**Medieval Latin Literature (Module A)**

Prof. Marco Petoletti

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

The course aims to investigate a number of texts on the translation of relics between the 9th century and the 12th century. In particular, the *Translatio sancti Petri e Marcellini* by Einhard, the famous biographer of Charlemagne, will be studied: the romantic account of the journey of relics from Rome to Germany. For the early Middle Ages, Einhard’s text will be compared with the *vitae* of Dionysius, Bishop of Milan, and Aurelius of Carthage, composed in Milan, which recount the return journey of the remains of the Catholic bishop, forced into exile by the Arians, to their homeland. We will also consider the beautiful account of the transportation of the body of Saint Isidore from the island of Chios to Venice in 1125, written by Cerbano Cerbani (12th century), a Greek-to-Latin translator. This is a text of excellent literary quality in which the author offers first-hand accounts of Venetians’ relations with the East. The course will also reflect on other important *translationes*: that of Saint Mark from Alexandria to Venice, and that of Saint Nicholas from Myra to Bari (two accounts are known: one by the monk Nikephoros and the other by the archdeacon Giovanni). The course will examine problems related to textual transmission (direct or indirect), style and sources raised by these works. By the end of the course, students will be able to understand the main stylistic and rhetorical characteristics of this particular kind of hagiographic production.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Journeying with the saints (IX-XII century).

***READING LIST***

P.J. Geary, *Furta sacra. La trafugazione delle reliquie nel Medioevo* (secoli IX-XI), Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2000.

Eginardo, *Traslazione e miracoli dei santi Marcellino e Pietro*, a cura di F. Stella, Pacini, Ospedaletto (Pisa), 2009.

M. Palma, Cerbani, *Cerbano, in Dizionario biografico degli Italiani*, 23, Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana, Roma, 1979, pp. 672-675.

The texts translated and commentated by the lecturer will be made available during the course and uploaded onto Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures and seminars. Current health crisis permitting, there will also be at least one educational visit to a library in Milan as an opportunity to analyse manuscripts and documents directly.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed in two ways: 1. A written task (the topic will relate to the themes covered during the course, and must be agreed in advance with the lecturer, who will personally supervise its development; the paper must be completed before the oral assessment and submitted in good time, or at least ten days before the exam, to allow time for marking and sharing any suggested improvements); 2. An oral exam on the topics and texts presented during the course (with reading, translation and commentary).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

For this module (A), students need knowledge of Latin.

Should the Covid-19 health emergency prevent in-person teaching and/or assessment, ongoing or final, remote alternatives will be put in place via the university Blackboard platform, Microsoft Teams and any other means, details of which will be provided at the beginning of the course, so as to ensure the learning objectives set out in the study plans are fully met whilst safeguarding our students’ health.

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.