**History of Books and Publishing**

## Prof. Edoardo Barbieri; Prof. Luca Rivali

Module A (Semester I - 6 ECTS): *Elements of the History of Books and Publishing from the 15th to the 21st centuries*

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

The course aims to teach students the basic concepts of the discipline regarding historical, cultural and literary development from the 15th to the contemporary era. The objective of the course is to enable students to acquire knowledge on the history of books – connected with typography techniques - as well as specific skills on the history of publishing during the manual and industrial eras.

At the end of the course, students will have acquired knowledge of the history of publishing from Gutenberg to contemporary times, including the different types of books, being aware of the main editors/printers, as well as some phenomena concerning the book trade, copyrights, censorship, contracts and editorial subscriptions.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The subject of the course is the analysis of books (with a focus on books handmade with the manual printing press) as a crucial element of the history of publishing from its origins to the contemporary era, with specific reference to books made in Italy during the Renaissance. Elements of history of the circulation and delivery of books from its origins to the Twentieth century. Reading and understanding of some documentary sources related to such pathways. The main topics addressed during the course will be: the origins of printing and the first evidence of printing in Italy, Aldo Manuzio, editorial collaborators, ancient contracts for the printing and trading of books, copyrights, censorship, inventories and catalogues, book printing and illustration techniques, the printing industry.

***READING LIST***

An in-depth study of the following tools is compulsory:

L. Rivali (ed.), *Fonti per una storia del libro e dell’editoria a.a. 2023-2024*, Photo reproduction Office.

L. Febvre-H.J. Martin, *La nascita del libro*, Laterza, Rome-Bari, 1995 (or subsequent editions).

J.F. Gilmont, *Dal manoscritto all’ipertesto*, L. Rivali (ed.), Le Monnier, Florence, 2006.

G. Roncaglia, *La quarta rivoluzione. Sei lezioni sul futuro del libro,* Laterza, Rome, 2010.

Furthermore, students must read one volume of their choice from *list 1* and *list 2* which will be published on the lecturer’s webpage and displayed on the notice board of his office.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Teaching will mainly consist in frontal lectures in the classroom and, if possible, guided tours to exhibitions or libraries, as well as meetings and seminars, will be included.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will take an oral exam consisting in a series of questions to which they must reply, thus demonstrating that they have acquired the basic knowledge of all the aspects of the discipline covered during the course and gained more in-depth knowledge by studying the texts included in the reading list. The questions will specifically aim to assess students’ knowledge of the key timeline of the development of publishing and of typography techniques. Moreover, students must be capable of reading and commenting one or more of the texts and documents proposed in the lecture notes.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no specific prerequisites for students who wish to attend the course.

Students are strongly advised to attend lectures, also in order to become familiar with a rather technical discipline and with the texts and documents which are commented on during lectures and are included in the lectures notes.

Students who have to obtain 12 ECTS must take the exam on the first part before taking the second part.

Students of the biennium or those having particular needs must agree on an *ad hoc* programme with the lecturer. Students who are taking a syllabus of previous academic years, must inform the lecturer sufficiently in advance of the chosen exam session.

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 B (semester 2 - 6 ECTS credits): *The Book of the World. Organising Knowledge and Organising the Text in the Age of Manual Printing.*

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

By the end of the course, students should have acquired detailed knowledge of the issues related to the transmission of knowledge in the modern age, both in relation to the construction of tools for accessing knowledge and in terms of the modes and techniques for organising the text in a way that is suited to its purpose. The course aims, therefore, to provide knowledge not only of production techniques, but also of the “mechanisms of operation” and of the organisation of information in book artefacts.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course aims to investigate how the quantitative and qualitative development of knowledge in the modern age (in various fields including bibliographic, scientific, linguistic, geographical, etc.) made possible by the use of printing led to the identification of ways and mechanisms for easily organising and retrieving information. The approach will be both diachronic, identifying the development of these problems and their solutions over time, and synchronic, highlighting similarities with contemporary times, including with regard to the digital world. The course will also cover the graphic aspects – *mise en livre* – that contribute decisively to approach outlined above.

***READING LIST***

The study of the following volumes is compulsory:

A.M. Blair, *Too Much to Know. Managing Scholarly Information before the Modern Age*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 2011.

M.G. Tavoni, *Circumnavigare il testo. Gli indici in età moderna*, Liguori, Napoli, 2009

E. Barbieri (ed.), *Il libro del mondo. Materiali per il corso di Storia del libro e dell’editoria* 2023/2024, Uff. fotoriproduzioni.

Students must choose one book from the list provided at the beginning of the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The lectures in the classroom will be held with the aid of PowerPoint with images regarding the covered topics and, possibly, hands-on analysis of books printed with ancient techniques, they will be integrated with educational visits (also digital) of various libraries, meetings and seminars (also online), and if possible a study visit. In any case, all the teaching material (including recordings of the lessons) will be available on the University platform.. Students will be expected to give in-person presentations on the teaching material gradually covered during the course. Part of the course teaching material will be made available on the lecturer’s teaching webpage.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final oral exam will consist in the assessment of students’ knowledge of the book of their choice. Subsequently, students will be asked questions on lectures and on reading list texts. The assessment criteria will aim to include not only students’ memorisation of the covered topics, but also their understanding of the raised issues.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Module A, covered during Semester I, is considered preparatory and essential for attending Module B. However, Module A is separate and can also be taken by students who do not attend Module B. The final mark of students who attend the course during the entire academic year will be the average of the marks they have been awarded for modules A and B.

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.