



**Medieval History - Autumn Semester 2020**

Prof. Valerio Ascani

**Syllabus:**

The course intends to introduce students to the basic concepts of History of Art as a scientific discipline, to its methodology and terminology, and to the familiarization with the phenomenological and stylistic aspects of Italian artistic production in the medieval millennium. The course is structured in lectures and visits, which will allow students to directly check and apply the theoretical concepts learned in a live description and discussion of monuments.

**Main Goals:**

The course involves the analysis of a choice of Tuscan medieval monuments, framed with comparative historical-critical methodology, through the structural and semantic examination of the art works, in the light of cultural, anthropological and technical aspects of medieval society.

During the lectures and visits, significant exponents of the different types of artefacts will be examined, with constant reference to the Medieval political-cultural and socio-economic background, to identify their meaning and function in the society that produced them, as well as the role of patrons, artists and the public in their genesis.

**Readings:**

M. STOKSTAD, *Medieval Art*, Boulder, USA, 2004

V. ASCANI, *The Leaning Tower of Pisa. Concept and realization of a Medieval masterpiece*, Pisa 2014

V. ASCANI, *Tuscan-Ticinese Sculptors in Diecimo and Barga in the thirteenth century*, in *Art in the Serchio Valley. Treasures in the Garfagnana and Mediavalle from the Early Middle Ages to the twentieth century*, ed. A. Ducci, S. Martinelli, Lucca 2018, pp. 81-106.

**Lesson 1. Gio 10/10/2019 12:00-13:30 (2:0 h) lezione: Introduction to Medieval Art (VALERIO ASCANI)**

**Lesson 2. Mar 15/10/2019 12:00-13:30 (2:0 h) lezione: Periodization in Medieval art (VALERIO ASCANI)**

**Lesson 3. Gio 17/10/2019 12:00-13:30 (2:0 h) lezione: Localization of Medieval art (VALERIO ASCANI)**

**Lesson 4. Ven 18/10/2019 14:00-17:45 (5:0 h) fuori sede: The Cathedral of Pisa and its architectural compound (VALERIO ASCANI)**



**Lesson 5. Mar 22/10/2019 12:00-13:30 (2:0 h) lezione: Typologies in Medieval Art (VALERIO ASCANI)**

**Lesson 6. Gio 24/10/2019 12:00-13:30 (2:0 h) lezione: Techinque in Medieval art (VALERIO ASCANI)**

**Lesson 7. Mar 29/10/2019 12:00-13:30 (2:0 h) lezione: Composition in Medieval art (VALERIO ASCANI)**

**Lesson 8. Gio 31/10/2019 12:00-13:30 (2:0 h) lezione: Iconography in Medieval art (VALERIO ASCANI)**

**Lesson 9. Mar 05/11/2019 12:00-13:30 (2:0 h) lezione: Style in Medieval art (VALERIO ASCANI)**

**Lesson 10. Gio 07/11/2019 12:00-13:30 (2:0 h) lezione: Patrons in Medieval art (VALERIO ASCANI)**

**Lesson 11. Ven 08/11/2019 14:45-18:30 (5:0 h) fuori sede: The Romanesque churches of Lucca and their sculpted decoration (VALERIO ASCANI)**

**Lesson 12. Mar 12/11/2019 12:00-13:30 (2:0 h) lezione: Artist in Medieval art (VALERIO ASCANI)**

**Lesson 13. Gio 14/11/2019 12:00-13:30 (2:0 h) lezione: Public in Medieval art (VALERIO ASCANI)**

**Lesson 14. Mar 19/11/2019 12:00-13:30 (2:0 h) lezione: Medieval art: case studies (VALERIO ASCANI)**

**Lesson 15. Gio 21/11/2019 12:00-13:30 (2:0 h) lezione: Medieval art and its meaning today (VALERIO ASCANI)**

#### **Final exam**

The first question will be an orientation test, based on the description of the image of a monument or work of art discussed during the lessons. Further questions will be on the books listed in the exam Bibliography, and a final one will involve the personal dissertation subject on which students will have conducted a specific written research.