# History of Medieval Historiography

## Prof. Maria Pia Alberzoni

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

The course aims to provide an essential overview of medieval historiography. By focusing on a limited field of investigation, mostly one text or one author, it aims to develop the students' ability to read and critically interpret texts by medieval authors as well as the most up-to-date relative critical literature.

To this end, the texts in question will be read and commented during lectures and compared with those by authors from the same period, in the context of recent historiography.

By the end of the course, students will have learned the basics in applying the historical-critical method to the study of medieval and modern texts (as regards recent historiography on these subjects); this will enable them to understand and evaluate with adequate critical capacity the present reality and to frame the contents of the medieval disciplines, and historical disciplines in general, with greater awareness.

Students will be able to approach a documentary or narrative written source (in original language and, where required, translated into Italian), to contextualise it and use it to shed light on the salient themes of the period and on the history of its prevailing mentality. Mastery of the specialist vocabulary of the historical disciplines will also help students to formulate complex thoughts and presentations with a greater degree of depth and awareness.

Students’ learning capacity will be stimulated by direct access to sources, and student-lecturer and student-student interaction will be promoted by the seminar-based approach.

To this end, seminars will be organised with the participation of academic experts in the field. Details on these study seminars will be provided during lectures.

In order to encourage ‘active’ learning, students will be asked to produce a short written paper for the examination; the topic will be agreed with the lecturer and will draw on subject matter covered in the lectures and seminars.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Chronicles and historiography of the Fifth Crusade (1218-1221)

***READING LIST***

P. Delogu, Introduzione alla Storia medievale, part 2, chap. 5 (La scrittura della storia nel medioevo), Il Mulino, Bologna,

* or B. Smalley, *Storici nel medioevo*, Napoli (Liguori)

Reading for the Crusade:

* *I Cristiani e il favoloso Egitto. Una relazione dall’Oriente e La storia di Damietta di Oliviero da Colonia*, a cura di G. Andenna - B. Bombi, Marietti, Genova-Milano 2009

Further reading on the Chronicles of the Fifth Crusade will be indicated during the course and on the course slides, in the course area on the Blackboard platform.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures in class; study seminars on the course topics.

Please note: the course will take place in semester 2.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of oral exam on the main themes addressed in lectures. The exam will evaluate their capacity for expression and the skills acquired through participation in lectures and personal study. Students will also produce a written paper on a topic chosen from those presented in lectures: in this way, students will be able to verify their own ability to carry out bibliographical study and, at the same time, improve their written skills. The oral exam will be based on discussion of the student’s paper.

To pass the exam, students must demonstrate good knowledge of the main issues addressed in lectures and lexical precision in presenting them. The final mark will be out of 30 (pass mark 18/30; maximum mark 30/30). Students whose performance is comprehensive and appropriately conducted will be awarded 30/30 with distinction (*lode*)

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for this course. Good knowledge of Latin will facilitate understanding of the sources. Students who have not already taken the exam for the undergraduate course “Medieval History” will be allocated a supplementary programme (to be agreed with the lecturer on an individual basis). Together with the seminars, this will help students acquire the fundamentals of medieval history and explore the history of medieval historiography.

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.