

**Master in ARCHIVE AND LIBRARY THEORY AND MANAGEMENT**  
**1041852 PALEOGRAPHY AND DIPLOMATICS**  
**a.y. 2023-2024**

**Timetable (from Monday 2nd October 2023)**

Monday	12-14	Aula di Paleografia "Paola Supino Martini" - III fl.
Wednesday	10-12	Aula di Paleografia "Paola Supino Martini" - III fl.
Wednesday (practical exercises)	12-14	Aula di Paleografia "Paola Supino Martini" - III fl.
Friday	10-12	Aula di Paleografia "Paola Supino Martini" - III fl.

**Programme**

Introduction to Paleography: lexicon and basic notions. The fundamental stages of the history of handwriting in the Latin world. The dialectic between maiuscule/minuscule and between calligraphic hand/cursive hand. From a unified system to particularism to a newfound unity. Writings of scholars, merchants, notaries in the Middle Ages. The return to ancient models by the Humanists and modern handwritings.

Introduction to Diplomatics: the concept of diplomatic document. Writing, law and documentation system. Basic forms of documents. Read, understand, date and criticize a diplomatic document.

The classroom exercises are intended to: make reading practice of handwritings of various ages and origin; gain confidence with the medieval abbreviation system and with the most common chronological uses in Europe; critically analyze diplomatic documents of various kind and from different periods.

**Adopted Texts**

- Giorgio Cencetti, *Vecchi e nuovi orientamenti nello studio della paleografia*, «La Bibliofilia», L (1948), pp. 4-23 (repr. in Giorgio Cencetti, *Scritti di paleografia*, ed. by Giovanna Nicolaj, 2nd ed., Dietikon-Zürich, Urs Graf Verlag, 1995, pp. 23-45).
- Armando Petrucci, *Breve storia della scrittura latina*, Roma, Il Bagatto, 1992 (or later repr.).
- Giovanna Nicolaj, *Lezioni di diplomatica generale*. I. *Istituzioni*, Roma 2007, capp. I, II (§§ 1-2, 7), III (§§ 1-9, 13).
- Giovanna Nicolaj, *Sentieri di diplomatica*, «Archivio storico italiano», 144 (1986), pp. 305-311 (repr. in Giovanna Nicolaj, *Storie di documenti, storie di libri. Quarant'anni di studi, ricerche e vagabondaggi nell'età antica e medievale*, ed. by Cristina Mantegna, Dietikon-Zürich, Urs Graf Verlag, 2013, pp. 26-37).

**Bibliography. Supplementary and in-depth Texts**

As an introduction to the topics covered in the course (expecially for students who have never dealt with similar topics), it may be useful reading:

- Armando Petrucci, *Prima lezione di paleografia*, Roma-Bari, Laterza, 2002.

To facilitate the understanding of the manuscript book and its cultural value over the centuries, you can also read:

- Bernhard Bischoff, *Paleografia latina. Antichità e medioevo*, ed. it. a cura di Gilda P. Mantovani e Stefano Zamponi, Padova, Antenore, 1992, pp. 5-67 e 255-340 (also in English: Bernhard Bischoff, *Latin Palaeography. Antiquity and the Middle Ages*, transl. by. Dáibhí Ó Cróinín and David Ganz, Cambridge, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1990, pp. 7-48 and 179-238).

As a supplement on the more traditional issues of diplomatics I suggest reading:

- Cesare Paoli, *Diplomatica*. Nuova edizione aggiornata da G.C. Bascapè, Firenze, Sansoni, 1942 (anast. repr. Firenze, Le Lettere, 1987), capp. III, IV (excluding pp. 172-175) and V.

The following texts can facilitate individual study and exam preparation:

- Adriano Cappelli, *Dizionario di abbreviature latine*, 7th ed., Milano, Hoepli, 2011, online <http://www.hist.msu.ru/Departments/Medieval/Cappelli/index.html> (3rd ed. in pdf online: <https://archive.org/details/CappelliDizionarioDiAbbreviature>).
- Adriano Cappelli, *Cronologia cronografia e calendario perpetuo*, 7a ed., Milano, Hoepli, 1998 (selected pages of the introduction, with notions of general chronology, online <https://books.google.it/books?id=949QIVQXCngC&printsec=frontcover&hl=it#v=onepage&q&f=false>; anast. repr. of the 2nd ed. online: <https://archive.org/details/CappelliCronologiaCronografiaCalendarioPerpetuo>).

To prepare for the exam, students can use the collections of facsimiles with transcription owned by the Department Library, such as:

- Wilhelm Arndt - Michael Tangl, *Schrifttafeln zur Erlernung der lateinischen Paläographie*, 3 Teile in einem Band, Berlin, G. Grote'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1904-1907 (repr. Hildesheim/New York 1976), also online: <http://digital.ub.uni-duesseldorf.de/urn:urn:nbn:de:hbz:061:1-147265>.
- Vincenzo Federici, *La scrittura delle cancellerie italiane del secolo XII al XVII*, Roma, P. Sansaini, 1934 (online: text <https://archive.org/details/731301> and plates <https://archive.org/details/731302>).
- Joachim Kirchner, *Scriptura latina libraria a saeculo primo usque ad finem Medii Aevi LXXVII imaginibus illustrata*, Editio altera, Monachii, Oldenbourg, 1970.
- Joachim Kirchner, *Scriptura gothica libraria a saeculo XII usque ad finem Medii Aevi LXXXVII imaginibus illustrata*, Monachii, Oldenbourg, 1966.
- Franz Steffens, *Paléographie Latine*, Paris, Trèves, 1910 (online <https://archive.org/details/paleographielatinesteffens/mode/2up>; online in 3 parts also [https://icar.cultura.gov.it/fileadmin/risorse/Manuali\\_Letteratura/02\\_Steffens\\_1-35-2021\\_A.pdf](https://icar.cultura.gov.it/fileadmin/risorse/Manuali_Letteratura/02_Steffens_1-35-2021_A.pdf); [https://icar.cultura.gov.it/fileadmin/risorse/Manuali\\_Letteratura/03\\_Steffens\\_36-79-2021\\_B.pdf](https://icar.cultura.gov.it/fileadmin/risorse/Manuali_Letteratura/03_Steffens_36-79-2021_B.pdf); [https://icar.cultura.gov.it/fileadmin/risorse/Manuali\\_Letteratura/04\\_Steffens\\_80-125-2021\\_C.pdf](https://icar.cultura.gov.it/fileadmin/risorse/Manuali_Letteratura/04_Steffens_80-125-2021_C.pdf)).
- *Paleografia latina: tavole*, ed. by Alessandro Pratesi and Paolo Cherubini, Città del Vaticano, Scuola vaticana di paleografia, diplomatica e archivistica, 2004 (Subsidia studiorum, 3).

Students will receive other indications on facsimile collections (also online) during the course.

### Prerequisites

A basic knowledge of the history of the Latin West (Late Antiquity - Early Modern Age) and an elementary knowledge of the Latin language will be very useful.

### Study modes

The practical exercises performed by the teacher in the classroom form an integral part of the course and support the lectures. The practical exercises correspond to 2 ECTS, or 24 hours of application (art. 23, 2nd co., Regolamento didattico Sapienza).

### Frequency modes

Non-attending students (all lessons/some lessons) are strictly required to contact the teacher.

### Exam modes

The exam consists of an oral test and a practical test linked together, which contribute in equal parts to the evaluation.

The oral exam will consist in the exposition of one or more topics of palaeography and diplomatics discussed in the classroom and/or in the course bibliography. The practical test will serve to demonstrate the student's ability to recognize and read, and also to locate, date, critically analyze (from the historical and cultural point of view) one or more examples of handwriting. The ability to identify the typology of one or more examples of diplomatic document, to recognize and comment on forms, parts or significant elements of the document under examination, to verify dates and computations of dating will also be verified.

The practical test will be carried out on examples not previously illustrated in the classroom.

The assessment will take into account not only the knowledge and skills acquired, but also the autonomy in establishing links between the different topics, the critical and interpretative capacity manifested in the discussion, the mastery of scientific language; the assessment will also take into account the participation in teaching activities during the course. The level of mastery of all these factors will determine the vote.