**­­­Hagiography**

## Prof. Marco Rochini

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

Module 1

The course aims to familiarise students with the development of the concept of holiness in the history of Christianity from the ancient to contemporary world. Taking a wider approach to the concept of hagiography, beyond the simple ability to recognise the saints depicted in a work of art or to establish their real existence, the course aims to address the main historiographical and methodological themes linked to the hagiographic sources and the worship of the saints, with a particular focus on the repercussions on religious history.The course will also cover the main sources related to the study of hagiography, namely liturgical sources (calendars, martyrologists), literary sources (ascetic literature, the *Vitae Patrum*, panegyric literature, novellas, novels) and iconographic sources.

Module 2

Through the study of literary and iconographic texts and historical sources, the single-subject course aims to familiarize students with the main historical dynamics (theological, social and political) that have marked the development of the concept of martyrdom over the centuries. Although defined through precise theological and legal criteria, martyrdom has undergone considerable evolution over the centuries. Periods when martyrdom was the main indicator of holiness (e.g. in the first centuries of the Christian era) were followed by others when it lost its relevance in the process of saintly modelling promoted by the ecclesiastical magisterium (e.g. in the post-Tridentine age); the importance of martyrdom then saw a strong revival in the 19th century. Particular attention will be paid to the period from the 20th century until today, when the significance of martyrdom was restored, resulting in a certain theological “enlargement”. The focus will also be on the development of martyrdom in the religious culture of Orthodox and Reformed churches.

*Knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the *general course,* students will have acquired the fundamental knowledge for critically studying the origins of the Christian worship the saints, and the developments and main theoretical issues related to this phenomenon. They will also be able to grasp the different expressions of the worship of saints (writings, iconography etc.) and be able to appropriately periodise the phenomena and fundamental developments in the history of sainthood in the Christian context.

By the end of the single-subject course, students will have broadened, refined and enhanced their knowledge of issues related to martyrdom, with a particular focus on hagiographic and iconographic sources, and rituals and religious devotions. They will have a clear understanding of the working tools and the different methodological approaches that can be used in the course of research conducted using scientific criteria.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the *general course*, students will be able to recognise the characteristics of individual hagiographic expressions, be they literary, liturgical, archaeological or iconographic. They will be able to critically interpret the historical and narrative contents.

By the end of the single-subject course, students will have developed the skills necessary to grasp the fundamental aspects of the subjects covered in lectures and the long-term dynamics that characterize the historical period investigated. They will also be able to read and interpret a document (an archival or literary source, image or text) in its historical context. Moreover, students will have acquired the necessary tools for applying a historical-critical methodology appropriate to the study of the themes and problems inherent to the dawn and development of the cult of martyrs in the Christian context.

*Independence of judgement*

By the end of the course, students will have awareness of the historiographical debate and be able to develop a critical approach to historical documents, identifying the most suitable methodology for interpreting them.

*Communication skills*

By the end of the course, students will demonstrate the ability to make arguments using technical language.

*Ability to learn*

By the end of the course, students will be able to use the main lexical tools of the discipline, adapting them appropriately to the various case studies analysed.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Semester 1 – General course (6 ECTS credits)

A general history of sainthood from the ancient to the contemporary age, with a particular focus on:

The history of the terminology, definition and expansion of the hagiographic discipline. The origins and development of the cult of martyrs in the ancient age. Relics. Miracles. Shrines. Acts and Passions of the martyrs. Liturgical sources: Calendars and martyrologists. The cult of the Holy Confessors. The medieval age and literary sources: Ascetic literature (*Vitae Patrum*). Hagiographic literature in the West. Christian pilgrimage, the sacralisation of space and the evolution of cults and devotions. The controversy of the reform and the turning point of the Council of Trent. Manuscripts, printed collections and the work of the Bollandists. The recognition of sainthood: evolution of the process of canonization in the modern age. The iconography of the saints. The 19th century and the development of the cults and devotions from Pius IX to Leo XIII. The evolution of the concept of sainthood: Vatican II. The canonizations and the case of John Paul II. Papal “sainthood”. Forms of “para-sainthood”. Sainthood on the internet.

Semester 2 – Single-subject course (6 ECTS credits)

*Historical profile of Christian martyrdom. Hagiographic journeys: text, images and devotions.*

By critically examining various forms of document-based source (literary, hagiographic, iconographic, etc.) the course aims to study the origin and development of martyrdom in the Christian sphere. There will be a particular focus on the following topics:

Martyrial holiness in the first centuries of the Christian era. Hagiographic and literary sources (*Martirio di Policarpo*, *Passione di Perpetua e Felicita,* etc). Iconographic development: from *damnatio* to *bestias* to the definition of specific iconographic coordinates. The iconographic attributes of the martyr. The medieval age. Anti-Jewish persecution in the early Crusade (11th century). The 11th and 12th centuries: The revival of the martyr in the theological and political context of the Crusades. The Franciscan Martyrs of Morocco (13th century). Martyrdom in the Orthodox Churches. The development of martyrdom in the Humanist and Renaissance culture. The polemics of the reformed confessions against the worship of saints. Martyrdom in Reformed Churches (Lutheranism, Calvinism, Anglicanism, “radical” reforms, etc.). Martyrdom in canonized post-Tridentine sainthood. Canonization as a means of promoting the image of the Church as a triumphant institution. The Jesuits. The Catholic Reformist movements: Jansenism. The age of the French Revolution as a time of “rediscovery” by the Catholic Church of martyrdom. Martyrdom as a functional category for defining the identity of the Church and of the papacy in the uncompromising 19th century. Religious missions in the 19th century and the category of martyrdom: The “New” Society of Jesus. The 20th century and the semantic “enlargement” of martyrdom: the martyrs of Nazism and fascism, the martyrs of the Mafia, the martyrs of creation.

***READING LIST***

For module 1

1. Lecture notes including the material (texts, images etc.) distributed or made available by the lecturer in electronic format.
2. G. Chiapparini – M. Rochini, *Manuale di agiografia. Fonti, storia e immagini della santità*, Brescia, Morcelliana, 2022.

For module 2

1. Lecture notes including the material (texts, images etc.) distributed or made available by the lecturer in electronic format.
2. A. Bastiansen, *Introduzione* a *Atti e Passioni dei martiri,* Milano, Mondadori (Fondazione Lorenzo Valla, “Scrittori greci e latini”), 1987, pp. IX-XL.
3. E. Colombo, *Lacrime e sangue. Martirio e missione nella Compagnia di Gesù in età moderna*, in «Annali di Scienze Religiose», 12, 2019, pp. 53-123.
4. S. Cavallotto, *Martirio e martirologi nel protestantesimo del XVI secolo,* in «Rivista di Storia del Cristianesimo», 15, 2, 2018, pp. 285-320.
5. V. Ciciliot, *I martiri della lotta alla mafia nell’isegnamento di Giovanni Paolo II*, in T. Caliò, L. Ceci (a cura di), *L’immagine devota tra mafia e anti-mafia,* Roma, Viella, 2017, pp. 233-244.

***TEACHING METHOD***

For module 1

Lectures in class. Attending students’ understanding of the content will be verified throughout the course.

For module 2

The course will be delivered by means of frontal lectures including the reading of sources. Student participation is expected.

The lectures in both Modules 1 and 2 will include multimedia resources (texts, images, films and websites). Use of the on-line Blackboard platform.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

For module 1

Final oral exam on the topics covered and the reading list material specified above.

For module 2

Final oral exam on the topics covered and the reading list material specified above.

During the exam, students must above all demonstrate their knowledge of information and key concepts of the discipline, navigating between the topics and key issues discussed in lectures.

Students will be assessed on: relevance of answers, appropriate use of specific terminology, ability to structure reasoned and coherent presentations and ability to identify conceptual links and open questions.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As the course is introductory in nature, there are no prerequisites for attending lectures.

Students will benefit most from the course if they are intellectually curious and willing to engage critically.

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 learning objectives are met whilst safeguarding 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.