

TRACK

OLD CATHOLIC THEOLOGY: THE EARLY CHURCH AS CHARISM AND CHALLENGE

PROGRAMME

4 July 2021 – 16 July 2021

Old Catholic Seminary at Utrecht University



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WELCOME



Prof. Dr. Peter-Ben Smit
[Course director](#)

Dear visitor!

I'm happy to welcome you to the summer school in Old Catholic theology. Since 2012, we have been inviting students to Utrecht to explore Old Catholic theology together. More than a course, the experience has been a real feast for all participants, students and professors alike.

Following on the success of the now classical introductory course '[Old Catholic Theology in its Ecumenical Context](#)', we offered an advanced course for the first time in 2021. '[The Early Church as Ideal: Old Catholic Theology Beyond the Basics](#)' also proved to be a wonderful experience for all participants. For this reason, we will be offering both courses again in 2022. Also, the option to combine both courses in one '[track](#)' will be back!

As we enjoyed the benefits of online teaching in 2021, we will return to the benefits of physical classes again in 2022. We hope to create the best conditions for an intense community of learners and a direct encounter with the context of the Netherlands in this manner. Should the pandemic not permit this format, we will offer the courses online again.

Therefore, I'd like to invite you to join us again in Utrecht in 2022! You can become part of a unique community of learners in Old Catholic theology. While you connect with participants from all over the globe, you will learn more about Old Catholic systematic theology, liturgy, history, spirituality, ecumenical relations, canon law, and praxis.

I am glad that faculty members of the Old Catholic Seminary in Utrecht are offering their time and talent again. They include some of the brightest minds in Old Catholicism, such as Dr. Mattijs Ploeger in the field of liturgy and systematic theology, Prof. Andreas Krebs from the Old Catholic Institute in Bonn in dogmatics, Dr. Dick Schoon, Bishop of Haarlem in church history, and practical theologian Rev. Jutta Eilander – van Maaren on spirituality and praxis. As always, we'll cooperate with the prime museum of religious art in the Netherlands, the Catharijneconvent. A new part of 'Old Catholic Theology in its Ecumenical Context' will be an excursion to Amsterdam, where (Old) Catholicism enjoyed a rich (and oftentimes illegal) existence.

Feel free to explore the two course offerings at the Utrecht Summer School website, [here](#) for the classic introductory course "Old Catholic Theology in Its Ecumenical Context" and [here](#) for the bright new advanced course, "The Early Church as Ideal: Old Catholic Theology Beyond the Basics". And are you feeling ambitious? The two courses can be combined in the [track](#) "Old Catholic Theology: The Early Church as Charism and Challenge" (with a discount!)

Should you ask yourself the question: is this for me? The answer is probably: yes, it is! Courses are suitable for theologians, clergy and interested lay persons alike. Please be in touch with Ms. Rieneke Brand, at rieneke.brand@okkn.nl should you have any questions.

With every good wish,

Prof. Dr. Peter-Ben Smit, course director

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

This track consists of two connected courses that offer in the first week an introduction to Old Catholic theology in its ecumenical context and in the second week the possibility to deepen your understanding of Old Catholic Theology by thematic and in-depth case-driven classes. Old Catholic theology is understood as the main theological currents as they exist in Union of Utrecht of Old Catholic Churches. The first week will offer a broad overview of main topics and themes in Old Catholic theology and spirituality which will be deepened in the courses of the second week.

The courses in the second week are especially linked to an apparent paradoxical key starting point of Old Catholic theology: the faith and order of the Early Church. How can a modern church be so 'traditional' at the same time?

The topics covered by the course include the following aspects of Old Catholic theology and tradition: the history of Old Catholicism, fundamental and liturgical theology, spirituality, ecumenism, canon law and ecclesiology, liturgy, and systematic theology. Case studies that will be explored cover topics such as marriage, the ordination of women and mission.

Besides the programme of lectures and seminars social activities will be organised to meet and get to know each other. This, we believe, is important because studying theology is also studying in practice, in relation with the other students from all different contexts.

This [track](#) combines the two courses of [Old Catholic Theology in its Ecumenical Context](#) and [The Early Church as Ideal](#). It is also possible to participate in only one of the two weeks.

Target audience

- Students of theology interested in Old Catholicism and ecumenism;
- Clergy and theologians interested in Old Catholicism and ecumenism;
- Laypersons with formal or informal theological training interesting in Old Catholicism and ecumenism.

The course is of specific interest for students with Anglican, Orthodox, Lutheran, Old Catholic, and ecumenical backgrounds.

Aim of the course

The goals of the course are, the following;

1. The student will be familiar with central aspects of Old Catholic identity and theology;
2. The student will be able to contextualize Old Catholic theology within the broader spectrum of theology and religious studies;
3. The student will have a deepened knowledge of Old Catholic theology its appeal on the Early Church;
4. The student will be able apply this knowledge in theological reflexion and research;
5. The student will be able to undertake further independent study of aspects of Old Catholic theology.

Study load

4 contact hours/day; about 40 hours or preparatory self-study will be required.

Costs

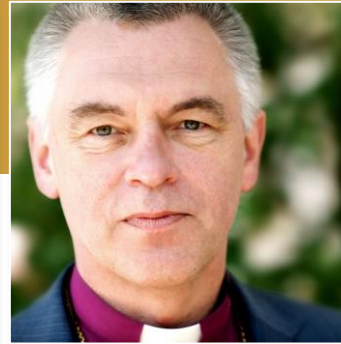
Course fee: € 775

Registration deadline

01 May 2022

LECTURERS

(a.o.)



The Rev. prof.
dr. Peter-Ben
Smit

Rev. Leonie van
Straaten

Prof. dr. Andreas
Krebs

The Rt. Rev. dr.
Dirk Jan Schoon

The Rev. Jutta
Eilander-van
Maaren, MA

Mr. Adriaan
Snijders, LL.M.

The Rev. dr.
Mattijs Ploeger

Ecumenism

Spirituality

Old Catholic
and Ecumenical
theology

Church History

Practical
Theology and
Spirituality

Canon Law

Systematic
Theology

PROGRAMME

PART I

Time	Location	Description	Lecturer
Saturday, 2 July			
12.00-18.00	Key pick up	You will find the exact key pick up location in the pre-departure information, which becomes available after you have paid the course fee.	
Sunday, 3 July			
10.00	Mass at Gertrud's Cathedral, Willemsplantsoen 2, Utrecht	Attendance of Mass and subsequent coffee hour with the local priest and parishioners, followed by an informal lunch.	
Monday, 4 July			
10.00-12.00	Course Introduction. Location t.b.d.	Orientation on the course, introduction to sources and resources of Old Catholic theology in their ecumenical context; sharing of preparatory reflection papers on the motivation for the course.	Prof. dr. Peter-Ben Smit
12.00-13.30	Lunch Break		
13.30-15.30	Lecture. Location t.b.d.	Old Catholic Approaches to Theology	Dr. Mattijs Ploeger
Tuesday, 5 July			
10.00-12.00	Lecture. Location t.b.d.	Introduction to the History of the Old Catholic Church of the Netherlands.	The Rt. Rev. dr. Dirk Jan Schoon
12.00-13.30	Lunch Break		
13.30-15.30	Excursion. Amsterdam	Hidden churches - publicly known. A tour of (Old) Catholicism in Amsterdam.	The Rt. Rev. dr. Dirk Jan Schoon

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PART II

Time	Location	Description	Lecturer
Wednesday, 6 July			
10.00-12.00	Lecture. Location t.b.d.	Old Catholic Liturgy: An Introduction	Dr. Mattijs Ploeger
12.00-13.30	Lunch Break		
13.30-15.30	Excursion. Museum Catharijneconvent Utrecht	Excursion to National Museum Catharijneconvent (Utrecht)	Mr. Richard de Beer, MA, curator of the Old Catholic collection
Thursday, 7 July			
10.00-12.00	Seminar. Location t.b.d.	Introduction to Old Catholic Canon Law in its Ecclesiological Context	Mr. Adriaan Snijders, LL.M.
12.00-13.30	Lunch Break		
13.30-15.30	Seminar. Location t.b.d.	Perspectives on Old Catholic praxis and spirituality	Jutta Eilander-van Maaren, MA
Friday, 8 July			
10.00-12.00	Lecture. Location t.b.d.	Title t.b.d.	t.b.d.
12.00-13.30	Lunch Break		
13.30-15.30	Seminar. Location t.b.d.	Concluding Seminar	Prof. dr. Peter-Ben Smit

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PART III

Time	Location	Description	Lecturer
Sunday, 3 July			
10.00	Mass at Gertrud's Cathedral, Willemsplantsoen 2, Utrecht	Attendance of Mass and subsequent coffee hour with the local priest and parishioners.	
Monday, 4 July			
10.00-12.00	Introduction	Introduction: The Appeal to the Early Church: Inspiration and Problem	Prof. dr. Peter-Ben Smit
12.00-13.30	Lunch Break		
13.30-15.30	Seminar. Location t.b.d.	Spirituality and Structure: The Old Catholic Eucharistic Prayers and Patristic Inspiration - Case study I	Dr. Mattijs Ploeger
Tuesday, 5 July			
10.00-12.00	Lecture. Location t.b.d.	Old Catholics in Search of God in A Secular Age: The Early Church as Help and Hindrance	Prof. dr. Andreas Krebs
12.00-13.30	Lunch Break		
13.30-15.30	Seminar. Location t.b.d.	Ancient Marriage in Search of Modern Meaning - Case Study II	Prof. dr. Andreas Krebs

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PART IV

Time	Location	Description	Lecturer
Wednesday, 6 July			
10.00-12.00	Lecture. Location t.b.d.	A Model for All Others? The Early Church as an Inspiration for Canon Law in the 21st Century	Mr. Adriaan Snijders, LL.M.
12.00-13.30	Lunch Break		
13.30-15.30	Excursion. Dom Church Utrecht	Stones that Speak: The Dom Church as a Source of Spiritual Renewal in Utrecht	Ds. Hans Uytenbogaardt.
Thursday, 7 July			
10.00-12.00	Seminar. Location t.b.d.	Renewing Spirituality out of Ancient Sources: Cases from a Dutch Old Catholic Praxis – Case Study III	Rev. Leonie van Straaten
12.00-13.30	Lunch Break		
13.30-15.30	Seminar. Location t.b.d.	What has not been assumed has not been redeemed: Ancient theology for a modern church order – the ordination of women - Case Study IV	Dr. Mattijs Ploeger
Friday, 8 July			
10.00-12.00	Lecture. Location t.b.d.	t.b.d.	t.b.d.
12.00-13.30	Lunch Break		
13.30-15.30	Lecture. Location t.b.d.	Back to the Future? Possibilities and Impossibilities for an Appeal to the Early Church in the 21st century	Prof. dr. Peter-Ben Smit



FURTHER INFORMATION

For more INFORMATION or to APPLY for this course check:

[Old Catholic Theology in its Ecumenical Context](#)

Going BEYOND the basics?

[The Early Church as Ideal: Old Catholic Theology beyond the Basics](#)

Being very AMBITIOUS? Check the TRACK (with discount):

[Old Catholic Theology: The Early Church as Charism and Challenge](#)

Scholarships:

For information regarding financial assistance, please contact the course director at p.b.a.smit@uu.nl.

Covid reservations:

Due to the unpredictability of covid/travel restrictions the course organization will definitively decide whether the summerschool will take place offline in Utrecht on the 1st of June 2022. Keep this in mind when you need to book a flight or train. If it somehow will not be possible to organize the summerschool in Utrecht there will be a back-up plan to deliver the summerschool online like last year. There will be a possibility to cancel your application in the case you only want to attend the summerschool when it takes place in Utrecht. N.B. there won't be a recording or online livestream when the course will take place in Utrecht.

Disclaimer:

This programme is tentative and could (slightly) be changed due to unforeseen circumstances.