Political and Religious Institutions in Medieval Europe

Prof. Alfredo Lucioni

COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course intends to offer students enrolled in the graduate degree programmes the opportunity to address and explore in depth a number of specific topics in the political and religious history of the European Middle Ages using also seminar-styled teaching. Students must be actively involved in researching readings, in the understanding and evaluation of historiographical literature case studies, and in the reading and interpretation of the sources; they must also learn to use the terminology and presentation techniques appropriate to medieval history.

At the end of the course, students – thanks to the example offered in applying a rigorous research method to a circumscribed investigation subject – will have refined the techniques for working in the historiographic field through the acquisition of the basic tools of the subject; these will allow them to conduct research independently both in the chronological period of the Middle Ages as well as in other areas of history, and in the broader humanities sector.

COURSE CONTENT

The formation of monastic orders in the European Middle Ages with particular attention to the order of S. Benigno di Fruttuaria (11th-13th century).

READING LIST

The reading list will be indicated during lectures.

TEACHING METHOD

Frontal lectures in the classroom; indications on any in-depth seminars on topics covered in the course will be provided during the lectures.

Please note: The course will be held in the second semester.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

An oral interview during which students will have to demonstrate knowledge of the various aspects of the case study analysed during the lectures, be able to present and critically interpret the sources on which the historiographical reconstruction of the subject under investigation is based, and be able to evaluate the historical literature on the subject considered in light of the historical moment in which the research was conducted so as to account for the different interpretations of the same historical fact that have been offered over the past centuries.

The assessment will take into account the relevance of the student's answers, their competent use of the specific subject terminology, their ability to arrange a coherent and argued narrative and use the sources to reconstruct the past, and their degree of understanding of the focal points of the proposed historiographical texts. In the case of a comprehensively complete assessment, conducted using appropriate language, the student will be awarded a distinction.

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

Students enrolling in the course are required to know the essential chronological grid of the Middle Ages and be able to orient themselves within the main events and problems characterising the medieval millennium; they should also have an interest in the historical research of sources, which will be presented in Latin and translated into Italian.

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.