Romance Philology

Prof. Paolo Gresti

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

Semester 1 serves as an introduction to the subject, and is divided into three parts. (1) Overview of textual or ecdotic criticism, both in theory and by observing specific cases. (2) Introduction to the basic concepts of historical (i.e. diachronic) Romance linguistics starting with the common Latin matrix, so-called vulgar Latin, and focusing particularly on phonetic, morphological and lexical aspects. (3) Reading and analysis of some texts that are particularly representative of the Romance literature of the Middle Ages.

Semester 2 Semester 2 will be characterised by a single-subject course, focused on the study of the lyric production in Occitan (*langue d’oc*) between the 12th and the 13th century, carried out through the reading of the compositions of some of the most significant troubadours.

As regards the expected results, by the end of Semester 1, students will be able to illustrate, both theoretically and practically, ecdotic practice applied to the critical text of a medieval work; they will be able to recognize the most important phonetic and morphological phenomena of the main Romance languages, and describe their evolution from Latin; they will also be able to read, translate and comment on the Romance texts proposed in lectures. At the end of semester 2, students will be able to describe the main features of Troubadour poetry in the Middle Ages, as well as read, translate, and analyse, from a philological, prosodic, and literary perspective, the lyrical texts read in class.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Semester 1

1. *Textual criticism*
2. *From Latin to the Romance languages.*
3. *Romance literatures during the Middle Ages.*

Semester 2

*The literature in Occitan (langue d’oc) between the 12th and the 13th century.*

***READING LIST***

Semester 1

P. Gresti, *Introduzione alla linguistica romanza,* Pàtron, Bologna, 2016.

P. Gresti, *Antologia delle letterature romanze del Medioevo,* Pàtron, Bologna, 20112 (texts read and commented in class).

Lecture notes.

A short coursepack on the part of the course related to textual criticism will be made available for students.

Semester 2

a) For all students.

M. de Riquer, *Leggere i trovatori*. Italian edition by M. Bonafin, eum, Macerata 2010 (the students who can speak Spanish can read the original: *Introducción a la lectura de los trovadores*, in M. de Riquer, *Los trovadores. Historia literaria y textos*, vol. I, Ariel, Barcelona 1992, p. 9-102); or, alternatively L. Lazzerini, *Letteratura medievale in lingua d’oc*, Mucchi, Modena 2010, chapters 1-6.

P. Gresti, *Antologia delle letterature romanze del Medioevo*, Pàtron, Bologna 20112: seven texts that students will have to choose from the section C *Lirica* – Sud della Francia, excluding the ones read in class.

Lecture notes.

b) For postgraduate students:

In addition to the reading material referred to under (a), Master’s degree students will have to:

L. M. Paterson, *Le corti e i cortigiani*, in Idem, *Nel mondo dei trovatori*. *Storia e cultura di una società medievale*, Viella, Rome 2007, p. 105-38.

S. Guida, *Vita monastica e “vidas” trobadoriche*, in Idem, *Religione e letterature romanze*, Rubbettino, Soveria Mannelli 1995, p. 103-49.

C. Segre, *La tradizione della «Chanson de Roland»*, Ricciardi, Milan-Naples 1974.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam in terms of their ecdotics, linguistic, literary and philological preparation. They will answer questions of a general nature as well as read and analyse one or more of the texts among those read and commentated in lectures or on the reading list; students will also be asked to read from a photocopy or text supplied by the examiner. The general questions may either precede or follow the reading and analysis of the texts. Students will be marked not only on their knowledge of course content, but also their ability to present information logically and use the appropriate specialist language.

Undergraduate students taking 12 ECTS credits can sit the two parts of the exam (the linguistic and single-subject components) separately, as per the instructions clarified at the beginning of the course. There will of course be only one final mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are advised to check the lecturer's webpage on a regular basis as well as Blackboard for any notifications concerning the course.

There are no prerequisites for either the semester, besides an interest in and curiosity about the material covered on the course. Although not strictly necessary, knowledge of Latin, even if only basic, may help students grasp the topics covered in semester 1 more quickly.

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.