**History of Theology**

Prof. Gian Luca Potestà

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

The course aims to provide students with a critical knowledge of the main conceptions of time and history produced and circulating in the Christian West between Antiquity and the Modern Age, examining their genesis, rationales and meanings on the theological level. Students are guided in their studies through sources and the literary genres and issues at the heart of the current historiographical debate.

COURSE CONTENT

Time and History in Western Christian Theology

"So what is time? If no one asks me, I know; if I want to explain it to those who ask me, I don't know". Augustine's famous expression sealed his fundamentally theological question about time and its nature. Taking inspiration from it, the course seeks to present the main Christian conceptions of time and history as the story of salvation, starting from the biblical and Jewish assumptions and following the changes and transformations through the principal passages and authors. Among the questions that will be addressed: The days of Creation as a foreshadowing of the ages of the world and of human life. History as a succession of the four great empires, according to the prophecy of Daniel. Paul and the ternary plan of salvation history. The date of the Christian Easter and the counting of the Easter cycle. Measurements of time: from the calculation *ab anno mundi* to the calculation *ab anno Domini* and its variants. Calendars of end times. Spirit and history: theologies of history and philosophies of history.

***READING LIST***

Lecture notes including the material (texts, maps and images) distributed or made available by the lecturer in electronic format.

2) F. Hartog, *Chronos. L’Occidente alle prese con il tempo*, Einaudi, Torino 2022.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an individual oral exam designed to evaluate their ability to interpret and present content based on the sources and materials provided by the lecturer.

During the exam, students must demonstrate that they are familiar with the underlying themes and questions presented and discussed during lectures, with a particular focus on the texts and images considered. Students will be assessed on: the relevance of responses, the appropriate use of specific terminology, the ability to structure reasoned and coherent discourse and the ability to identify conceptual links and open questions.

Students may choose to present a written essay on one of the sources, which they will read and contextualise to demonstrate their acquisition of the main content conveyed by the lecturer during the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As this is an introductory course, it has no prerequisites in terms of contents.

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.