

Call for applications for admission to the

"From shelf to byte. A history of writing from the ancient to the contemporary world." Summer School Bologna, June 27th – July 08th, 2016

The Summer School "From shelf to byte. A history of writing from the ancient to the contemporary world" is a two-week intensive course dedicated to the history of handwriting and of the book in the West, organized by the **RAM (Ricerche e Analisi Manoscritti) Study Centre of the Department of Classics and Italian Studies of the University of Bologna** in collaboration with the **College of Liberal Arts** and the **College of Advancing and Professional Studies of the University of Massachusetts Boston**.

This historical approach is not only a study of literacy and traditions that have almost disappeared, but also an amazing journey into a cultural spaces whose heritage survives also - although in new and different shapes - in the contemporary world and throughout the digital era. This course seeks to discover the several cultural links between the past and the present of the handwriting and of one of its most important results: the book.

During this intensive immersion in the life of the University of Bologna - the oldest continuously operating University in the world - students will examine the conventions of writing that become established over time within writing spaces, from ancient scrolls and medieval manuscripts to blogging platforms. Considering carefully the structure and placement of text within these environments, students will learn the basic principles of **Latin Paleography**. In addition to this hands-on work, students will critically analyze the relationship between the physical environments for texts and the content of the texts themselves - from the vast importance of annotation in medieval law books to abbreviations in texts and tweets of today. This work will help students to identify the rhetorical principles that shape interactions between writers and their audiences over time, and to assess the implications for our understanding of the past, present, and future of text technologies.

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Much of the course, therefore, will be devoted to handling and describing the ancient Bolognese manuscripts that contain early examples of writing and page design.

Drawing on the innovative methods of **Digital Humanities**, students will contextualize their archival research within read-write platforms, such as blogs, wikis, Facebook status updates, and Twitter feeds, in order to identify the shifting character of writing conventions today.

Finally, through some lessons and practical exercises of **Calligraphy**, students will see firsthand the value, the potentialities and the beauty of longhand writing.

DATES AND VENUE

Dates: from June 27th to July 08th, 2016

Venue: Department of History, Cultures and Civilizations (Piazza S. Giovanni in Monte, 2 - Bologna), Aula Gualandi

CLASSES

The school offers an intensive two-week course scheduled as follows:

- 44 hours of classwork;
- 11 hours of lessons in libraries and archives;
- 24 hours of cultural activities;
- one-day trip.

Classes will take place from Monday to Friday and will be managed as lectures, with the direct involvement of students and with practical reading exercises and interpretation of ancient manuscripts.

Part of the course will occur at the main cultural institutes of the city, so that

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students will have direct contact with handwritten sources and will test first-hand some of the arguments analyzed during the classes.

Course assignments will include blogging about course readings and field experiences, and a description of one of the manuscripts analyzed during the course.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The course will include several visits to museums, archives and libraries and to representative artistic and historical sites of Bologna, in order to bring participants closer to Italy and to the Italian University life and culture.

Students will also enjoy a one-day trip to Ferrara.

All teaching and activities will be in English.

Please refer to the link on this page for a detailed **syllabus**.

TUITION FEE

Fee: 1.150,00 EUR

Fee covers: registration, teaching material, cultural activities (tickets and guides to museums, libraries and archives, guided tours, train to Ferrara), UNIBO Students' policy fee and a final lunch.

Travels, meals and accommodation are not included.

Participants should complete their registration by transferring the fee via Bank Transfer to:

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DIPARTIMENTO DI FILOLOGIA CLASSICA E ITALIANISTICA A.10.N5
Via Zamboni 32, 40126 Bologna-
Unicredit Banca Filiale Bologna Aldrovandi- Codice filiale 3307-
IBAN: IT78B0200802457000102271420
BIC SWIFT UNCRITM1PM7

The registration is completed only after the full payment of the tuition fee.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR GROUPS

A special **13% discount** on the tuition fee will be applied on groups of more than 12 students.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Students must be aged 18 years or older at the time of the on-line application; High School diploma is required.

Course is open to students (undergraduate and post-graduate) and non-students alike: no specific qualification is required for course admission. Previous knowledge of Italian or Latin is preferable, but not required. At the time of the registration, nevertheless, candidates will have to fill in a short preliminary test, so to define the base level of each participant.

The Summer School will take place only if a **minimum of 10 participants** apply.

If the courses are not activated, only the already paid course fee (not travel tickets) will be refunded.

If the course takes place and the students fail to attend, the already paid course fee will not be refunded.

FINAL CERTIFICATION

The Summer School Coordinators will deliver a certification of attendance to all

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the students who attended all the classes.

Conclusions, comments and observations about the course will be collected at the end of the two weeks, in order to improve future editions of the Summer School.

APPLICATION FORM

Candidates must fill in the application form provided below.

In order to complete the enrollment, students should send the following materials:

- Application form
- Preliminary Test
- Copy of the Identity Card or Passport
- Copy of the receipt of Enrollment Fee

Send all the materials to: paleografia.ram@unibo.it

Please specify in the email subject: "From shelf to byte. Summer School 2016"

Deadline for application: **May 15th, 2016**

CONTACTS

The Coordinator of the Summer School is Prof. Maddalena Modesti of the RAM (*Ricerche e Analisi Manoscritti*) Study Centre of the Department of Classics and Italian Studies of the University of Bologna.

For any further information, please contact: paleografia.ram@unibo.it

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