# –Medieval Humanistic Philology

## Prof. Carla Maria Monti; Prof. Marco Petoletti

## **Module 1: Prof. Carla Maria Monti (Semester 1)**

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to introduce students to Humanism through literature, philology and the history of culture, focusing in particular on the preponderance of works in Latin (although all works will be either translated or accompanied by translations). The course also explores the vital role of classical and patristic sources, restored to public consciousness by Humanism, in the development of new literary genres, and the contribution of the philological method of approaching texts.

At the end of the course, students will be able to identify Petrarch and Boccaccio as the founders of Humanism through the analysis of their remarkable Latin production, and outline the different approach adopted by Dante towards the Classical heritage. Furthermore, they will be able to acknowledge the revival of Latin and Greek classics, the renewal of the literary genres that took place in this historical period, and the cultural profile of the most important men of letters of the 15th century, who promoted a movement that left a permanent mark on the Western culture.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The discovery of the classics within the movement of Humanism, and their revival in Humanist literature. Petrarch’s library and Humanist libraries. The birth of philological terminology and awareness. The theory and practice of imitation. A brief overview of textual criticism applied to medieval and Humanist Latin texts. In particular, the course will analyse a number of extracts from works by Petrarch, Boccaccio, Bruni, Bracciolini and Valla, which address the following themes: the revival of the classics, loss and distortion inflicted by scribes, and the relationship between texts and imitations.

***READING LIST***

G. Billanovich, *Petrarca e il Ventoso*, «Italia medioevale e umanistica», 9 (1966), p. 389-401 (reprinted in Id., *Petrarca e il primo umanesimo*, Antenore, Padua 1996, p. 168-184).

L. Battaglia Ricci, *Giovanni Boccaccio*, in *Storia della letteratura italiana*, II. *Il Trecento*, Salerno Editrice, Rome 1995, p. 727-877, p. 733-742 (biography); 750-755 (early works); 830-844 (the production in Latin); 844-857 (the last works and Dante’s literary production); 857-868 (Boccaccio as a pre-humanist).

C.M. Monti, *Boccaccio e Petrarca*, in *Boccaccio autore e copista*, edited by T. De Robertis-C.M. Monti-M. Petoletti-G. Tanturli-S. Zamponi, Mandragora, Florence 2013, p. 33-40.

G. Cappelli, *L’Umanesimo italiano da Petrarca a Valla*, Carocci, Rome 2018 (collection «Aulamagna»). In particular, the oral exam will be focused on F. Petrarca, C. Salutati, L. Bruni, P. Bracciolini, Biondo Flavio, L.B. Alberti, L. Valla, and the chapters: III *L’introduzione dello studio del greco* and IV *La nuova educazione*.

L.D. Reynolds-N.G. Wilson, *Copisti e filologi,* Antenore, Rome-Padua 2016 (4th edition, revised and extended): chap. IV, *Il Rinascimento*, p. 115-136.

M. Berté-M. Petoletti, *La filologia medievale e umanistica,* il Mulino, Bologna 2017 (only the sections about Humanistic philology, and the Texts 7, 9, and 12).

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures and seminars.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is exclusively oral in nature and aims to test students' knowledge of Italian Humanism, based on reading list, lectures and works read in class. There will be no written exercises.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.

## **Module 2: Prof. Marco Petoletti (Semester 2)**

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to analyse the Petrarch’s treatise *De vita solitaria* and its sources. The work, in two volumes, was begun in 1346 and finally addressed in 1366 to Philippe de Cabassole, to whom it is dedicated, after twenty years’ gestation. At the request of the Prior of Camaldoli, Petrarch added a chapter, in the 1370s, on the life of Saint Romuald. The second book presents a series of examples of illustrious solitary figures, ancient, medieval and modern. Petrarch draws on a large number of sources: alongside the Latin classics, the texts of the Church Fathers and medieval works take prominence. During the course, we will analyse the ‘library’ Petrarch used when writing his *De vita solitaria*. This treatise will also be placed in the historical-cultural context of Petrarch's literary production. By the end of the course, students will know the main characteristics of *De vita solitaria* and, more generally, will have acquired the working method used by Petrarch with regard to his sources.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Petrarch’s *De vita solitaria*.

***READING LIST***

Francesco Petrarca, *De vita solitaria*, edited by G. Martellotti, in Id., *Prose*, Ricciardi, Milan-Naples 1955, p. 285-591.

M. Petoletti, *Il manoscritto di dedica del ‘De vita solitaria’ rivisto e corretto da Petrarca*, «Italia medioevale e umanistica», 61 (2020), p. 129-150.

M. Petoletti, *Il* De vita solitaria *e le sue fonti nascoste*, «Studi medievali e umanistici», 19 (2021), pp. 179-209.

The textbooks translated and commented by the lecturer in class will be made available during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures, held in class, and seminars on specific topics.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final exam will be structured as follows: 1. A written assignment (based on one of the topics explained during the course, that must be previously approved by the lecturer; students will have to submit it at least 10 days before the oral exam, in order to allow the lecturer to correct it): it consists in the analysis of a passage of the second book of the *De vita solitaria*, with the identification of the sources used by Petrarch; 2. An oral exam based on the topics and the texts analysed in class (reading, translation, and comment).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Basic knowledge of the Latin language is required.

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