History of Medieval Art

## Prof. Stefania Buganza

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

The main objectives of the course are to introduce students to the history of medieval art and to techniques of interpreting and contextualising artworks.

## Module 1

In semester 1, the course will focus on the history of art from the 4th century to the beginning of the 15th, identifying certain interpretative approaches and key themes within the broad panorama of medieval art. At the end of the module, students will have acquired general knowledge of the cornerstones of medieval art and an initial understanding of how to interpret a work of art.

Module 2

In semester 2, the course will analyse the artistic context of a specific time and place to further explore the method of interpreting works and identifying, by focusing on a more limited area, the internal dynamics of artistic phenomena.
This year’s course will be dedicated to artistic production in Naples during the reign of King Robert of Anjou (1309-1343), a period during which the city of Campania, the capital of the Kingdom, was transformed into an important international artistic centre, one of the main outposts of the Gothic in Italy. The commissions of King Robert and his court were interpreted by some of the greatest figures of the day, including Giotto, Simone Martini, Tino di Camaino and the miniaturist Cristoforo Orimina. Important traces of this golden age can still be found in Castelnuovo and in the main churches of Naples (in particular in the Duomo, San Lorenzo Maggiore, San Domenico Maggiore, Santa Maria Donnaregina Vecchia, and Santa Chiara). This important period for the arts in Italy will be reconstructed diachronically, focusing on exchanges between the different artists and their responses to the various religious and political requirements of their royal commissions.

By the end of the module, students will have acquired in-depth knowledge of an important part of the history of medieval art and, at the same time, refined their understanding of the methods of art history.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module 1: *An overview of the history of medieval art (4th-15th century)*.

Module 2: *Art in Naples under King Robert of Anjou (1309-1343).*

***READING LIST***

*Module 1*: A good art history textbook is required for the general section, covering the period from early Christianity to the International Gothic period (included): students can find a list of essential topics in the document entitled “*AM-argomenti parte istituzionale*” downloadable from Prof. Stefania Buganza's BlackBoard page. Students are responsible for finding material on the topics not covered by their chosen text book.
The following textbooks are recommended: P.L. De Vecchi-E. Cerchiari, *Arte nel tempo,* Vol. 1, Book 1 (from “Roma da capitale dell’Impero a capitale del mondo Cristiano”) and Vol. 2, Book 1 (“Il Quattrocento ‘internazionale’), Bompiani, Milan, 1991 (and reprints). This textbook is available exclusively online, or on the second-hand market, or can be found at the UCSC Libraries/Educatt. Since 2020, there is also a reprint published by Sansoni: P.L. De Vecchi-E. Cerchiari, Arte nel tempo.

Students are also required to read one of the books listed in the “Elenco libri” document, also downloadable from Prof. Stefania Buganza's Blackboard page

*Module 2:* Comprehensive and specific details of the reading material for Module 2 will be provided at the beginning of the course (and uploaded onto Blackboard), alongside additional, optional texts. There will also be a handout of course material available from the UC photocopy office and Biblioteca di Storia dell’Arte (“Art History Library”) and the lecturer's BlackBoard page at the beginning of lectures.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures with slides; educational visits to museums and monuments covered in lectures; talks from specialists.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam of suitable length. The exam will verify that students have learned the content presented in lectures and learned through reading the texts on the reading list. Students can take the exam in two separate parts during the same exam period: Module 1 first, followed by Module 2. The exams are carried out as follows: assessment of the general part (Module 1), based on the images from the textbook used by the student; assessment of the single-subject section based on the images shown and commented in class, which will be made available to students at the end of the course and uploaded onto the lecturer’s BlackBoard page. Particularly important assessment criteria are: the ability to summarise information, formulate relevant responses and use specific language.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites*

As an introductory course to the history of medieval art, students are expected to have at least textbook-level knowledge of the subject and of medieval history. Any gaps in their knowledge will be verified and remedied by means of specific interventions.

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.