



Direzione Ricerca,  
Innovazione e  
Internazionalizzazione

**UNIVERSITÀ  
DI TORINO**

ID

**VP\_190\_STUDIUM**

## **Visiting Professor Program Academic Year 2025/2026**

**TEACHING COMMITMENT:** 24 hours

### **COURSE TITLE**

**Advanced Course in Classical Philology: "The Indica of Arrian: Insights in Ancient Geography through the Lens of Philology"**

### **TEACHING PERIOD**

II semester

### **SCIENTIFIC AREA**

Classical Philology

### **LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH**

English, French

### **COURSE SUMMARY**

The topic of the course is "Arrian's Indika: insights in ancient geography through the lens of philology".

Arrian's Indika contains one of the most ancient descriptions of ancient India and its inhabitants; moreover, it provides an account of the naval expedition led in 325-324 BCE by admiral Nearchos upon request of Alexander the Great. Nearchos departed from the Indus River basin, passed through the Persian gulf, and arrived to the mouth of the Tigris river. He met with several indigenous populations along the route, whose physical aspect and customs are described with particular attention by Arrian.

After a general overview of the main features of ancient geographic and ethnographic literature, the course will focus, firstly, on the Greek text of Arrian and its manuscript transmission (with direct examination, through digital images, of some of the most relevant manuscripts; and discussion of the most difficult passages, if necessary proposing new solutions for the reconstruction of the text

); secondly, on the translation and commentary of a selection of passages, also in the light of the most recent research findings; thirdly, on parallels with other ancient sources and literary traditions concerning the same regions and peoples described by Arrian.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of the course, students will:

- acquire a thorough knowledge of the Indika of Arrian;
- become familiar with a wide range of primary sources (e.g. manuscripts, documents, and printed editions) and the related secondary literature;
- learn how to reconstruct literary texts by working on first-hand sources;
- use the example of Arrian (a man of Greek origin who was citizen of the Roman empire) as a paradigm to study how the ancient Greeks and Romans viewed foreign peoples and related to their customs and traditions; students will be encouraged to apply this knowledge to understand present day phenomena.

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDE THE COURSE**

In addition to promoting co-operation and exchanges with other faculty members of the University, the instructor will organize a conference that will allow students to expound the results of their research and receive feedback from peers and faculty. Seco

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### **VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE**

She/he is a leading expert in the field of either Classical Philology or Greek language and literature; she/he has published widely in the field of ancient geography/ethnography; she/he has also a good experience in editing ancient Greek sources.

### **CONTACT REFERENT**

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