**Medieval Archaeology (with Essay-writing Workshop)**

Prof. Caterina Giostra

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

The course aims to introduce students to the main themes of post-classical archaelogy: as it is universally recognised, archaeology is a field that goes also beyond the study of Ancient History; it can also reconstruct Late Antique and Medieval societies, cultures, and structures, in a constant dialogue with history and art history. It will provide knowledge of key issues, contexts, monuments and artefacts, with a particular focus on Italy between the 5th and 10th centuries.

By the end of the course, students will have basic knowledge of the main techniques used in this field, contextualising archaeological finds within this framework, whilst also being able to recognise and critically analyse them independently.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module 1 *General course*

An introduction to the history of Medieval archaeology. The spread of Christianity: the evolution of churches from Early Christianity; monasteries. Castles during the Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages.

The city from the Late Antiquity to the Middle Ages. Rural villages. The Goths and the Lombards in Italy.

Module 2 *Case studies*

The course will deeply analyse a selection of case studies of recent discovery in northern Italy based on settlements, funerary sites, and architectural treasures that are representative of the contribution that Medieval archaeology has given to historical reconstruction. This will allow students to use the methods that are typically used in landscape archaeology and architecture, and evaluate the most important categories of everyday tools of that historical period.

Note: the students opting for the six-month course (6 ECTS credits) – for the first time – are invited to attend Module 1, during semester 1.

*Workshop on the written assignment (Prof. Simona Sironi)*

The students of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy (Interfaculty students are therefore excluded) are expected to attend the *Workshop on the Medieval Archaeology written assignment* (duration: semester I for the 6 ECTS course; semesters I and II for the 12 ECTS course), aimed to guide them during the writing of the final assignment.

***READING LIST***

*Module 1*

A. Augenti, *Archeologia dell’Italia medievale*, Laterza, Rome-Bari 2016.

*Module 2*

Further information will be made available at the beginning of the course and on Blackboard.

The PowerPoints used in lectures will also be made available to students.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures. Educational visits to monuments, archaeological sites, and exhibitions.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam, based on the images analysed in class; in addition, the students of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy will be asked to attend the *Workshop on the written assignment* (review of the textbook adopted for the course). The final exams of the two modules can be taken on two different dates; the written assignment must be submitted separately.

Students will be assessed on their ability to present the key issues (covered in lectures) clearly and with appropriate use of specialist language.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites*

As it is an introductory course covering topics that are relatively new to undergraduate students, the only prerequisite is textbook-level knowledge of medieval history. Any gaps in their knowledge will be verified in lectures and remedied with tailored 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.