**Medieval Latin Literature (Module A)**

Prof. Marco Petoletti

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

The course aims to examine the texts written in Latin during the Middle Ages to present the exploits of Alexander the Great, and study their success, which was very important also for Vernacular literatures. Particular attention will be paid to the analysis of the translation of the Greek version of the *Alexander Romance* by Pseudo-Callisthenes, that had been already translated in Latin in the 4th century by Julius Valerius (from which an epitome was therefore created in the early medieval period) and then again in the 10th century in Naples by Leo of Naples (the so-called *Historia de preliis*). From the new version, further writings integrated with interpolations and other late-antique material on Alexander (known with the acronyms J1, J2, and J3) were created and became widespread, and in many cases they were also translated into vernacular. Starting from J3, in the 13th century, Quilichino of Spoleto wrote a poem on Alexander using elegiac couplets. The course will also take into account the famous epos by Walter of Châtillon, the *Alexandreis*, dating back to the end of the 12th century, which recounted Alexander’s exploits starting from the ancient *Historiae Alexandri Magni* by Curtius Rufus. At the end of the course, students will be able to know the main lines of development of the Medieval Latin literature based on the figure and the exploits of Alexander the Great, from the point of view of texts and manuscript tradition.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Alexander the Great in the Latin Middle Ages.

***READING LIST***

G. Cary, *The Medieval Alexander*, ed. by D.J.A. Ross, The University Press, Cambridge, 1956, in part. pp. 24-74.

*Alessandro nel Medioevo occidentale*, edited by P. Boitani, C. Bologna, M. Liborio, introd. by P. Dronke, Fondazione Lorenzo Valla-Arnoldo Mondadori, Milan, 1997.

P. Chiesa, *Leone (Leone Arciprete)*, in *Dizionario biografico degli Italiani*, 64, Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana, Rome, 2005, pp. 473-475.

C. Frugoni, *La fortuna di Alessandro Magno dall’Antichità al Medioevo*, Officina Libraria, Rome, 2022.

The texts translated and commentated by the lecturer will be made available during the course and uploaded onto Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures and seminars. If conditions permit, there will also be at least one educational visit to a library in Milan as an opportunity to analyse manuscripts and documents directly.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed in two ways: 1. A written task (the topic will relate to the themes covered during the course, and must be agreed in advance with the lecturer, who will personally supervise its development; the paper must be completed before the oral assessment and submitted in good time, or at least ten days before the exam, to allow time for marking and sharing any suggested improvements); 2. An oral exam on the topics and texts presented during the course (with reading, translation and commentary).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

For this module (A), students need knowledge of Latin.

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.