# History of the Miniature

## Prof. Milvia Bollati

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

The objective of this introductory, semester-long course is to offer students a framework within which to summarise the issues related to the study of miniature through various case studies. By the end of the course, students will have learned about the research tools and methods required for studying miniature from Late Antiquity to the Middle Ages. Lectures in Milanese libraries will allow the student to confront the direct study of the code.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will be focused on the following topics: an introduction to the study of illuminated manuscripts: supports, techniques, and materials; the transcription and transmission of texts; the role played by copyists, calligraphists, and illuminators; an introduction to artistic bookbinding, supported by some examples of the Carolingian and the Ottonian era; the transformation and re-use of ancient bookbinding techniques; buyers and receivers; the organisation of studios and the autography issue; signatures and self-portraits; the different types of manuscripts, with a focus on liturgical books; iconographical choices and illustrative programmes; studios and the transmission of models; conservation and the rise of collecting.

In the second part of the course, with reference to the IX-XV centuries, the major types of illustrations and their development from the studies of Otto Pächt, the function of illustration and iconographic programs will be addressed.

***READING LIST***

O. Pächt, *La miniatura medievale. Una introduzione*, Torino 2013.

J.J.G. Alexander, *I miniatori medievali e i loro metodi di lavoro,* Modena, 2003, chapters 1, 2 and 3.

Further reading material for the exam will be provided by the lecturer and available from the photocopy office.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures and lectures held in the archives and libraries of Milan. Seminars and guided exercises. A visit to a laboratory of manuscript and printed books restoration is also planned.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral examination focuses on topics studied in class and on the reading list indicated above. Students can make arrangements with the lecturer to do written exercises or carry out further study on the course topics or on individual manuscripts. These exercises will be subject to evaluation in the exam.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is designed for undergraduate students and is also open to students enrolled on Literature and Modern Philology degree programmes. Since this is an introductory course, there are no prerequisites. Students will however be provided with details of all relevant reading material during lectures.

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.