COURSE DETAIL

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND STORAGE BEFORE THE PRINTED BOOK
Country Italy
Host Institution University of Bologna
Program(s) University of Bologna
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) History
UCEAP Course Number 181
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND STORAGE BEFORE THE PRINTED BOOK
UCEAP Transcript Title KNWLDG BEFORE BOOKS
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

This course is part of the Laurea Magistrale program. The course is intended for advanced level students only. Enrollment is by consent of the instructor. This course offers an understanding of the different systems of attainment, transfer, and conservation of knowledge in ancient societies all over the world. The course focuses on the methods and procedures for exchanging and archiving wisdom in different cultures and offers a comparison with regard to specific aims and effectiveness in storing knowledge and information, with attention to material aspects. Emphasis is also placed on recently established databases that aim to collect data and texts of ancient authors and literary works, and to carve out new tendencies in the conception of modern storage systems on the basis of a widened perspective regarding the classification of cultural memories. Highlights of the course are the recent developments in Digital Papyrology and interdisciplinary and intercultural connections, as well as the application of different scientific approaches. The course focuses on how different ancient cultures across the world, from Greek-Latin to Indian, Chinese, Meso-American and the like, have faced and solved the problem of the organization and transmission of written data, both in the documentary field (the texts of everyday life and of administration: letters, accounts, contracts, lists) and in the literary field (books). Particular attention is placed on how, within different pre-modern cultural systems, people conceived and organized their archives. The preferred methodological approach is that of archiving as a social practice, which in turn allows for a cross-cultural comparison of phenomena beyond the European and modern idea of archive. Among the points to be explored are the difference between documents that can be discarded or that must be preserved (short or long term); the different ways of organizing the material writing support and – where possible – the physical place where the texts are stored; finally, the course refocuses attention on the activities of non-elite players and generally stresses the diffusion of archival practices throughout societies. Special attention is devoted to the implications of this methodological approach to the digitalization of ancient archives.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number
90051

Host Institution Course Title
KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND STORAGE BEFORE THE PRINTED BOOK (LM)

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.unibo.it/en/teaching/course-unit-catalogue/course-unit/2021/443588

Host Institution Campus
BOLOGNA

Host Institution Faculty
HISTORY

Host Institution Degree
LM in History

Host Institution Department
LETTERE

Course Last Reviewed
2021-2022

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