# Religious Anthropology and the Media

## Prof. Alessandro Gamba

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

The course aims to provide students with the fundamental elements for the study of the religious dimension of human experience within the actual society based on consumerism and show business.

At the end of the course, students will be able to identify and describe the main traits characterising the religious experience, adopting, in particular, a critical approach towards the use of religious stylistic features by media communication and the media system.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Desire as a fundamental category of the *homo religiosus*: the difference between religiousness and religion, the paradox of infinitude inside finitude, the analogy in the cultural formulation of the questions of meaning.

The risks of idolatry: reason over mystery, the search for alternative forms of support, the undersell of the relationship with the divine.

***READING LIST***

* S. Petrosino, *Il desiderio*, Vita e Pensiero, Milan 2019.
* S. Petrosino, *L’idolo*, Mimesis Edizioni, Milan 2015.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures in class (supported by the use of multimedia tools).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final oral exam aims to verify the students’ knowledge of the textbooks specified in the reading list, and their understanding of the global content of the course, assessing, at the same time, their ability to advance meaningful arguments, and their interdisciplinary creativity and cognitive maturity. Other fundamental assessment criteria will include, in addition to a sound knowledge of the course content, the absolute mastery and the confident use of the specific terminology of the disciplines under analysis, together with the use of methodological rigour in the problem-oriented application of the most coherent and cogent theoretical tools to the questions asked by the examining board.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, students are expected to show a certain cultural interest and intellectual curiosity towards the discipline.

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.