Tuesday, 1 December 2009, 5pm
Christians and Muslims in the Age of the Crusades, between conflict and collaboration
Joseph Shatzmiller, Department of History, Duke University

Prof. Shatzmiller shall analyze the multiple factors behind European expansionism, arguing that the Crusades cannot be explained through the theory of civilizational conflict, showing, that the period of the Crusades was also characterized by violent rivalry between Western and Eastern Christians.

Discussant: Vera Costantini

Joseph Shatzmiller is Professor of Judaica at the Department of History of Duke University. At present, he is teaching the course "The Crusades and the Holy Land" at the VIU School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Vera Costantini teaches Turkish Language and Culture at Ca' Foscari University. In Fall 2008 she taught at VIU a course on "Venice and the Ottoman Orient".

The lecture will be in English and is open to the public. A reception will follow.

Wednesday, 9 December, 2009, 5pm
The Role of Language in negotiating with Arabic-speaking Muslims
Ilai Alon, Department of Philosophy, Tel Aviv University

Prof. Ilai Alon will analyze cultural differences and difficulties of communication between Arabs and Westerners, with particular attention to Hebrew-speakers, suggesting ways to develop mutual understanding.

Discussant: Emanuela Trevisan Semi

Ilai Alon is Professor at the Department of Philosophy of Tel Aviv University and was a member in the Israeli negotiation team with Syria in 1999-2000. At present, he is teaching at the VIU School of Humanities and Social Sciences a course on "Culture and Negotiations in Arabic-Speaking Islam"

Emanuela Trevisan Semi is Professor of Modern Jewish Studies at Ca' Foscari and Coordinator of the European Master in Inter-Mediterranean Mediation

The lecture will be in English and is open to the public. A reception will follow.