History and Forms of Oral Communication and Drama

## Prof. Carla Maria Bino

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

The course will provide students with historical knowledge and introduce them to the phenomenology of the main structures in non-verbal and performative storytelling, analysing the impact on the current context of live and media-based communication.

By the end of the course, students will be able to identify and distinguish between the various dramaturgical forms of performative communication, including in relation to the communicative objectives proposed. They will also have acquired basic skills in applying the main models, varying their construction in relation to the chosen communicative format (live or digital performance) and objective. Students will have the ability to judge the effectiveness of narrative strategies analysed and implemented independently by developing a historically, theoretically and practically founded method of study and criticism.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will deal with the dynamics of performance narrative, distinguishing between oral forms and written theatrical forms of storytelling. The course will focus on the relationship between word, memory, and body, and will explore the connections between orality and performance, identifying the main narrative and dramatic devices.

Following a historical course and adopting a consistently practical approach, lectures will cover the following subjects:

* Orality and representation, narrative and scenic action, word and images.
* Body, voice and eye: the performative, aural and visual dimension of storytelling in Western theatre
* The role of images and visual mechanisms in constructing stories
* Narration and performance
* Elements of storytelling and their application

***READING LIST***

Recommended reading:

1. W. J. Ong, *Oralità e scrittura. Le tecnologie della parola,* Il Mulino, 1986.
2. S. Arcagni, *Storytelling digitale. Le nuove produzioni 4.0,* Luiss university Press, 2021

Details of further reading material will be provided by the lecturer at the beginning of the course and will include a number of individual essays to prepare students for a storytelling test.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures and practical activities guided by the lecturer (to be carried out individually or in group).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The assessment of learning outcomes will be based on a storytelling test (multimedia or oral) and an oral interview.

The storytelling test will focus on a topic chosen on the basis of students’ interests, subject to approval by the lecturer. Students will have to submit it at least 10 days prior to the oral interview, so that the lecturer may have enough time to read it. The storytelling test will be useful to assess each student’s reworking and creative skills, also as regards originality; moreover, it will have to be prepared so as to convey students’ acquisition of the general skills provided during the course.

The oral interview will start from the storytelling test and will assess students’ acquisition of skills, also taking into account recommended reading.

Both the storytelling test and the interview count for 50% of the final single mark.

*NON-ATTENDING STUDENTS*

Non-attending students will not take a storytelling test, but will only be expected to read the items on the reading list, complemented by further reading recommended by the lecturer. Hence, they must contact the lecturer to agree on complementary reading materials to be studied for the exam.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As this is an introductory course, there are no prerequisites in terms of content. Students are nevertheless expected to demonstrate an interest in and curiosity about storytelling.

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.