Prehistory and Protohistory

## Prof. Angelo Eugenio Fossati

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

The course is open to all and requires no prior knowledge. Students will be introduced to issues emerging from the study of the most ancient human cultures and will learn the key elements of prehistoric and protohistoric archaeology in Europe, with particular reference to Northern Italy and the Alpine region.

This year’s course will deepen the phenomenon of Megalithism and Statue-Menhir, its origins, its geographical spread in Europe, its chronology, its meanings. The groups of statue menhir present in the Alps (Aosta-Sion, Lunigiana, Valcamonica-Valtellina, Trentino-Alto Adige) will be examined. There will be educational visits to some of the sites studied on the course.

At the end of the course, students will be able to describe the overall development of European prehistory and protohistory in Europe and Northern Italy. They will be able to describe certain types of material (stone, metal and ceramic), and contextualise the various human cultures that produced them.

***COURSE CONTENT***

General section:

Aspects of European prehistory and proto-history with special reference to Northern Italy. Hominisation and the most ancient human cultures; the Stone Age; Ötzi the Iceman; the Metal Ages. Italic cultures in the Iron Age.

Single-subject section:

Stonehenge and other sites: megalithism and statue menhir in Europe and the Alpine area. Origin, diffusion, typologies, interpretation.

***READING LIST***

*Introductory section*

Dating methods (required reading)

C. Renfrew-P. Bahn, *“Quando?” Metodi di datazione e cronologia,* in *Archeologia. Teorie, metodi, pratica*, ed. Zanichelli, 2006, pp. 109-155.

Hominisation

C. Tuniz-G. Manzi-D. Caramelli,*La scienza delle nostre origini,* Universale Laterza, 2013, ISBN 9788858106716.

*General section*

De Marinis R.C., *Il Museo Civico Archeologico Giovanni Rambotti. Una introduzione alla preistoria del lago di Garda,* ed. del Museo, Desenzano, 2000 (only the part introducing prehistoric cultures).

*Single-subject section*

Some articles from the volume:

Notizie Archeologiche Bergomensi, 3, *Statue-stele e massi incisi nell’Europa dell’età del* *Rame* a cura di S. Casini, R.C. De Marinis, A. Pedrotti, 1995, Civico Museo archeologico: Bergamo.

Notizie Archeologiche Bergomensi, 12, *Le Pietre degli Dei. Statue stele dell’età del Rame in Europa. Lo stato della Ricerca*, atti del Convegno di Brescia, edited by S. Casini and A. E. Fossati, Civico Museo archeologico: Bergamo.

Articles from the volume: *L'età del Rame. La pianura padana e le Alpi al tempo di Ötzi*. Edited by R.C. De Marinis, Roccafranca: La Compagnia della Stampa.

Details of further reading material for both the general and single-subject sections will be provided during the course.

At the end of lectures, students will be able to retrieve some of the study material from the Blackboard platform.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures with projected images. Educational visits to archaeological parks, museums and monuments relevant to the syllabus; seminars with guest specialists.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam on the contents of lectures and the texts on the reading list. The exam consists of a series of questions concerning both the general and single-subject sections.

A short written paper (proposed by the individual students on one of the course topics), discussed with the teacher, may be submitted to contribute to the overall mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites*

Owing to the introductory nature of the course, students require only basic knowledge of the historical processes and a degree of intellectual curiosity. Any gaps in their knowledge will be filled during lectures through targeted interventions.

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.