**History of Medieval Architecture**

## Prof. Marco Rossi

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

This master's-level course (6 ECTS credits) aims to provide students with an in-depth exploration of the developments of the history of medieval architecture, with particular reference to the main Italian geographic areas and early Gothic architecture in Europe. It also aims to enhance their critical and methodological tools for studying architectural commissions and the structure of the buildings, focusing on the building techniques and historiographical debate as well as the artistic and historical context.

By the end of the course, students will have developed adequate knowledge of the history of medieval architecture and the construction process of several Italian and European monuments. They will also be able to analyse the architectural structure of medieval buildings, to interpret their representations in plans, elevations and stratigraphic diagrams, recognize the paintings and compare and relate monuments to available document-based sources, and specialist bibliographic and digital resources, and to communicate what they have learned. They will have also developed a capacity for independent critical judgement and ability to carry out further studies.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will cover Italian architecture from the Early Middle Ages to the 12th-13th centuries, before focusing on the origins of Gothic architecture in Europe.

***READING LIST***

The main course text is:

C. Tosco, *L’architettura medievale in Italia 600-1200,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2016.

Students must also study the following essays:

L. Grodecki, *Architettura gotica,* Electa, Milan 1976 (or other editions.), pp. 55-36, 50-67, 152-157.

O. Von Simson, *La cattedrale gotica. Il concetto medievale di ordine,* Il Mulino, Bologna 1988 (or subsequent editions), pp. 13-79 (chaps 1 and 2) (optional).

It may be useful to consult the *Enciclopedia dell’Arte Medievale* (available online) on the most important monuments covered on the course.

The reading list will be specified and supplemented during the course and partially available on Blackboard, alongside the PowerPoint shown in lectures.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course includes classroom lectures that will follow a chronological path through the history of medieval Italian architecture in relation to that of Europe, with numerous examples and readings of monuments, thus favouring a clear didactic approach. The lectures will always be accompanied by the projection of images of the analysed buildings (in PowerPoint) and some study visits to monuments.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Exams will be oral and will include questions on the topics covered in lectures and in the texts on the reading list, as well as recognising and describing a number of images presented during the course and made available in Blackboard. Students must be able to demonstrate their knowledge of the chronology and characteristics of the various historical periods of medieval architecture; to describe an architectural structure, including more complex examples, and interpret the relative plans, both in terms of elevation and stratigraphic representations; to identify the original and restored parts of buildings; to use correct terminology and be able to present material in a concise and critical way. For this, reference will be made to the course readings.

Students will be assessed on the relevance of their answers, their appropriate use of architectural terminology, their ability to present information succinctly and to navigate confidently within the field of medieval architectural history, alongside their knowledge of the most important critical references and comparisons.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

* Notes

Course attendance, although not compulsory, is strongly recommended.

More detailed information on those parts of the texts recommended for the course, PowerPoint presentations as well as further reading and study materials, will be provided by the lecturer during the lectures and on the Blackboard platform.

* Prerequisites

Good knowledge of the general part of the History of Medieval Art course is an essential prerequisite for the course; students should have already taken this course as part of their undergraduate degree. If this is not the case, students must take this course as part of their master's degree, before the History of Medieval Architecture course.

Students will also require basic knowledge of medieval history and Italian and European geography, which can be acquired using a historic and geographic atlas.

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.