



Direzione Ricerca,
Innovazione e
Internazionalizzazione

**UNIVERSITÀ
DI TORINO**

ID

VP_176_STO

Visiting Professor Program Academic Year 2025/2026

TEACHING COMMITMENT: 12 hours

COURSE TITLE

History of Sabaudian States: Institutions, Society and Culture

TEACHING PERIOD

II semester

SCIENTIFIC AREA

Early Modern History

LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH

Italian

COURSE SUMMARY

The course will illustrate the main institutional, social and cultural structures of an ancient Italian State, for centuries suspended between a European identity and a network of peninsular relations. The periodization 1416-1848 will place the lessons between the duchy of Amadeus VIII and the conclusion of the reign of Charles Albert of Savoy-Carignan.

The key to interpretation will use the category of "composite State", instead of "absolute State / modern State", to retrace events of the ancient regime Sabaudian States market not only by frequent relations or clashes with other State realities, but by the coexistence, under the same dynasty, of heterogeneous territories from a social, cultural, linguistic and religious point of view. In this dimension of the ancient regime, the Savoy court will be restored to its central role as a place of power, a crossroads of international contacts and cultural models. During the lessons will be illustrated and historicized, in a comparative perspective, the main historiographical texts around the topics covered by the course.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The teaching is aimed at restoring the institutional, economic, social and cultural events that affected the Savoy States: a plural formula not born today, but which from the 15th century to the promulgation of Carlo Alberto's Statute characterised this political space. A long time span, which intends to re-discuss more established periodizations, during which the geography of the states changed considerably on both sides of the Alps. So, the aim is not only to offer a historiographically up-to-date picture, but also, and above all, to put a composite state reality into due perspective. The 19th century division of Piedmont and Savoy into two different nations led, in fact, to the development of two historiographies that rarely spoke to each other and not infrequently projected contemporary fractures onto the past.

The main objective is therefore to enable the student to understand some important transformations produced in the turn from a long ancien regime to the century of nations.

OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDE THE COURSE

VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE

A historian with several scholarly publications to his/her credit on the subject of royal sites and court life (practices and rituals) during the ancient regime. A scholar able to lecture in Italian, mastering the best international historiography on the topic proposed by the course.

CONTACT REFERENT

Paola Bianchi
paola.bianchi@unito.it