History of Christianity in the Modern Age

Prof. Marco Rochini

COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course (30 hours) aims to teach students features of the history of Christianity from the Early Modern Age until the French Revolution.

By way of an expanded approach to the history of Christianity, not focused solely on a study of institutional Churches and their work, the course addresses the main historiographical and methodological issues linked to the multiple sources used in studying the history of Christianity.

Knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, students will be able to know and understand the problems and methods concerning the history of Christianity in the modern age. They will also be able to implement a relevant periodisation of the phenomena and fundamental nodes of the history of Christianity.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, students will possess the necessary skills to grasp the fundamental aspects of the topics covered and the long-term dynamics of the history of Christianity in the modern age. They will also be able to read and interpret a document (archival or literary source, image, text) in its historical context.

Autonomous judging skills

At the end of the course, students will have an account of the historiographical debate and will be able to develop a critical approach to historical documents, identifying the most functional methodology to their interpretation.

Communication skills

At the end of the course, students will demonstrate argumentation skills making use of the subject's language.

Learning ability

At the end of the course, students will be able to use the main lexical tools of the discipline, adapting them in a relevant way to the different case studies analysed.

COURSE CONTENT

(30 hours)

The historical lines of Christianity from the beginning of the 16th century to the French Revolution (1789), with particular attention to the following topics:

Conquest of America and the rooting of Christianity. New forms of religious life in 16th century Europe: Ignatius of Loyola and the Society of Jesus. The Reformation: protagonists, doctrines, centres. Reform and Counter-Reformation in Italy. Council of Trent. New religious orders and new missionary horizons. Wars of religion and confessionalisation. Catholic theology and cosmology: Galileo. Christianity of the English revolutionaries and American settlers. Jesuits, Jansenists, Illuminists. Churches, ecclesiastical and lay hierarchies in the face of the Enlightenment and the French Revolution and the new relationship models between State and Church.

A part of the course will be reserved for a single-subject study of the Roman Republic (1798) and the consequences that its constitution had on Catholic culture. Particular attention will be devoted to the debate that took place, following the promulgation of the Republican Constitution, on the civil oath and the alienation of ecclesiastical assets.

READING LIST

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

2. G.L. Potestà - G. Vian, *Storia del cristianesimo*, New edition, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2014, Introduction and chapters 16 to 20 included (pp. 323-418).

1. M. Rochini, *Il gesuita e la rivoluzione. Teologia e democrazia in Giovanni Vincenzo Bolgeni (1733-1811)*, Rome, Carocci, 2023.

TEACHING METHOD

Classroom lectures. Assessment of attending students' understanding of the subject during the course.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

Final oral exam, covering the programme carried out and the reading list indicated above.

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

Students unable to attend classes regularly will replace the preparation of the notes and related materials with the study of a second work chosen from the following:

-) P. Prodi, *Il paradigma tridentino. Un’epoca della* *storia della Chiesa*, Morcelliana, Brescia, 2010.

-) M. Firpo, *Riforma cattolica e concilio di Trento. Storia o mito storiografico*, Rome, Viella, 2022.

M. Rosa, *Il giansenismo nell’Italia del Settecento. Dalla riforma della Chiesa alla democrazia rivoluzionaria*, Carocci, Rome,2014.

As this course is introductory in nature, there are no content prerequisites for attending the course.

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.