# History of Criticism and Literary Historiography

## Prof. Francesca D’Alessandro

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

The aim of the course is to provide students with the epistemological foundations and historical framework of the birth and development of Italian literary heritage. Using texts from different periods, lectures will reconstruct a number of strong relational links between the authors, demonstrating the strong thematic threads that criss-cross the centuries and see traditions passed down through the ages.

The course takes both a theoretical and applied perspective, so as to guide students in developing basic historic-critical knowledge.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Encounters that matter: the ancients and the moderns.

Dante and Petrarch: reading as an encounter.

Torquato Tasso: between history and poetry.

“*Lo storico più poeta che mai*” Machiavelli, from the perspectives of Manzoni and De Sanctis.

Croce and the post-Crocians.

Stylistic criticism: Spitzer and Contini.

Dante studies between Eliot and Auerbach.

Critical editions and commentaries: Cesare Segre and Dante Isella.

An example of authorial criticism: Italo Calvino

The texts to be commented in class will be made available in the section *Materiali* (Teaching material) of the Blackboard platform.

***READING LIST***

Students are advised to read the following essays (details of further reading will be provided during the course):

Gino Tellini, *Metodi e protagonisti della critica letteraria,* Florence, Le Monnier, 2010.

Ezio Raimondi, *Un’etica per il lettore,* Bologna, Il Mulino, 2007.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lessond or video lessons. Use of multimedia materials and podcasts.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Final oral exam focused on the content of the texts on the reading list and on the topics covered in lectures. The exam is designed to ascertain students’ understanding and knowledge of the critical content, the historical profiles and textual analysis proposed in class. The final mark will reflect: students’ skill in the subject (60%), the language they use (20%), their ability to analyse and make connections (10%) and their intellectual maturity (10%).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As this course is an introduction to the subject, there are no specific prerequisites.

Given the credits system, attendance is strongly encouraged.

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.

# History of Criticism and Literary Historiography (LM; Adv. Course)

## Prof. Francesca D’Alessandro

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

The aim of the course is to investigate the significant role that literary criticism plays in the contemporary cultural panorama (including through the use of unpublished or rare material such as letters or editorials), exploring its multidisciplinary events - particularly through the perspectives of the intellectuals Eugenio Montale, Sergio Solmi and Vittorio Sereni - such as those concerning the field of the figurative arts and publishing. Literary criticism lies at the centre of a dense network of relationships between authors and readers; a generator of communication, capable of helping shape the tastes of an era.

The course takes both a theoretical and applied perspective, so as to guide students in learning the method and developing the historic-critical knowledge they need in order to be able to interpret texts.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The European style in the post-Crocian 20th century: the correspondence between Montale e Solmi.

The material substance of artistic thought: Solmi reading Alain

The dialogue between Solmi and Montale: contemporary critical knowledge

The Svevo case considering the new correspondence materials

Strumenti critici per l’indagine letteraria, dalla carta al web

*Lettore idoneo* (qualified reader) and *lettore preliminare* (preliminary reader): Sereni’s critical style, between poetical research and publishing activity

The texts to be commented in class will be made available in the section *Materiali* (Teaching material) of the Blackboard platform.

***READING LIST***

Students are advised to read the following essays (details of further reading will be provided during the course):

F. D’Alessandro, *Lo stile europeo di Sergio Solmi,* tra critica e poesia, Milan, Vita e Pensiero, 2005;

F. D’Alessandro, *L’opera poetica di Vittorio Sereni,* Milan, Vita e Pensiero, 2011;

E. Montale-S. Solmi, *Ciò che è nostro non ci sarà tolto mai. Carteggio (1918-1980)*, edited by F. D’Alessandro, Rome, Quodlibet, 2021.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lessons or video lessons. Use of multimedia materials and podcasts.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Final oral exam focused on the content of the texts on the reading list and on the topics covered in lectures. The exam is designed to ascertain students’ understanding and knowledge of the critical content, the historical profiles and textual analysis proposed in class. The final mark will reflect: students’ skill in the subject (60%), the language they use (20%), their ability to analyse and make connections (10%) and their intellectual maturity (10%).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As this is an advanced module, students require good knowledge of the literary tradition and a grasp of the main historical-critical issues.

Given the credits system, attendance is strongly encouraged.

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.