**Latin Palaeography**

## Prof. Simona Gavinelli

## *Module 1: (Semester 1)*

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

The primary aim of the course is to teach the key stages of development of handwriting systems in Latin, represented by the main literary and documentary forms. Students will acquire good technical and critical skills for the assessment and description of correctly historically contextualised medieval graphic uses, thereby acknowledging different typologies and contents resulting from forms of communication, controlled to different degrees. Besides a vast overview of illustrations, which will presented during lessons, students will be encouraged to participate through interaction so as to enable a continuous assessment of fundamental learning and to gradually increase their critical judgement skills, their ability to link historical phenomena related to graphic, literary and documentary manifestations, and finally their communication skills, whether oral or written synthesis, the latter being the purpose of the exercise agreed on which the lecturer.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The syllabus consists in the diachronic evolution of broad-spectrum graphic systems, beginning from magical-sacral prehistoric and pictographic writing to writing systems in the Mediterranean Basin, including the configuration of the Latin alphabet. In parallel, the course will cover the evolution of writing material and tools for a historical reconstruction of documents, ancient and medieval books, of their framing and of book and document depositories, up to the coming of the printing press.

***READING LIST***

Students will receive some material for Module 1 (general and specific reading list, supplemetary reading for written exercises, especially graphic copies, lecture notes and a paleographic glossary prepared by the lecturer) during lectures.

General reference manual for documents:

A. Pratesi, *Genesi e forme del documento medioevale,* Jouvence, Rome 1987, 2nd ed.

General reference manual for manuscripts:

G. Battelli, *Lezioni di paleografia,* Vatican City 1949, 4th ed.

B. Bischoff, *Paleografia latina: antichità e medioevo,* Italian Ed. ed. by G. Mantovani and S. Zamponi, Antenore, Padua 1992, pp. 7-67, 255-340.

G. Cencetti, *Paleografia latina,* Jouvence, Rome 1978.

A. Petrucci, *Breve storia della scrittura latina,* New rev.and exp.ed. , Bagatto Libri, Rome 1992.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures and exercises in the classroom; lecturer’s guidance to prepare a written exercise. In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both in progress and final, will also be provided 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.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Before the final exam, students will have to carry out a short written exercise, for the assessment of their synthesis skills and their knowledge of bibliographical references. On the other hand, the argumentative oral exam, to be taken according to the approved modalities, will enable to assess students’ knowledge and presentation skills on the main course topics. Assessment criteria will include the relevance of replies, the proficient use of the specific lexicon of the discpline and the ability to link phenomena.

Short written exercise. Argumentative oral exam, according to the approved modalities.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Given the introductory nature of the course, there are no specific prerequisites in terms of knowledge in order for students to attend the course. The topic of the written exercise will be personally agreed with the lecturer and will be taken before the oral exam.

In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both ongoing and final, will also be provided remotely through our University's BlackBoard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and communicated 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.

## *Module 2 (Semester 2)*

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

The module aims to go more in-depth into the diachronic and synchronic evolution of Latin writing systems. At the end of the course, also thanks to numerous examples of images, the students will be capable of recognising the different typologies and systems of the single items (manuscripts, archive material, epigraphic forms), so as to be able to interpret, date, place, describe, and copy them correctly, with the purpose of reconstructing the various memory transmission phenomena.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Centuries-old history of Latin writing at European level, from Ancient times to the Renaissance, through involved parties: copyists, notaries, authors, clients, readers and bibliophiles, in the midst of professional intersections and a plurality of graphical skills and production. Students will acquire increasingly advanced knowledge through the reading, analysis and transcription processes of original documents (also carried out through scheduled visits to libraries, archives or museums) or of copies of photographs, also sitography available on the internet.

***READING LIST***

Students will receive some material for Module 2 (general and specific reading list, supplemetary reading for written exercises, lecture notes and a paleographic glossary prepared by the lecturer, descriptive copies and models) during lectures and will be made available among the study material through our University’s BlackBoard platform.

General reference manual on Paleography:

G. Battelli, *Lezioni di paleografia,* Vatican City 1949, 4th ed.

B. Bischoff, *Paleografia latina: antichità e medioevo,* Italian Ed. by G. Mantovani and S. Zamponi, Antenore, Padua 1992, pp. 71-253.

G. Cencetti, *Paleografia latina,* Jouvence, Rome 1978.

A. Petrucci, *Breve storia della scrittura latina,* New rev.and exp. ed. Bagatto Libri, Rome 1992.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures and exercises in the classroom; lecturer’s guidance to prepare a written exercise, possibly in the library or archives. In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both ongoing and final, will also be provided remotely through our University's BlackBoard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and communicated 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.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Before the final exam, students will have to carry out a short written exercise on the description and contextualisation of a paleographic document, for the assessment of acquired technical skills. Moreover, the argumentative oral exam, to be taken according to the approved modalities, will enable to assess students’ knowledge and presentation skills on the main course topics Assessment criteria will include the relevance of replies, the proficient use of the specific lexicon of the discpline and the ability to link phenomena.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

A prerequisite in order for students to attend Module 2 is to have acquired the general knowledge on the material aspects of the paleographic document taught in Module 1, as well as knowledge of Latin. The topic of the written exercise will be personally agreed with the lecturer and will be taken before the oral exam.

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In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both ongoing and final, will also be provided 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.

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