Ciclo di lezioni a valere come tirocinio (2 cfu)

**ANIMAL SYMBOLISM**
**IN THE RELIGIOUS IMAGERY**
**WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE NEAR EAST AND THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT**

Docente responsabile Prof. Raffaele Torella

**Docenti:**
Prof.ssa Małgorzata Sacha (Università Jagiellonica di Cracovia)
Dott.ssa Chiara Policardi (Sapienza Università di Roma)

4, 11, 18 NOVEMBRE, ORE 10-13
2 DICEMBRE, ORE 10-13
9, 16 DICEMBRE, ORE 11-13

Circonvallazione Tiburtina, 4
Ex Poste scalo San Lorenzo
ANIMAL SYMBOLISM IN THE RELIGIOUS IMAGERY
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE NEAR EAST
AND THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

(DOCENTE RESPONSABILE: PROF. RAFFAELE TORELLA)

Orari (da confermare)
4, 11, 18 novembre, 2 dicembre, ore 10-13 (aula 104 ex-Poste)
9, 16 dicembre, ore 11-13 (aula da definire)

Docenti:
Prof.ssa Małgorzata Sacha (Docente presso l’Università Jagiellonica di Cracovia; attualmente Visiting Professor presso l’ISO, Sapienza)
Dott.ssa Chiara Policardi (Dottoranda in Civiltà dell’Asia e dell’Africa, Sapienza)

Course objectives
The aim of this course is to provide a broad insight into the symbolism of animals and, especially, into the phenomenon of therianthropy and theriomorphism in the religions of the Near East, Europe and the Indian subcontinent. The starting point to discussion will be the issue of animal symbolism in prehistory, the ancient cultures and religions of the Near East and Europe. The most prominent mythical and animal figures, like the animal guardian, trickster etc. will be discussed in the light of the contemporary methodological discourse on the comparative religion and iconology. The complexity of animal symbolism and their religious functions in India will be exemplified by the yogini cults.

Learning outcome: After completing the course students will be able to systematically reflect up on contemporary theories concerning religious symbolism of animals, their cults and functions in various pantheons. Students will gain awareness of proposed methodologies for studying the cultural and religious phenomena.

Knowledge: After completing the course, students will have knowledge of complex issues connected with the symbolism of animals in Indian and other religions.

Skills: After completing the course, students will be able to discuss and conduct their own research in the area of phenomenology of theriomorphism and therianthropy.

Delivery length: 16 hours

Number of ECTS credits allocated: 2
SYLLABUS

PART I: ANIMALS AND HUMANS: ARCHAIC BEGINNINGS
(MALGORZATA SACHA)

1. THE (HUMAN -) ANIMAL STUDIES. ANIMALS IN THE HUMAN CULTURES
2. ANIMALS IN HUMAN MINDS: LESSONS FROM ONTOGENESIS
3. ANIMALS IN DREAMS
4. ARCHAEOZOOLOGY AND THE PALEOLITHIC SHAMANISM

Bibliography

PART II: THERIANTROPES, THERIOMORPHS, THE ANIMAL HYBRIDS
(MALGORZATA SACHA)

5. THE NEOLITHIC PUZZLE: THE NEAR EAST AND EUROPE
6. THERIOCEPHALS
7. BIRDS, Snakes, FELINES AND ANIMAL HYBRIDS
8. AQUATIC MONSTERS

Bibliography

PART III: FIGURING ANIMALS: THE DILEMMAS OF COMPARATIVE MYTHOLOGY AND ICONOLOGY
(MALGORZATA SACHA)

9. TO COMPARE OR NOT TO COMPARE? METHODOLOGICAL MUSINGS ON MYTHOLOGY AND ICONOLOGY
10. MISTRESS/MASTER OF ANIMALS
11. GUARDIANS, GUIDES AND PSYCHOPOMPS
12. TRICKSTERS, GOOD AND EVIL ANIMALS

Bibliography


PARTE IV: L’ANIMALE NEL SIMBOLOSMO RELIGIOSO INDIANO: TERTIOMORFISMO, TERTIANTROPIA, E METAMORFOSI (CHIARA POLICARDI)

13. IL SIMBOLOSMO ANIMALE NELL’INDUISMO: ANIMALI SACRI E DIVINITÀ IBRIDE UMANO-ANIMALE
14. LE CAVALCATURE ANIMALI DEGLI DEI E DELLE DEE
15. IL SIMBOLOSMO ANIMALE NELLE TRADIZIONI BUDDHISTA E JAINA
16. IL VOLTO ANIMALE DELLE YOGINĪ NELLA TRADIZIONE ŚAIVA

Bibliografia selettiva


