



Visiting Professor Program Academic Year 2024/2025

TEACHING COMMITMENT: 12 hours

COURSE TITLE

Social History of the Middle Ages

TEACHING PERIOD

2nd term

SCIENTIFIC AREA

Medieval history

LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH

English

COURSE SUMMARY

Medieval European cities have always been among the main interests of historical research, being the junction of migrations, the core of social and economic transformation, and the centre of peculiar political and institutional development in the various parts of Europe. The course offers an investigation into the medieval city over the long term and in a European comparative perspective, aimed at highlighting common features and specific development of urban centres in Italy as well as Europe. Through scholarly literature and collective analysis of written, material and iconographic sources, various themes will be taken into account: among them, forms and types of urban space, architecture, demographic and economic change, forms of social stratification, political and institutional development, as well as the relationship between the cities and ecclesiastical institutions. The visiting professor is expected to offer lectures on English medieval towns.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course offers a view on the medieval city in Europe, by examining the role, forms and changes which invested urban centres in comparative perspective in the long term. The themes and questions, as well as the skills developed during the course, are an essential part of the degree; this teaching module aims therefore at offering specific training in the historical field, especially in the framework of the History degree. In particular, the course intends to offer knowledge and develop the capacity for critical thinking regarding medieval urban history, alongside direct work on sources, which will enable a better understanding of the processes of creation of historical knowledge. The visiting professor is expected to present sources on English towns.

OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDES THE COURSE

A seminar for PhD students will be requested on the themes of English medieval towns and their politics. Further seminars will be held in the context of the ERC project DEMALPS.

VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE

The visiting professor must be an expert in late medieval European history, with a specific focus on social and political issues of urban history, and special attention to written sources. Research experience on comparative projects of urban history will be needed to develop the teaching activity.

CONTACT REFERENT

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