# Ancient and Medieval History

## Prof. Alessandro Galimberti; Prof. Alfredo Lucioni

Module 1: *Ancient History (*Prof. Alessandro Galimberti)

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

The 30-hour module will provide the student with the tools needed to understand some of the fundamental problems of ancient history (Greek and Roman), from its origins to the fall of the Roman Empire in the West, with particular regard to socio-economic issues.

At the end of the course, students will have an overview of Greek and Roman history; have good knowledge of key themes and events in Greek and Roman history; and be able to understand the most important events and themes of ancient history, with a particular focus on the development of the modern study of history.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Development lines and problems of ancient history, from the origins of Greek civilization to the fall of the Western Roman Empire.

***READING LIST***

G. Geraci - A. Marcone, *Storia antica. Dalla preistoria al primo espandersi dell’Islam,* Mondadori Università, Firenze, 2021.

The following sections:

Second part: chapter 6

Third, fourth, fifth parts

Sixth part: chapters 32, 33, 34

Class notes.

*Non-attending students*

Students who do not have class notes will add the study of the following texts in addition to the titles in bibliography:

P. Arena, *Gladiatori, carri e navi. Gli spettacoli nell’antica Roma*, Carocci 2020.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures.

Historical problems will be approached with the aid of brief translated literary and documentary sources, in order to facilitate a better understanding of the topics from the textbook and the acquisition of a correct methodological approach and critical awareness.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam composed of five questions (two on Greek history and three on Roman history) designed to assess students’:

– knowledge of course-related notions

– mastery of specialised language

– knowledge and organisation of contents

– communicative autonomy

– critical/reconstructive skills.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

– Attendance is strongly recommended.

– Regarding the necessary knowledge of historical geography, students are advised to use an appropriate historical atlas.

– Students may take the exam from the January 2023 session.

The exam on the module of Ancient History may be sat only before the exam on Medieval History.

In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both in progress and final, will be provided also remotely through our University's BlackBoard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and notified at the beginning of the course, so as to ensure the full achievement of the formative objectives set out in the study plans and, at the same time, the safety of our students.

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.

Module 2: *Medieval History* (Prof. Alfredo Lucioni)

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

The course aims to introduce students to the method of studying history, and to provide them with the key lexical and conceptual knowledge required to approach the study of the medieval period from the 5th to the 15th century correctly,

At the end of the course, students will be able to: identify the cultural, political, religious and economic themes of the medieval millennium; approach a written source (presented in original language and translated into Italian) and to use it to help them interpret the relative period and topic; contextualise sources and interpret their content based on their knowledge of the environment in which it was produced and its purpose(s); approach a recently published historiographic text on a specific theme, identifying the progress made by research in the field, in terms of previous historiographical studies. Students will also have learned how to use discipline-specific vocabulary and expository techniques, as well as the tools to gain greater awareness of the content of other subjects that deal with specific aspects of medieval civilisations, and to critically interpret the relative historical context.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Themes of medieval history: culture, politics, religion, economics in Western Europe.

***READING LIST***

Course textbook:

P. Grillo, Storia medievale. Italia, Europa. Mediterraneo, Pearson, Milano, 2019.

For attending students:

Sources commentated and distributed during the course and A. Barbero, *Carlo Magno. Un padre dell’Europa*, Laterza, Roma – Bari, 2000 (or following reprints).

Those who do not have the lecture notes and distributed documents must also study one text chosen between:

A. Verhulst, *L’economia carolingia,* Salerno editrice, Rome, 2004.

A.A. Settia, *Rapine, assedi, battaglie. La guerra nel Medioevo*, Laterza, Roma – Bari 2002.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam on the contents of the syllabus. During the exam, students must demonstrate: their knowledge of the chronology of the medieval period, acquired through studying the textbook; their degree of familiarity with the main events and problems characterising the medieval millennium presented in lectures; their ability to present and critically interpret certain sources among those examined during lectures; their ability to present the content of the texts on the reading list.

The final mark will reflect: the relevance of students’ answers; their use of subject-specific terminology; their ability to organise a coherent and structured narrative system and use sources to reconstruct the past; and their degree of understanding of the focal points of the historiographical texts proposed.

Because of the two-module structure (ancient history and medieval history), to take the exam on the Medieval History module, students must have already taken the Ancient History module. The final mark is the average of the results of each module.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Due to the introductory nature of the course, there are no prerequisites in terms of content.

– Students are strongly urged to attend lectures.

– To acquire the requisite knowledge of geography, students are advised to use a good historical atlas.

In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both in progress and final, will be provided also remotely through our University's BlackBoard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and notified at the beginning of the course, so as to ensure the full achievement of the formative objectives set out in the study plans and, at the same time, the safety of our students.

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