# COURSE DETAIL

| CROSS-CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS IN THE MEDIEVAL WORLD |
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| **Country**<br>Italy |
| **Host Institution**<br>University of Bologna |
| **Program(s)**<br>University of Bologna |
| **UCEAP Course Level**<br>Upper Division |
| **UCEAP Subject Area(s)**<br>History |
| **UCEAP Course Number**<br>185 |
| **UCEAP Course Suffix** |
| **UCEAP Official Title**<br>CROSS-CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS IN THE MEDIEVAL WORLD |
| **UCEAP Transcript Title**<br>CROSS CLTR ENCONTRS |
| **UCEAP Quarter Units**<br>6.00 |
| **UCEAP Semester Units**<br>4.00 |

**Course Description**

This course is part of the Laurea Magistrale degree program and is intended for advanced level students. Enrollment is by permission of the instructor. The course focuses on the main theoretical and methodological tools of global and intercultural perspectives for the study of the medieval world including religious phenomena and dynamics. This course shows how to critically identify the socio-cultural matrix of religions, as well as connections, developments, persistence, and transformations of religious phenomena with a critical approach to periodization and can address and solve issues related to the management of cultural and religious pluralism. With a focus on the medieval Mediterranean and the routes to Asia from 1000 to 1500, this course analyzes patterns of religious, commercial, and intellectual communication between Latins, Eastern Christians, Arabs, and Mongols, with attention to the sociopolitical implications of interaction between groups in complex societies. The first part of the course provides the main theoretical tools for a history of cross-cultural encounters in pre-modern times, looking in particular at the Mongol Empire and the Mediterranean Sea as connecting spaces. Afterwards, the focus is on a series of case studies, based on which the class empirically observes patterns of interaction, representation of otherness, and circulation of goods, peoples, and ideas across linguistic, religious, and cultural boundaries and on different scales. Specific attention is devoted to the plurality of representations of the “Orient” produced or circulating in late medieval Europe, regarding them as crucial objects of cultural and religious history. The course discusses how non-Latin and non-Christian peoples fit into Western categories of representations, and what knowledge about Near- and Far-Eastern regions was actually available in the West. By examining specific cases, based on Eastern and Western sources, the course explores the different ways in which medieval travelers took otherness into account, whether internal or external to Christianity, and examines how these accounts fit into precise intellectual schemes and political and religious agendas.

**Language(s) of Instruction**
English

**Host Institution Course Number**
81958

**Host Institution Course Title**
CROSS-CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS IN THE MEDIEVAL WORLD (1)(LM)

**Host Institution Course Details**
https://www.unibo.it/en/teaching/course-unit-catalogue/course-unit/2023/478917

**Host Institution Campus**
BOLOGNA

**Host Institution Faculty**

**Host Institution Degree**
LM in HISTORY AND ORIENTAL STUDIES

**Host Institution Department**
HISTORY AND CULTURES

**Course Last Reviewed**
2023-2024

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