**Archaeology of Settlements and Sites of Medieval Worship (second-level course)**

## Prof. Caterina Giostra; Prof. Marco Sannazaro

***Note:*** The course is connected to a “Workshop on cataloguing medieval artefacts” that is compulsory for both the students who take the 6 and 12 ECTS exams. The students who attend the 6 ECTS course can choose between the first or second module, both of which are single-subject modules.

Module 1: *Barbarian Architecture* (Prof. Caterina Giostra)

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

The course aims to analyse the Germanic cultures and the Roman-barbarian kingdoms at the sunset of the Roman Empire and the dawn of the European Middle Ages, starting with the Goth and Lombard kingdoms in Italy, in the light of archaeological artefacts. The course will reconstruct the society, culture and economy of this world arisen from the meeting of different peoples and cultures, and from the relations between Europe and the Mediterranean. The main thematic areas will be addressed based on the latest discoveries and the most recent methodological approaches (including the interdisciplinary approach and with the aid of laboratory analyses).

This study will allow students to concretely grasp the contribution of archaeology to historical reconstruction, including the aspects less treated by written sources. Students of the historical-artistic curriculum will incorporate methodical and content tools necessary to communicate and interact with archaeology; students of archaeology will be provided with specialist knowledge and innovative analysis tools.

***COURSE CONTENT***

After a historical-archaeological introduction on the barbarian cultures in late antiquity and the formation of the Roman-Barbarian kingdoms in Europe, the course will address the history and culture of the Goths and Lombards prior to their arrival in Italy and the formation of their respective reigns.

Funerary contexts, rich in artefacts of artistic value, themes such as migration and social structure, cultural and religious aspects, as well as integration with local components: these areas are now being reconsidered, including in light of innovative laboratory analyses (genetic analyses on skeletal remains, archaeometric analyses on artefacts).

The forms of settlement in the city and in the countryside can now boast recent significant findings, as well as broader territorial analyses.

With the Christianisation and absorption of late-ancient culture, the artistic expressions (ecclesiastical architecture) can also be analysed through stratigraphic interpretation of elevations and components of the decorative apparatus (painted plasters, stuccos and more) and targeted scientific analyses, in view of more precise chronological proposals and the reconstruction of the early medieval construction sites.

*Workshop on cataloguing of medieval artefacts*

The course (module 1 and/or 2) is connected with the *Workshop on cataloguing medieval artefacts*, held by prof. Enrico Giannichedda, aimed at both the students who take the 6 ECTS (module 1 or 2) and 12 ECTS exams, with a slightly different final exam; the dates and the programme will be provided at the beginning of the lectures.

***READING LIST***

A reading list on the topics and cases discussed in class will be made available during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures; guided visits to museum exhibitions and archaeological sites.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam with adequate duration, with the aid of the images analysed in class, supplemented by the Workshop test. The exam will assess the students’ mastery in presenting the sites and topics covered by the course, analysed with critical reasoning skills, command of language and correct historical contextualization.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The Power Point presentations illustrated during lectures will be made available.

A background historical knowledge of the period favours the students’ understanding of the themes presented; rudiments of Archaeological Research Methodology and Medieval Archaeology are also useful: any gaps will be filled in class.

The following textbooks are suggested for students wishing further information on manuals for a general knowledge of medieval archeology (in particular, students of archaeology who have not attended the three-year course):

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

G.P. Brogiolo, A. Chavarria Arnau, *Aristocrazie e campagne nell’Occidente da Costantino a Carlo Magno,* All’Insegna del Giglio, Florence 2005.

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: *The Worship of Saints and Archaeology Prof. Marco Sannazaro*

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

The course aims to illustrate the contribution that Christian and medieval archaeology can make to the reconstruction of a historical and religious phenomenon that deeply permeated the late-ancient and medieval ages, presenting methodological approaches used in research in this field and providing an overview of the issues related to this scientific theme.

Students will also be able to: build on their own skills as regards current procedure for archaeological surveying; learn useful content for reconstructing the development of religious architecture; and reflect critically on the promotion of archaeological heritage based on specific research projects.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Devotion to the saints and their relics is an aspect that strongly characterises the customs and sensitivity of the first centuries of Christianity; this religious practice led to the creation of churches and architectural spaces with specific typologies and functions, renewed funerary customs and helps redefine the urban planning of many cities, with long-lasting consequences. The course aims to retrace the material impact of the phenomenon, using the most up-to-date literature and the archaeological-monumental evidence that best clarify its physiognomy.

Drawing on exemplary cases, the course will present the material forms of devotion: pilgrimages and visits to shrines; *refrigerium* and *sepultura ad sanctos*; new architectural typologies; the redefinition of cemetery spaces and suburbs; urban and rural shrines; chapels for relics.

***READING LIST***

P. Brown, *Il culto dei santi. L’origine e la diffusione di una nuova religiosità*, Einaudi, Torino 2002.

Details of further specific reading material will be provided during lectures.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures in class with accompanying slides. Visits to places of worship and other complexes.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

During the oral exam, of appropriate length, students must be able to demonstrate that they can present the topics covered in lectures and in the texts on the reading list. The exam will be marked out of 30 and assess students’ ability to present logical, structured arguments, provide context and apply critical thinking. It will also assess their use of language and their communication skills.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As this is an advanced course, students require prior knowledge of the main themes related to Christian archaeology, potentially consolidated by attending similar courses within their current university studies.

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.