# . – Civilizations of the ancient and medieval world

## Prof. Milena Raimondi

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

The general aim of the course is to introduce students to a basic, critical, and didactically oriented knowledge of ancient and medieval civilizations.

The specific aims of the course are: a) to promote a critical study of the discipline, paying particular attention to the documentary aspect, to the methodology of historical reconstruction and interpretation, and to the modern categories of historical periodisation; b) develop awareness of the importance of historical issues and figures from the ancient and medieval world in the subsequent development of world historical experience; c) grasp the educational and didactic relevance of the topics addressed.

At the end of the course, students will be able to: a) know and interpret the main historical phenomena of the ancient and medieval Mediterranean using an appropriate language; b) understand the specificities of the present in relation to the historical systems of the past; c) develop active citizenship skills in reference both to key aspects of citizenship emerging in the reflection of ancient and medieval civilizations, and to significant traces of the past that are permanent in the territory; d) build educational paths that develop the so-called ‘civilization frameworks’ with appropriate content and that connect issues of modernity and contemporaneity to cultural, political, and religious aspects rooted in the ancient and medieval past.

***COURSE CONTENT***

In consideration of the ‘National Guidelines’ provisions (2012), which assign to primary schools the learning of “the historical knowledge of the period between the appearance of man and late antiquity”, the course presents the main problems of periodisation and geohistorical orientation of prehistory and the civilisations of the ancient Near East. Then, it also focuses on the themes and protagonists of Greek civilisation, from Minoan protohistory to Hellenism, and of Roman civilisation, from its origins, in the context of ancient Italy, to Late Antiquity and the formation of the medieval world.

***READING LIST***

1. Materials provided in class and available on the Blackboard platform.

2. *Le Indicazioni nazionali per il curricolo della scuola dell’infanzia e del primo ciclo dell’istruzione*, 2012, pp. 41-45 (history); *Indicazioni nazionali e nuovi scenari*, 2018 (available on *Blackboard*).

3. G. Geraci-A. Marcone, *Storia antica. Dalla Preistoria al primo espandersi dell’Islam*, Mondadori Università, Florence, 2021. ISBN 978-88-6184-896-2.

4. A. Barbero-C. Frugoni, *Medioevo. Storia di voci, racconto di immagini*, Laterza, Bari, 2021. ISBN 97 8885 8119 297. (see Notes).

To understand ancient geographical references, we recommend referring to a historical atlas that students already have o that is available in the library.

To facilitate exam preparation, it is advisable to combine the study of the textbooks in reading list above with the consultation of a good ancient and medieval history manual used in high school, that students already have.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal and interactive classroom lessons, with the aid of the *Blackboard* multimedia platform. The topics are presented through the use of ancient sources (historical-literary texts in Italian translation, archaeological, monumental, epigraphic and numismatic sources), historical-geographical maps and multimedia tools.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is oral and consists of an interview with questions relating to the topics of the course, the materials published in Blackboard and the reading list.

The assessment criteria are: a) knowledge of the topics covered in class and in the exam reading list, with adequate chronological and geographical framework; b) clarity of presentation and command of the language; c) ability to establish significant historical connections between the various civilisations covered during the course; d) ability to grasp the different historical links between antiquity and contemporaneity.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course does not require any prior knowledge of the contents or classical languages.

All the updated information necessary for preparing for the exam is published on Blackboard and is provided in detail by the teacher at the beginning of the course and in class.

Information on office hours available on the teacher's personal page at <http://docenti.unicatt.it/>.