Latin Palaeography

Prof. Simona Gavinelli

Module 1: (1st semester)

COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course aims to outline the fundamental stages of Latin writing in the main book and documentary forms. The priority aim is, therefore, to furnish students with good technical and critical skills to evaluate and describe the ancient, medieval and modern graphic functions, inserted in the correct historical context, so recognising the typological and content differences as more or less conscious and controlled forms of communication (book, documentary, epigraphic). In addition to a vast panorama of images as iconographic baggage presented for didactic purposes, the interactive participation of students during lectures will also help them continuously verify their essential learning and increase their individual abilities in critical judgment and relating historical phenomena (related to the various graphic manifestations); it will also improve their skill in both oral presentations (in preparation for the exam) and in concise writing, the latter skill being specifically relevant for the exercise paper, individually agreed with the lecturer.

COURSE CONTENT

The educational path has as its primary aim the historical development of writing media. It therefore considers the diachronic evolution of broad-spectrum graphic systems, starting from prehistoric and pictographic writings of magical-sacred value, up to the Mediterranean basin writings, including the configuration of the Latin alphabet. In parallel, the evolution of writing media and tools is presented for a historical reconstruction of the document, the ancient and medieval book, their extenders and book and documentary deposits, through to the advent of movable type printing.

READING LIST

Some of the materials related to Module 1 (the general and specific reading list, and supplementary readings for the written exercise, especially graphic facsimiles, course pack and a palaeographic glossary by the lecturer) will be provided to students at lectures, during office hours.

General reference manuals for the document:

A. Pratesi, *Genesi e forme del documento medioevale,* Jouvence, Rome 1987, 2nd ed. (only for material aspects).

O. Guyotjeannin-J. Pycke-B.-M. Tock, *Diplomatique médiévale*, Brepols, Turnhout 1993 (L’atelier du médieviste, 2).

General reference manuals for the manuscript:

G. Battelli, *Lezioni di paleografia,* Pontificia Scuola Vaticana di Paleografia e Diplomatica, Città del Vaticano 1949, and subsequent editions.

B. Bischoff, *Paleografia latina: antichità e medioevo,* Italian edition edited by G. Mantovani and S. Zamponi, Antenore, Padua 1992, pp. 7-67, 255-340.

G. Cencetti, *Paleografia latina,* Jouvence, Rome 1978.

A. Petrucci, *Breve storia della scrittura latina,* new edition revised and updated, Bagatto Libri, Rome 1992.

TEACHING METHOD

Frontal lectures, possible supplementary educational visits to archives, libraries or museums; preparation of a written exercise, with guided assistance on topic guidelines and bibliographic citations (using the University's Blackboard platform and Microsoft Teams), for students to fully achieve the course aims set out in the study plans.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The exam is preceded by a short, written exercise to check the student's summarising skills and familiarity with the reading list citations. On the other hand, the student's oral argumentation will allow an assessment of their ability to work with and present the main course topics. The pertinence of the answers given, the appropriate use of specific terminology and the ability to relate phenomena will contribute to the assessment.

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

As this is an introductory course, there are no prerequisites for attending it. The topic of the written exercise will be personally agreed with the lecturer; the written test is completed prior to the oral exam.

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.

Module 2 (2nd semester)

COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course aims to further explore the diachronic and synchronic evolution of Latin writing. At the end of the course, as a disciplinary competence, students will be able to recognise the function of the various testimonies and reference graphic systems, then date and place them by describing their material aspects and contents, thus placing each document (manuscripts, archival documents, epigraphic forms) in the correct vehicle of cultural and memory transmission. In addition to the course, there are guided tours of some conservation libraries.

COURSE CONTENT

The course covers the centuries-old history of European Latin writing from Antiquity to the Renaissance through its protagonists: copyists, notaries, authors, clients, readers and bibliophiles, between professional intersections and a plurality of competences and graphic results. The progressive in-depth exploration will include the reading, analysis and transcription processes of original documents (also implemented through scheduled visits to libraries, archives or museums) or photographic facsimiles that can also be found through webliography.

READING LIST

Some of the materials related to Module 2 (the general and specific reading lists, supplementary readings for the written exercise, course pack and a palaeographic glossary edited by the lecturer, facsimiles and descriptive models) will be provided to students at lectures and made available with the study materials through the University's Blackboard platform.

General reference manuals for the history of writing:

G. Battelli, *Lezioni di paleografia,* Pontificia Scuola Vaticana di Paleografia e Diplomatica, Vatican City 1949, and subsequent editions.

B. Bischoff, *Paleografia latina: antichità e medioevo,* Italian edition edited by G. Mantovani and S. Zamponi, Antenore, Padua 1992, pp. 71-253.

G. Cencetti, *Paleografia latina,* Jouvence, Rome 1978.

P. Cherubini-A. Pratesi, *Paleografia latina. L’avventura grafica del mondo occidentale*, Scuola Vaticana di Paleografia, Diplomatica e Archivistica, Vatican City 2010 (Littera antiqua, 16).

A. Petrucci, *Breve storia della scrittura latina,* new edition revised and updated, Bagatto Libri, Rome 1992.

TEACHING METHOD

Frontal lectures, classroom practice, and individual in-depth study during the office hours, in person or remotely through the University's Blackboard platform using Microsoft Teams; preparation of a written exercise carried out with ongoing assistance and assigned to a library or archive for the autoptic inspection of materials.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The exam is preceded by the drafting of a written exercise involving the description and contextualisation of a palaeographic document; its aim is to verify the student's acquisition of technical, argumentative and bibliographic research competences. The final oral exam will also allow an assessment of the student's ability to work with and present on the main course topics. The pertinence of the answers given, the appropriate use of specific terminology, and the ability to relate individual phenomena will therefore contribute to the assessment.

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

Module 2 involves general knowledge of the material aspects of the palaeographic document presented in module 1. However, it requires a basic knowledge of the Latin language. The topic of the written exercise will be personally agreed with the lecturer; the written test is completed prior to the oral exam.

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.