**Critical Interpretation of Medieval Historical Sources**

## Prof. Nicolangelo D’Acunto

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

The primary aim of the course is for students to develop general understanding of the main issues related to medieval Latin historical sources and their temporal and spatial distribution, from a perspective that includes the production, use and conservation of the various types of sources.

By the end of the course, students will be able to: identify the main gaps in the history of medieval documentation. They will also be able to map out the historical sources geographically and identify the main types.

By the end of the course, students will be able to: identify various medieval sources and recognise the relative traditions, contexts of production and use and content; recognise, among the main series of sources, those that relate to the various periods and regions of the Western Middle Ages; use the main websites publishing and providing online repertoires of medieval sources.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is designed to introduce students to the basics of interpreting historical medieval sources. It will introduce the main text types in the context of their historical development and according to their geographical distribution – focusing on contexts of production and use – with a view to simultaneously instilling awareness of the methods of exegesis of medieval historical sources and of the changing socio-cultural contexts of modern and contemporary Europe.

***READING LIST***

1) Lecture notes and the materials distributed in class and available on Blackboard

2) P. Cammarosano, *Italia medievale. Struttura e geografia delle fonti scritte,* Rome, Carocci, 1991 (or subsequent reprints), ISBN: 9788843016303.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures including lecturer-led exercises and translation of medieval sources into Italian, with the use of digital resources and websites of particular interest to medieval historians. Exercises in interpreting original sources preserved at the Archivio del Capitolo di S. Ambrogio and Archivio di Stato (Milan).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam designed to demonstrate their ability to navigate between the themes and main issues covered in lectures and addressed in the home reading on the reading list. Assessment will be based on relevance of students’ answers, their appropriate use of specific terminology and their ability to present well-structured, coherent arguments.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

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.