



## (R)MA/PhD MASTERCLASS

Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome

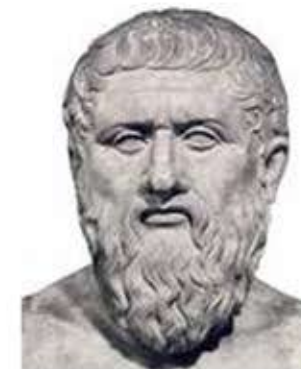
7 - 13 February 2021



# *A Greek Philosopher and Priest of Apollo in Rome. Plutarch's Religious Philosophy and its Impact on Christian Thinking*

Plutarch, the Platonist philosopher and priest of Apollo at Delphi, is the most prolific and erudite Greek author with an enormous oeuvre covering issues ranging from history and biography through natural sciences and art to ethics and theology. During his stay in Rome Plutarch wrote lives of illustrious Greeks and Romans and expressed in some of them his view of religion and God (Romulus, Numa, Cicero). The seminar will have a special focus on these Lives together with Roman Questions and other writings discussing matters of religion and theology. Plutarch discussed religious traditions from various cultural backgrounds (Greek and Roman, but also Egyptian, Indian, Persian) as leading to what he called a "mystery-like theology", to the truth about the divine. In the seminar, we will discuss Plutarch's attitude towards the traditions of lived religion, their hermeneutics and philosophical theology (polylatric monotheism). Further, we will follow the receptions of Plutarch's thought in the Church fathers and throughout western philosophical and ethical tradition.

The method adopted in the course will be a close reading of some crucial passages from selected works of Plutarch on Roman and Egyptian religions, Judaism, religious imagery and divination at Delphi, the role of theology in philosophical arguments, polylatric monotheism, and more. The close reading will be accompanied by literary, philosophical and theological interpretation.



### CREDITS

4 ECTS

### MORE INFO

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### APPLY BEFORE:

1 November 2020

### TEACHING STAFF

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