**Medieval History**

Prof. Maria Pia Alberzoni

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

The aim of the general course (semester 1, first 30 hours) is to cover the key lexical and conceptual points of reference required for a correct approach to studying medieval history from the 5th to the 15th century, and to facilitate the study thereof. To this end, lectures will cover the main cultural, political and religious issues of the medieval millennium. The course will begin by contextualising and interpreting a number of sources (in Italian) that will be useful to understand the terminology and define the problems under analysis.

In module 1, the course aims to provide students with the basic terminology and methods for approaching the subject. Module 2, on the other hand, aims to train students in reading and critically interpreting medieval sources and the relative historiographical literature. To facilitate this process, the course will focus on a specific area of study, so that students can access the sources and published texts (some in the original language) and their interpretation, thereby learning basic historical methods.

By the end of the course, students will be able to identify the issues and strong points within a wide swathe of Italian and European history; this will enable them to understand and evaluate the present reality with adequate critical capacity, and contextualise the contents of the "sister" disciplines encountered during the undergraduate degree, such as Italian Literature, History of the Italian language, History of Medieval Art and Medieval archaeology with more awareness, as well as, of course, “adjacent” disciplines, namely Roman History and Modern History. Students will be also able to approach a documentary or narrative written source (in original language and translated into Italian), to contextualise it and use it to shed light on the salient themes of the period and subject in question. Mastery of the specialist vocabulary of historical disciplines will also help students improve their narrative skills and formulate complex thoughts and presentations with a greater degree of depth and more awareness. The course will encourage the development of students’ learning capacity by introducing them to gradually more specialist texts, intended to support them in memorising essential points of reference. The course will also exploit the opportunities available online and students will be involved in the organisation of study visits to the sites and monuments presented in class.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module 1 (Semester 1) (*General course – 6 ECTS credits – non repeatable*)

General and introductory section on medieval history (5th-15th century).

Module 2 (Semester 2) (*Course A – 6 ECTS credits*)

Francis of Assisi and the Roman Catholic Church

***READING LIST***

For module 1 (general course)

1. A. Zorzi, *Manuale di storia medievale,* UTET Università, Turin, 2016, or P. Grillo, *Storia medievale*, Milan, Pearson, 2019.

2. Sources read and commentated in lectures.

3. Students who wish to learn more about historical methods or specific subjects can choose one of the following texts:

N. D’Acunto, *La lotta per le investiture. Una rivoluzione medievale (998-1122)*, Carocci, Rome 2020.

A. Musarra, *Gli ultimi crociati. Templari e francescani in Terrasanta*. Rome, Salerno 2021

M. Montesano, *Ai margini del Medioevo. Storia culturale dell’alterità*, Rome, Carocci 2021.

F. Senatore, *Medioevo. Istruzioni per l’uso*, Turin, Pearson, 2018.

S. Weinfurter, *Canossa: Il disincanto del mondo*, Bologna, Il Mulino 2014.

C. Wickham, *Sonnambuli verso un nuovo mondo. L’affermazione dei comuni italiani nel XII secolo,* Viella, Rome, 2017.

N.B. Students wishing to enhance their preparation by reading one of the recommended texts, are kindly requested to make the lecturer aware in the exam, so that they can account for this optional activity in the overall mark.

For module 2 (course A)

1. Lecture notes.

2. Texts read and commentated in lectures (distributed in PDF format).

3. M.P. Alberzoni, *Santa povertà e beata semplicità. Francesco d’Assisi e la Chiesa romana*, Milan, Vita e Pensiero, 2015.

Details of further reading material will be provided during the lectures, accompanied by a notification on the lecturer's Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Face-to-face lectures and seminars (especially during semester 2) focused on the topics introduced in class. 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.

Information regarding potential seminars/exercises on the topics covered in the course will be provided during lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

At the end of the course, students will be assessed by means of oral exam, which consists of an oral assessment on the two parts of the course, corresponding to the two semesters. Students will have the option of dividing the oral exam into two parts, which may be taken on two separate but potentially close exam dates (in the interest of the student); this means that they will also have the possibility to take both parts of the exam on the same official exam date.

In order to pass the exam, students must demonstrate good knowledge of the main topics explored during lectures and of medieval history in general (from the 5th to the 15th century), as covered in the textbook. The first part of the exam, dedicated to assessing students’ knowledge of the topics covered in the textbook, usually involves three questions on the three different stages of medieval history respectively, designed to assess expression of ideas and skills acquired through participation in lectures and personal study. There will also be a question on recognising and analysing one of the sources studied in lectures. Students will also be assessed on their ability to communicate effectively and appropriately, and on their ability to contextualise and describe the sources. Assessment of the work carried out in Semester 1 will also be based on a number of texts read at home, recommended for improving narrative skills - essential for historical studies. Once students have passed the part of the oral exam on Module 1, they will move on to be examined on three questions covering the recommended reading and the documents read and analysed in lectures, in order to illustrate the issues covered in semester 2 (Module 2). The two exams will count equally towards the final mark, which will be out of 30 (pass mark 18/30; maximum mark 30/30). Students who answer all questions fully and appropriately will be awarded distinction with honours.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students enrolled on the BA degree programme requiring only 6 ECTS credits will follow the syllabus and take the exam for Module 1, which constitutes an introduction to the discipline. Those who require 12 ECTS credits will be examined on the syllabi of both modules. As it is an introductory course, there are no prerequisites in terms of content. Students are however expected to demonstrate an interest in history, medieval history in particular, and be keen to study the sources and the topics presented in lectures in depth.

As part of the Workshop, students may participate in medieval history internships (providing work experience in a historical archive) with or without the awarding of university credits: for students on the BA degree, 3 ECTS credits are available.

The Medieval History exam may be combined with the Teaching History Workshop, in order to achieve 6 ECTS credits of the 24 required for accessing teaching.

*In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to 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.