History of Medieval Art

## Prof. Stefania Buganza; Prof. Carlo Cairati

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

The main objectives of the course are to introduce students to the history of medieval art and to techniques of interpreting and contextualising artworks.

## Module 1: *Prof. Carlo Cairati*

In semester 1, the course will focus on the history of art from the 4th century to the beginning of the 15th, identifying certain interpretative approaches and key themes within the broad panorama of medieval art. At the end of the module, students will have acquired general knowledge of the cornerstones of medieval art and an initial understanding of how to interpret a work of art.

Module 2: *Prof. Stefania Buganza*

In semester 2, the course will analyse the artistic context of a specific time and place to further explore the method of interpreting works and identifying, by focusing on a more limited area, the internal dynamics of artistic phenomena.
In particular, this year’s course will be devoted to artistic production – particularly painting – in the first half of the 15th century in Verona, Vicenza and Treviso, where stimulus from Milan and Venice was influencing the developing style. In fact, in the early decades, the long-held artistic ties between these areas and the elite international culture of the Visconti Duchy remained unbroken, in part because of the diaspora of Lombard artists from Milan and Pavia upon the death of Gian Galeazzo Visconti (1402) and throughout the troubled aftermath. At the same time, Venice was becoming the new political and cultural beacon of Northern Italy, exerting an increasing influence over the Veneto hinterland, which was gradually expanding as new areas were conquered. The course will focus on several important figures operating in this context: Michelino da Besozzo, Stefano da Verona and Pisanello.

By the end of the module, students will have acquired in-depth knowledge of an important part of the history of medieval art and, at the same time, refined their understanding of the methods of art history.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module 1: *An overview of the history of medieval art (4th-15th century)*.

Module 2: *Milan and Venice: painting in the first half of the 15th century in Verona, Vicenza and Treviso (Michelino da Besozzo, Stefano da Verona and Pisanello).*

***READING LIST***

*Module 1*: A good art history textbook is required for the general section, covering the period from early Christianity to the International Gothic period (included): students can find a list of essential topics in the document entitled “*AM-argomenti parte istituzionale*” downloadable from Prof. Stefania Buganza's BlackBoard page. Students are responsible for finding material on the topics not covered by their chosen text book.
The following textbooks are recommended: P.L. De Vecchi-E. Cerchiari, *Arte nel tempo,* Vol. 1, Book 1 (from “Roma da capitale dell’Impero a capitale del mondo Cristiano”) and Vol. 2, Book 1 (“Il Quattrocento ‘internazionale’), Bompiani, Milan, 1991 (and reprints). This textbook is available exclusively online, or on the second-hand market, or can be found at the UCSC Libraries/Educatt. Since 2020, there is also a reprint published by Sansoni: P.L. De Vecchi-E. Cerchiari, Arte nel tempo.

Students are also required to read one of the books listed in the “Elenco libri” document, also downloadable from Prof. Stefania Buganza's Blackboard page

*Module 2:* Comprehensive and specific details of the reading material for Module 2 will be provided at the beginning of the course (and uploaded onto Blackboard), alongside additional, optional texts. There will also be a handout of course material available on the lecturer's BlackBoard page at the beginning of lectures.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures with slides; educational visits to museums and monuments covered in lectures; talks from specialists.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam of suitable length. The exam will verify that students have learned the content presented in lectures and learned through reading the texts on the reading list. Students can take the exam in two separate parts during the same exam period: Module 1 first, followed by Module 2. The exams are carried out as follows: assessment of the general part (Module 1), based on the images from the textbook used by the student; assessment of the single-subject section based on the images shown and commented in class, which will be made available to students at the end of the course and uploaded onto the lecturer’s BlackBoard page. Particularly important assessment criteria are: the ability to summarise information, formulate relevant responses and use specific language.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites*

As an introductory course to the history of medieval art, students are expected to have at least textbook-level knowledge of the subject and of medieval history. Any gaps in their knowledge will be verified and remedied by means of specific 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.