



## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course addresses the issue of Europe, from its origins. Therefore, in the first part of the course we will focus on some significant writings by Ambrose, Augustine, Benedict and Bernard. The readings will be interspersed with visits to the Basilica of Saint Ambrose (Milan), the Abbey of Clarivaux (Milan), the Basilica of San Pietro in Ciel d'Oro and La Certosa di Pavia (Pavia – 20 minutes from Milan). These will provide concrete examples of the material we will studied. Dr. Mara Zubelli, an expert in art history, and Dr. Andrea Beneggi, a Ph.D. in medieval history, will be our official guides.

In the next part of the course we will then retrace the highlights of cultural history, observing the evolution of Western thought according to a certain conception of man. A useful tool in our reflection will be the study of Rémi Brague, a French philosopher and winner of the 2012 Ratzinger Prize. We will read some important pages from his work, followed by discussion and research in small groups. In the final part of the course we will deal with the current structure of Europe through two meetings: in the first we will converse about Research and Market with Lara Comi, the youngest Italian member of the European Parliament, and in the second we will speak with Francesco Laera, Representative Office of the European Commission in Milan, with whom we will analyze the workings of research in Europe for the university.

## PREREQUISITES

None

## METHOD OF TEACHING

Group of researches, Lectures

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Regular class attendance is required, moreover all students are invited to actively take part in class debate and case discussions. All reading assignments must be completed on time. Students will have to take two exams: one midterm and one final. The midterm exam will consist in an open-questions quiz, while the final exam will include the elaboration of an essay.

## CREDITS

3 US / 6 ECTS credits

## GRADING

Attendance and class participation	20 % of final grade
Group assignments + class presentation	20 % of final grade
Midterm test	20 % of final grade
Final written exam	40 % of final grade

## COURSE READINGS AND MATERIALS

R. Brague, *Europe. La voie romane*, Criterion, Paris 1992; English translation *Eccentric Culture. A Theory of Western Civilization*, translated by S.H. Lester, St Augustine's Press, South Bend 2002, 205 p. —Reprint (paperback), 2009.

G. Delanty, *Formations of European Modernity: A Historical and Political Sociology of Europe*, Palgrave Macmillan, London 2013.

Students will be given a collection of texts of Ambrose, Augustine, Benedict, Bernard chosen by the

Detailed syllabi will be submitted upon beginning of class or upon request

(send to [international.advisor@unicatt.it](mailto:international.advisor@unicatt.it))



UNIVERSITÀ  
CATTOLICA  
del Sacro Cuore

**Europe and Modernity.  
Ambrose, Augustine, Benedict, Bernard (PL/TH301)  
Prof. Elisa Grimi**

Instructor, and also preparatory texts to the visits. A good reading suggested for a general background is: E. Gilson, *La philosophie au Moyen Age, des origines patristiques à la fin du XIVe siècle*, Deuxième édition, revue et augmenté, Payot, Paris 1944; F. Clopestone, *A History of Philosophy*, voll. II, III.

During the course students will be provided by a detailed bibliography in regard to the single issue. The reading of these texts further specified is optional. This adding bibliography is a help for a full understanding of the topics and for a further investigation of the issues in view, e.g., of a dissertation.

All the readings will be available in a course on Blackboard.

### BIO OF INSTRUCTOR

**Elisa Grimi**, after completing a scientific high school with perfect marks (100/100), she graduated cum laude in philosophy at the Catholic University of Milan. Subsequently, she continued her studies in the same University, achieving a second level degree in "Logic and Philosophy of Science" cum laude. She received her Ph.D. and Doctor Europaeus (Ph.D. European Label) from the University of Genoa. During her studies she improved her research in several universities, Leopold-Franzens Universität Innsbruck, California State University East Bay, University of Oxford, University of Chicago. She was Teaching Assistant in Philosophy and Theology at the Catholic University in Milan and for 2013-2014 she was Researcher at Campostrini Foundation in Verona. On 30 May 2014 she received the Paolo Michele Erede Foundation First Prize for a work on Politics and Network. She is member of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy, Italian Society for Kantian Studies, Italian Association for Philosophy of Religion, The American Philosophical Association and Editor-In-Chief of the International Journal of philosophy "Philosophical News" ([www.philosophicalnews.com](http://www.philosophicalnews.com)). She is Project Manager of Philojotter.com. She is author of several essays and of these books: the first Italian monograph, *G.E.M. Anscombe. The Dragon Lady*, with some direct testimonies, Cantagalli, Siena 2014, R. Bague, *Contro l'umanismo e il cristianismo*, in print with Cantagalli, Siena 2014, *Tradition and Innovation. A Study*, in print with Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle Upon Tyne 2014.

### E-MAIL ADDRESS

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