



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO

ID

VP108_DIP_STUDIUM

Visiting Professor Program Academic year 2022/2023

TEACHING COMMITMENT: 15 hours

COURSE TITLE

"Political communication" in the medieval Italian cities, between speech and images (14th-15th centuries).

TEACHING PERIOD

1st term

SCIENTIFIC AREA

Medieval History

LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH

Italian

COURSE SUMMARY

The course aims to deepen and investigate the most important forms of medieval communication, with a focus on both their content and tools ("media").

Whilst the term "political communication" did not exist in the Middle Ages, the forms of political communication developed and diversified in Western Europe between the Twelfth and Fifteenth centuries, with the strengthening of urban institutions, monarchy, and papacy. Such are all speeches supporting peace, war, justice, concord or common good, that is relating to the polis's values and men's life, besides all discourses supporting territorial conquests and crusades. Forms of these discourses were various (political songs, speeches by laymen and clergymen, sermons and lay eloquence, wall paintings and painted inscriptions), along with the actors (court poets, preachers, lay orators, painters).

The course will therefore consider both the agents and the recipients of such "political communication" in late medieval Italian cities, as well as the images as an effective visual communication tool:

- I. The infamous painting;
- II. The painted churches in Pope's Palace in Avignon as a representation of the papal territory;

- III. The frescoes of the “Buon Governo” (Siena, Palazzo Pubblico);
- IV. Sienese civic rituals as a celebration of the painted Majesty and ruler;
- V. The Flagellation of Christ and the Baptism of Piero della Francesca, between politics and religion.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The aim of the course is to teach students on the various aspect of medieval communication, as well as its tools and goals. Furthermore, students will have the opportunity to learn about the relevance of images as sources for historical knowledge.

TUTORSHIP ACTIVITIES

N/A

LAB ACTIVITIES

N/A

OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDES THE COURSE

Dissemination conference and Conference addressed to PhD students

VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE

Medieval scholar;

Expert in medieval iconography;

Expert in the history of medieval municipal society and political communication;

Expert in lay preaching and eloquence in late medieval Italian history;

Author of articles and monographs on the public speeches and painting in late medieval Italian cities, in a cross-national perspective.

CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT

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