**New Testament Philology and Exegesis**

Prof. Francesca Minonne

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

The course is divided into a general part in semester 1 (module 1) and a single-subject part in semester 2 (module 2).

The general part aims to analyse the texts that make up the New Testament and the process of defining the canon, based the philological questions concerning the documentary sources and in light of the defining historical and sociopolitical dynamics of the earliest centuries of the Christian era. Students will read a critical edition of the New Testament and compare this with the manuscripts, making use of key research tools and evaluating the contribution of the digital medium to traditional studies.

By the end of the module, students will be able to critically approach the New Testament texts, accurately contextualising them and their distinguishing characteristics. In addition, students will be able to access sources independently and use key research tools, including digital ones.

The single-subject part is dedicated to the reading of the *Second Epistle to the Corinthians* and to the study of the figure of Paul the Apostle, in order to explore the history of the first Christian communities. The course aims to reconstruct the key events in Paul’s life and among his complex network, drawing a comparison with the narrative of the *Acts of the Apostles* and reflecting on the evolution of relational dynamics in the earliest Christian movement.

By the end of the module, students will have developed the skills to examine the reality of the first groups of Christ’s disciples, in particular of the heterogeneous community active in Corinth, taking into consideration the problems addressed in the dialogue with Paul and the means of transmitting Christ’s message.

***COURSE CONTENT***

General part (Module 1): “The New Testament: Texts and interpretations.”

The course aims to analyse the composite nature of the New Testament, exploring the following themes: The philological study of the New Testament and the contribution of exegesis. Lexicon and research tools. Oral tradition. The documentary sources. The New Testament: Content and tradition of the texts. The establishment of the canon and the so-called apocrypha. Translations into ancient and modern languages.

Single-subject part (Module 2): “From the “letter” to the “body”: Paul in dialogue with the Corinthians.”

Students will begin by reading Paul’s *Second Epistle to the Corinthians* to examine its literary structure, social context and theological content. In this way, the course will explore the function of the letter in terms of consolidating the Pauline communities, within the broader context of the characteristics of the epistolary genre in the ancient world.

***READING LIST***

**Module 1**

1. R. Maisano, *Filologia del Nuovo Testamento. La tradizione e la trasmissione dei testi*, Carocci, Rome, 2014.
2. Lecture materials.

Main critical edition

Nestle – Aland, *Novum Testamentum Graece*, Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, Stuttgart, 201228.

Further reading

R.E. Brown, *Introduzione al Nuovo Testamento*, Italian edition edited by G. Boscolo, Queriniana, Brescia, 20162.

M. Ebner – S. Schreiber (edd.), *Introduzione al Nuovo Testamento*, Queriniana, Brescia, 2012.

C. Broccardo, *I Vangeli. Una guida alla lettura,* Carocci, Rome, 2009.

A. Passoni Dell’Acqua, *Il testo del Nuovo Testamento. Introduzione alla critica testuale*, Elle Di Ci, Turin, 1994.

**Module 2**

a) F. Bianchini (ed.), *Seconda Lettera ai Corinzi. Introduzione, traduzione e commento*, Edizioni San Paolo, Cinisello Balsamo, 2015.

b) Lecture materials.

Main critical edition

Nestle – Aland, *Novum Testamentum Graece*, Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, Stuttgart, 201228.

Further reading

H.-J. Klauck, *La lettera antica e il Nuovo Testamento. Guida al contesto e all’esegesi*, Italian edition edited by A. Balbo, Paideia, Brescia, 2011.

G.F. Hawthorne – R.P. Martin – D.G. Reid (ed.), *Dizionario di Paolo e delle sue lettere*, Italian edition edited by R. Penna, Edizioni San Paolo, Cinisello Balsamo, 1999.

M. Pesce, *Le due fasi della predicazione di Paolo. Dall’evangelizzazione alla guida delle comunità*, EDB, Bologna, 1994.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be delivered via classroom lectures, with the active participation of students in discussion groups focusing on reading and analysing a selection of texts. Course material is made available in class and online through the Blackboard platform. Each person will have the opportunity to explore some of the most interesting topics and to share them in seminars.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The examination consists of an oral exam on both the general part (module 1) and the single-subject part (module 2).

The oral exam for module 1 will focus on issues relating to the definition and transmission of the New Testament canon, with an in-depth analysis of its constituent texts and their historical context.

The oral exam for module 2 will begin with reading and analysing the passages of the *Second Epistle to the Corinthians* that have been covered in lectures in order to outline, on the basis of textual tradition, Paul’s epistolary activity and the problems faced by the earliest Christian communities.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

You can choose to attend only one part of the course, with the general or single-subject part, for a total of 6 ECTS credits (one semester) or both for a total of 12 ECTS credits (two semesters). However, in order to attend only the single-subject part (semester 2), students must have taken the examination for the general part (semester 1), in the same academic year or in previous years.

There are no prerequisites for the general part of the course. The knowledge acquired on the general part is a prerequisite for attending the single-subject part.

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.