# Italian Literature 1

## Prof. Alice Ferrari

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

The course aims to provide adequate knowledge of Italian literature from its origins to the end of the 1400s. Whilst the course does explore key historical aspects, it is also founded on the direct study of the texts, which will be read and analysed in terms of content and form. The course will focus in particular on the language and style of the writers in question.

At the end of the course, students will know the main lines of development of Italian literature from its origins to the end of the fifteenth century; students will know works by authors discussed during the course; students will be able to read and comment on texts in terms of content as well as form, and recognise the most relevant linguistic aspects.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Semester 1:

An overview of the history of Italian literature from its origins to the 1400s.

Semester 2:

Comic poetry in the Italian Middle Ages.

***READING LIST***

Semester 1:

G. Ferroni, *Storia e testi della letteratura italiana,* I: Dalle origini al 1300; II: La crisi del mondo comunale (1300-1380); III: Il mondo umanistico e signorile (1380-1494), Milan, Mondadori Università, 2002 (and later reprints): for selected chapters, see the course’s webpage.

Dante, *Commedia* (any recent edition with commentary,for exampleChiavacci Leonardi);

cantos:

 *Inferno*: I, II, V, VI, X, XXVI, XXXIII

 *Purgatorio*: I, III, VI, XXIII, XXVIII, XXIX

 *Paradiso*: I, VI, X, XII, XXX, XXXIII.

G. Inglese, *Dante: guida alla Divina Commedia,* Carocci, Rome, 2002 (or later editions).

Semester 2:

- The relevant readings for the course will be commented during the lectures. In addition, students will have to study the following cantos of Dante’s *Comedy*:

 *Inferno*: III, IV, VII, XI, XIII, XV, XXI, XXIV, XXXII, XXXIV

 *Purgatorio*: II, XI, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XXI, XXIV, XXVI, XXX, XXXI

 *Paradiso*: III, IV, VIII, XI, XIV, XVI, XVII, XXI, XXIII, XXVII.

- *Poesia comica del Medioevo italiano*, edited by M. Berisso, Milan, Rizzoli, 2011.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Before sitting the examination students are required to pass an oral test on the reading list from the first semester: the dates of the oral tests will be indicated session by session. Once the test has been passed, it is valid for one solar year. The examination will be on topics covered in lectures during the second semester and the reading material. Both tests consist of a series of oral questions which assess students’ ability to understand and comment on them, in terms of language, content and form as well as their ability to suitably collocate them within works by the relevant authors and the cultural context of reference; there may also be more general questions. Assessment will be based on students’ critical assimilation of content, relevance of their answers, appropriate use of specific terminology, structured argumentation and consistent discourse.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

The course has a corresponding seminar on Dante’s *Commedia*; whilst attending the seminar is not compulsory, it is strongly advised.

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