# Medieval Archaeology

## Prof. Marco Sannazaro

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to introduce students to the problems addressed by the discipline, its specific methodologies and key developments over recent decades.

Students will then be able to: acquire basic skills on current archaeological survey procedures; assimilate useful content for reconstructing the history of Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages, especially in terms of material culture; and reflect critically on promoting archaeological heritage through research projects of this nature.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module 1. General course (Medieval Archaeology: Methods and Content).

The topics covered in lectures will present the historical and methodological aspects of the discipline, discuss the main objects of research and discussion in recent years (cities and urban transformations from the Roman age to the Middle Ages; features of the Lombard presence in Italy; aspects of rural settlement; production, trade and consumption). The rich archaeological testimonies of Brescia and its territory will provide opportunities for exemplification and in-depth study.

Module 2. Single-subject course (*The cult of Saints and archaeology*)*.*

The devotion to the Saints and their relics is an aspect that strongly characterises the customs and the sensitivity of the first centuries of Christianity; this religious practice determines the creation of churches and architectural spaces having specific features and functionalities, renews funerary customs, and contributes to redefine the planning of several cities, with long-lasting consequences. The course aims to retrace the material effects of this phenomenon, using the most recent bibliography and the archaeological-monumental finds that best contribute to clarify its features.

Thanks to the analysis of relevant case studies, the course will introduce the material forms of devotion: pilgrimages and visits to sanctuaries; *refrigerium* and *sepultura ad sanctos*; the new architectural typologies; the redefinition of cemeteries and suburbs; urban and rural sanctuaries; lipsanoteca.

***READING LIST***

**(Details of further reading material on specific topics will be provided on the course)**

For Module 1:

A. Augenti, *Archeologia dell’Italia medievale*, Laterza, Rome-Bari 2016.

For Module 2:

P. Brown, *Il culto dei santi. L’origine e la diffusione di una nuova religiosità*, Einaudi, Torino, 2002.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures, held in class and supported by the projection of images. Visits to museums and architectural complexes).

During the course, further teaching material (e.g. the PowerPoint presentations used in class) will be made available on BlackBoard, in order to support the learning process.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

During the oral exam (of appropriate duration), students must be able to demonstrate that they can present the topics covered in lectures and in the texts on the reading list. The exam will be marked out of 30 and assess students’ ability to present logical, structured arguments, provide context and apply critical thinking. It will also assess their use of language and their communication skills.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As this course is introductory in nature, and its content presumably largely unfamiliar to students on the three-year course, it requires prior textbook-level knowledge of medieval history and medieval art history, possibly reinforced by attending other similar courses during the university career.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.