Prehistory and Protohistory

## Prof. Angelo Eugenio Fossati

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

The course is open to all and requires no prior knowledge. Students will be introduced to issues emerging from the study of the most ancient human cultures and will learn the key elements of prehistoric and protohistoric archaeology in Europe, with particular reference to Northern Italy and the Alpine region.

This year’s course will examine he Celts in Europe, with particular reference to the cultures of Hallstatt, Golasecca and La Tène. The problem of origins, language, religion, figurative art and music will be addressed. There will be educational visits to some of the sites studied on the course.

At the end of the course, students will be able to describe the overall development of European prehistory and protohistory in Europe and Northern Italy. They will be able to describe certain types of material (stone, metal and ceramic), and contextualise the various human cultures that produced them.

***COURSE CONTENT***

General section:

Aspects of European prehistory and proto-history with special reference to Northern Italy. Hominisation and the most ancient human cultures; the Stone Age; Ötzi the Iceman; the Metal Ages. Italic cultures in the Iron Age.

Single-subject section:

The Celts in Europe and Northern Italy: the cultures of Hallstatt, La Téne and Golasecca. Archaeology, language, religion, figurative art and music.

***READING LIST***

*Introductory section*

Dating methods (required reading)

C. Renfrew-P. Bahn, *“Quando?” Metodi di datazione e cronologia,* in *Archeologia. Teorie, metodi, pratica*, ed. Zanichelli, 2006, pp. 109-155.

Hominisation

C. Tuniz-G. Manzi-D. Caramelli,*La scienza delle nostre origini,* Universale Laterza, 2013, ISBN 9788858106716.

*General section*

De Marinis R.C., *Il Museo Civico Archeologico Giovanni Rambotti. Una introduzione alla preistoria del lago di Garda,* ed. del Museo, Desenzano, 2000 (only the part introducing prehistoric cultures).

*Single-subject section*

A.E. Fossati, 2021, *Golasecca, Hallstatt, La Tène. Una breve introduzione alle culture celtiche in Europa durante l’età del Ferro*, in C. Bearzot-F. Landucci-G. Zecchini (ed.), I Celti e il Mediterraneo. Impatto e trasformazioni, Vita e Pensiero, Milano, Milano 2021: Contributi di Storia Antica, 2020, pp. 9- 52.

E alcuni contributi da:

S. Moscati (a cura di)*,* 1991, *I Celti*, catalogo della mostra di Palazzo Grassi, ed. Bompiani.

 Details of further reading material for both the general and single-subject sections will be provided during the course.

At the end of lectures, students will be able to retrieve some of the study material from the Blackboard platform.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures with projected images. Educational visits to archaeological parks, museums and monuments relevant to the syllabus; seminars with guest specialists.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam on the contents of lectures and the texts on the reading list. The exam consists of a series of questions concerning both the general and single-subject sections.

A short written paper (proposed by the individual students on one of the course topics), discussed with the teacher, may be submitted to contribute to the overall mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites*

Owing to the introductory nature of the course, students require only basic knowledge of the historical processes and a degree of intellectual curiosity. Any gaps in their knowledge will be filled during lectures through targeted interventions.

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.