based on two iconological essays on art works figuring a mythological subject and a biblical subject working according to complementary methods and on a final written exam.

#### Other credits in programs

**ARKE12BA** Deuxième année de bachelier en histoire de l'art et archéologie (3 credits)

Mandatory