**History of Books and Publishing**

## Prof. Edoardo Barbieri; Prof. Luca Rivali

Module A (Semester I - 6 ECTS): *Elements of the History of Books and Publishing from the 15th to the 21st centuries*

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

The course aims to teach students the basic concepts of the discipline regarding historial, cultural and literary development from the 15th to the contemporary era. The objective of the course is to enable students to acquire knowledge on the history of books – connected with typography techniques - as well as specific skills on the history of publishing during the manual and industrial eras.

At the end of the course, students will have acquired knowledge of the history of publishing from Gutenberg to contemporary times, including the different types of books, being aware of the main editors/printers, as well as some phenomena concerning the book trade, copyrights, censorship, contracts and editorial subscriptions.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The subject of the course is the analysis of books (with a focus on books handmade with the manual printing press) as a crucial element of the history of publishing from its origins to the contemporary era, with specific reference to books made in Italy during the Renaissance. Elements of history of the circulation and delivery of books from its origins to the Twentieth century. Reading and understanding of some documentary sources related to such pathways. The main topics addressed during the course will be: the origins of printing and the first evidence of printing in Italy, Aldo Manuzio, editorial collaborators, ancient contracts for the printing and trading of books, copyrights, censorship, inventories and catalogues, book printing and illustration techniques, the printing industry.

***READING LIST***

An in-depth study of the following tools is compulsory:

E. Barbieri (ed.), *Fonti per una storia del libro e dell’editoria a.a. 2020-2021*, Photo reproduction Office

L. Febvre-H.J. Martin, *La nascita del libro*, Laterza, Rome-Bari, 1995 (or subsequent editions).

J.F. Gilmont, *Dal manoscritto all’ipertesto*, L. Rivali (ed.), Le Monnier, Florence, 2006.

G. Roncaglia, *La quarta rivoluzione. Sei lezioni sul futuro del libro,* Laterza, Rome, 2010.

Furthermore, students must read one volume of their choice from *list 1* and *list 2* which will be published on the lecturer’s webpage and displayed on the notice board of his office.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Teaching will mainly consist in frontal lectures in the classroom and, if possible, guided tours to exhibitions or libraries, as well as meetings and seminars, will be included.

All the teaching material will be available on the course’s Blackboard page.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will take an oral exam consisting in a series of questions to which they must reply, thus demonstrating that they have acquired the basic knowledge of all the aspects of the discipline covered during the course and gained more in-depth knowedge by studying the texts included in the reading list. The questions will specifically aim to assess students’ knowledge of the key timeline of the development of publishing and of typography techniques. Moreover, students must be capable of reading and commenting one or more of the texts and documents proposed in the lecture notes.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no specific prerequisites for students who wish to attend the course.

Students are strongly advised to attend lectures, also in order to become familiar with a rather technical discipline and with the texts and documents which are commented on during lectures and are included in the lectures notes.

Students who have to obtain 12 ECTS must take the exam on the first part before taking the second part.

Students of the biennium or those having particular needs must agree on an *ad hoc* programme with the lecturer. Students who are taking a syllabus of previous academic years, must inform the lecturer sufficiently in advance of the chosen exam session.

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 B (Semester II - 6 ECTS): *The book between text and image.*

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

At the end of the course, students are expected to have acquired an in-depth knowledge of the development of the book production process, from the perspective of form, the relationship between text and image, the insertion of movable components, from the end of the Middle Ages up to the Baroque period. These were three crucial centuries during which book production has gone through key transformations which have made it what it is today, together with new digital formats. Hence, by attending the course, students should not only acquire a knowledge of production techniques, but also of the “operating mechanisms” underlying book production.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will seek to study the relationship between text and figurative content in 15th- to 20th-century Western books, also opening up to late medieval manuscripts and focusing on what happened to books made in Italy from the movable-type printing press era to the Baroque period. The course will also focus on the topic of the “Blockbuch” (block books), illustrated books with movable parts, calcographic registers, as well as on the text-image intersemiotic relationship in literary and technical-scientific editions.

***READING LIST***

The study of the following volumes is compulsory:

E. Barbieri (ed.), *Imago librorum. Mille anni di forme del libro in Europa. Atti del Convegno di Rovereto-Trento 24-26 maggio 2017*, Olschki, Florence, 2021.

P. Pallottino, *Storia dell’illustrazione italiana. Libri e periodici a figura dal XV al XX secolo*, Zanichelli, Bologna, 1988.

L. Bolzoni, *Galassia Ariosto. Il modello editoriale dell'Orlando Furioso dal libro illustrato al web*, Donzelli, Rome, 2017.

Students must choose one book from the list provided at the beginning of the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The lectures in the classroom will be held with the aid of PowerPoint with images regarding the covered topics and, possibly, hands-on analysis of books printed with ancient techniques, they will be integrated with educational visits (also digital) of various libraries, meetings and seminars (also online), and if possible a study visit. In any case, all the teaching material (including recordings of the lessons) will be available on the University platform.. Students will be expected to give in-person presentations on the teaching material gradually covered during the course. Part of the course teaching material will be made available on the lecturer’s teaching webpage.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final oral exam will consist in the assessment of students’ knowledge of the book of their choice. Subsequently, students will be asked questions on lectures and on reading list texts. The assessment criteria will aim to include not only students’ memorisation of the covered topics, but also their understanding of the raised issues.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Module A, covered during Semester I, is considered preparatory and essential for attending Module B. However, Module A is separate and can also be taken by students who do not attend Module B. The final mark of students who attend the course during the entire academic year will be the average of the marks they have been awarded for modules A and B.

The lecturer may make available copies of items on the course reading list at a reduced price.

All the teaching material will be available on the course BlackBoard page.

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.