# Medieval History

## Prof. Guido Cariboni

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

The general course (Semester 1, first 30 hours) aims to provide students with the fundamental lexical and conceptual keys to properly approaching and facilitating the study of medieval history from the 5th to the 15th century. To this end, lectures will cover the cultural, political and religious milestones of the medieval millennium. Issues will be presented by contextualising and interpreting a number of sources (in Italian translation) to help illuminate the scope of the problems themselves.

During semester 2 (module 2), the course will explore monasticism during High Middle Ages (from the 10th to the 13th century), with a focus on the so-called Investiture Controversy and the 11th century Gregorian Reform

Module 2 (semester 2) will take into account the process at the basis of the creation and the evolution of the Order of Cistercians between the 12th and the 13th century, within the framework of the history of medieval monasticism.

The lectures of Module 2 aim to provide students with the ability to carry out a critical reading and interpretation of Medieval sources and their relative historiographical literature, developing the knowledge of a field of study that will allow them to access the sources and their interpretation, and therefore acquire the basics of the historical methodology.

By the end of the course, students will have acquired knowledge of the problems and strengths characterising a large swathe of European history. This will enable them to understand and evaluate, with sufficient critical awareness, the present situation and to contextualise the contents of the subjects on their degree programme in a more conscious way. Students will be also able to approach a documentary or narrative written source, contextualise it and use it to shed light on the salient themes of the period and subjects in question. Mastery of specialist vocabulary of the historical disciplines will also help students to formulate complex thoughts and presentations with a greater degree of depth and awareness.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module 1

Key episodes in the creation of a European identity.

1. The birth of the Middle Ages as an historiographical concept.

2. Roman-German relations at the origins of Medieval Europe.

3. The role of Constantinople.

4. From vassal-benefice to feudal-vassal relationships

5. Immunity, curtis, encastellation, rural Signoria,

6. Empire and kingdoms between the 9th and 11th centuries.

7. Papacy and empire in the High Middle Ages (11th-13th centuries).

8. Towns and Signorias

Module 2

The process at the basis of the creation and the evolution of the Order of Cistercians between the 12th and the 13th centuries in the field of the history of medieval monasticism.

***READING LIST***

For Module 1 (general course)

Students will acquire an overview of medieval history by studying the following text:

P. Grillo, *Storia medievale. Italia, Europa, Meditterraneo*, Milan – Turin, Pearson, 2019

The maps and the texts read and commented in class during semester 1 will be made available in the *‘materiali’* (teaching material) section on Blackboard.

or

F. Senatore, *Medioevo: istruzioni per l’uso,* Bruno Mondadori, Milan 2008, or Pearson 2018.

For Module 2:

G. Cariboni, *I cistercensi. Un ordine monastico nel Medioevo*, Rome: Carocci, 2023,

also study by choice:

1)The maps and the texts read and commented in class and the reading list provided during the course will be made available in the *‘materiali’* (teaching material) section on Blackboard

or

2)M. Breitenstein, *I benedettini*, Bologna: Il Mulino, 2021

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures and excursions to places of particular relevance to course topics.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

At the end of the course, students will be assessed by means of an oral exam on the two parts of the course, corresponding to the two semesters of the year. Students will have the option of dividing the oral exam into two parts, which may be taken on two separate but potentially close exam dates.

To pass the exam, students must demonstrate good knowledge of the main issues covered during lectures and of medieval history as a whole (from the 5th to the 15th century), as covered in the textbook. The first part of the exam (6 ECTS credits), dedicated to assessing students’ preparation on the topics covered in the textbook, usually comprises three questions on three different periods of medieval history, and is designed to assess students on their capacity for expression and skills acquired through participation in lectures and personal study. Having passed the oral exam on Module 1, students taking the full year-long course (12 ECTS credits) will complete the exam by answering three questions on the recommended text and, as appropriate, on the maps and documentation read and commented in lectures, in order to illustrate the problems addressed in Semester 2 (Module 2). The two parts of the exam can be taken on different occasions. The two parts of the exam will count equally towards the final mark, which will be out of 30 (minimum mark 18/30; maximum mark 30/30). Students whose performance is comprehensive and appropriately conducted will be awarded 30/30 with honours (*lode*).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students enrolled on the undergraduate degree who are taking 6 ECTS credits only will take the exam on the Module 1 syllabus as a prerequisite for studying the subject. Students taking 12 ECTS credits will be examined on the syllabi of both modules. The two parts of the exam can be taken on different occasions

As this is an introductory course, there are no prerequisites terms of content. Students are however expected to demonstrate an interest in medieval history and willingness to study the sources presented in lectures in depth.

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.