# Byzantine Philology

Prof. Mariachiara Fincati

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

The course aims to introduce students to the study of the Byzantine literary production through the acquisition of the relative historical, literary, and cultural knowledge. The reading of two writings by the patriarch Photios will allow students to analyse the texts on the basis of a critical edition, examine in depth the issue of the originality and the reworking of ancient exegetic sources, consider the works in the historical and political context of Constantinople during the 9th century. At the end of the course, students will be able to acquire a basic knowledge of the history of Byzantium and the relations of the empire with the surrounding world (in particular the West), explain the development and articulation of different literary genres during the Byzantine Empire, make good use of a critical edition and other bibliographic tools.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Outlines of the history of the Eastern Roman Empire and the Byzantine literary production.

Reading and commentary of Photios, *Amphilochia* 9 and 253, ed. L.G. Westerink.

***READING LIST***

L.G. Westerink, *Photii patriarchae Constantinopolitani epistulae et Amphilochia*, vol. IV-VI/1, Leipzig 1986-1987.

Further information on the reading list will be made available during the lectures.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Individual oral assessment, in which students will be tested on

– general understanding of the texts read in class and ability to interpret the critical apparatus of the editions under analysis

– knowledge of the concepts explained during the course and/or studied individually

– ability to orient themselves among the different topics presented during the course and elaborate them autonomously, also through the use of the research tools learned in class.

In addition, students will be asked to read using a Modern Greek pronunciation.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are expected to have a good knowledge of the Greek language.

*In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to 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.