

COURSE DETAIL

CROSS-CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS IN THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

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

185

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

CROSS-CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS IN THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

UCEAP Transcript Title

CROSS CLTR ENCONTRS

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

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

Host Institution Campus

BOLOGNA

Host Institution Faculty**Host Institution Degree**

LM in HISTORY AND ORIENTAL STUDIES

Host Institution Department

HISTORY AND CULTURES

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