# Byzantine Philology

Prof. Mariachiara Fincati

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

The course aims to introduce students to the study of the Byzantine literary production through the acquisition of the relative historical, literary, and cultural knowledge. Reading and analysing passages from *Dialexis kata Ioudaion* by Nikolaos of Otranto/Nektarios of Casole will serve as the starting point for considering the work within the framework of late-ancient and Byzantine anti-Judaist polemical literature, so as to highlight its unique features as well as its debt to traditional models. Reading the work of the Salento author will also serve as an opportunity to further study the Byzantine Greeks of southern Italy, particularly their relations with the Latin-speaking world and with Jewish communities.

By the end of the course, students will have acquired basic knowledge of the history of Byzantium and the Empire’s relations with the surrounding world (particularly with the West), they will have been introduced to the evolution of the genre of theological dispute, and been able to make good use of a critical edition and other bibliographic tools.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Outlines of the history of the Eastern Roman Empire and the Byzantine literary production.

Reading and commentary of some pieces taken from Nikolaos of Otranto / Nektarios abbot of Casole, *Dialexis kata Ioudaiōn* (ed. M. Chronz, Athina 2009).

***READING LIST***

G. Ravegnani, *Introduzione alla storia bizantina*, Bologna: il Mulino, 2008.

Νεκταρίου, ηγουμένου μονής Κασούλων (Νικολάου Υδρουντινού): Διάλεξις κατά Ιουδαίων. Κριτική έκδοση υπό M. Chronz, Αθήνα 2009.

Further information on the reading list will be made available during the lectures.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Individual oral assessment, in which students will be tested on

– general understanding of the texts read in class and ability to interpret the critical apparatus of the editions under analysis

– knowledge of the concepts explained during the course and/or studied individually

– ability to orient themselves among the different topics presented during the course and elaborate them autonomously, also through the use of the research tools learned in class.

In addition, students will be asked to read using a Modern Greek pronunciation.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are expected to have a good knowledge of the Greek language.

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.