**History of Theology**

Prof. Gian Luca Potestà

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

The course aims for students to acquire critical knowledge of the tradition of the text, of the interpretations and of the uses of the Christian Bible, from its origins to the 15th century, by illustrating the most important achievements of historical research on this issue. At the same time, it aims to train students to be able to interpret historical-religious sources critically by interrelating their literary genres, forms and contents within different levels of context.

***COURSE CONTENT***

**The Christian Bible from its origins to the 15th century. Text, interpretations, uses.**

The course historically and critically presents: the formation of the canon and versions of biblical texts between Antiquity and the early Middle Ages; areas of production, forms and development of the manuscript tradition; hermeneutics and medieval biblical exegesis; legal, ecclesiological and political uses of the Bible; illustrated Bibles and vernacular versions produced and circulating between the late medieval and the early modern periods.

***READING LIST***

Lecture notes including the material (texts, maps and images) distributed or made available by the lecturer in electronic format.

2) B. Smalley, *Lo studio della Bibbia nel Medioevo.* Third edition, edited by G.L. Potestà, EDB, Bologna 2008.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an individual oral exam designed to evaluate their ability to interpret and present content based on the sources and materials provided by the lecturer.

During the exam, students must demonstrate that they are familiar with the underlying themes and questions presented and discussed during lectures, with a particular focus on the texts and images considered. Students will be assessed on: the relevance of responses, the appropriate use of specific terminology, the ability to structure reasoned and coherent discourse and the ability to identify conceptual links and open questions.

Students may choose to present a written essay on one of the sources, which they will read and contextualise to demonstrate their acquisition of the main content conveyed by the lecturer during the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As this is an introductory course, it has no prerequisites in terms of contents.

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.