**. - History of the Italian Language (with Teaching Elements and Writing Workshop)**

## Prof. Simone Pregnolato

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

Module 1 (non-repeatable)

Development of a critical awareness of Italian language and dialects in their historical-grammatical development.

Advanced Module (= Module A, repeatable)

Introduction to perspectives on and tools for analysing specific aspects, authors, moments and texts relevant to the history of the Italian language.

By the end of the course, students will have developed: *(a)* knowledge of the distribution – in geography and history – of old Italian and its varieties; *(b)* in-depth knowledge of the graphic, phonetic, morphological and syntactic structures of old and modern Italian; *(c)* a general overview of the history of Italian, from vulgar Latin to the language of today, its spatial diffusion and its idiomatic varieties; *(d)* the ability to problematise labels and categories characterising the linguistic analysis of old and modern Italian*; (e)* the ability to identify and problematise themes and problems related to historical linguistics; *(f)* a certain critical capacity in the linguistic and stylistic analysis of ancient and modern texts, with skills in recognising geographical locations and in the main historical-grammatical phenomena; *(g)* full mastery of the technical lexicon of the philological-linguistic sciences.

By the end of the writing workshop, students will be able to identify the characteristics of an academic text and the relative writing tools, find and organise materials and sources, write notes and citations, structure the bibliography, apply these skills in written tests and finally produce texts that are appropriate from a linguistic and editorial point of view, as well as in terms of conceptual organisation.

By the end of the subject-teaching workshop, students will be able to handle the complexity of Italian teaching, recognise the different components (listening/speaking, writing, reading, grammar, vocabulary) and use activities, itineraries and corrections to encourage linguistic improvement in secondary school students.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module 1 (Semester 1)

Foundations of historical grammar of the Italian language.

Advanced Module (Semester 2)

'The glory of the language': texts, issues, and problems related to the history of the Italian language.

***READING LIST***

**Module 1**

Lecture notes.

Teaching material provided by the Lecturer during classes and made available on BlackBoard.

Michele Colombo - Simone Pregnolato, *Elementi di grammatica storica dell’italiano (A.A. 2023/2024)*, Coursepack available at the UCSC Reprographic Service.

Giuseppe Patota, *Nuovi lineamenti di grammatica storica dell’italiano*, With exercises by Gianluca Lauta, Bologna, il Mulino, 2007 («Itinerari - Linguistica»).

*Propedeutica al Corso istituzionale di Storia della lingua italiana (A.A. 2023/2024)*, edited by Simone Pregnolato, Coursepack available at the UCSC Reprographic Service [only Part 3. *Complementi di grammatica storica italiana* e l’*Appendice*, p. 219-431].

Daniele Baglioni, *L’etimologia*, Rome, Carocci, 2016 («Bussole - Linguistica», 520).

Non-attending students will have to replace the lecture notes with the study of the whole textbook *Propedeutica al Corso istituzionale di Storia della lingua italiana (A.A. 2023/2024)*, cit.

**Module A**

Lecture notes.

The texts and the teaching material provided by the Lecturer during classes and made available on BlackBoard.

*Storia dell’italiano. La lingua, i testi*, Directed by Giovanna Frosini, Rome, Salerno Editrice, 2020 («Strumenti per l’Università», 10).

Reading at home of Alessandro Manzoni, *I promessi sposi*, edited by Ezio Raimondi and Luciano Bottoni, Rome, Carocci, 2021 («Opere», 4) [*Please note*: the Carocci edition is recommended but not compulsory, and it is equivalent to the first edition Milan, Principato, 1988 («Leggere narrativa»), currently out of stock. For a linguistic-formal commentary, students can consult the edition *I Promessi Sposi. Testo del 1840-1842*, edited by Teresa Poggi Salani, Milan, Centro Nazionale Studi Manzoniani, 2013 («Edizione Nazionale ed Europea delle Opere di Alessandro Manzoni. Testi criticamente riveduti e commentati», 11), available at the Consultation Room of the UCSC Library. Students are also allowed to consult the following school textbooks (all reprinted more than once): N. Sapegno - G. Viti (Le Monnier); R. Luperini - D. Brogi (Einaudi Scuola); G. Sbrilli (Loescher); D. Ciocca - T. Ferri (Arnoldo Mondadori Scuola); A. Brasioli - D. Carenzi - C. Acerbi - F. Camisasca (Atlas)].

Reading at home of a textbook that students will have to choose from the following list (including the exegetic notes contained in the edition specified):

– Dante Alighieri, *De Vulgari Eloquentia*, edited by Mirko Tavoni, Milan, Mondadori, 2017 [2011] («Oscar Classici»).

– Niccolò Machiavelli, *Dialogo intorno alla nostra lingua*, Introduction, critical edition and commentary by Paolo Trovato, With a *Postfazione 2014* and the essay *Per il* Discorsointorno alla nostra lingua *di Machiavelli (e contro i negazionismi nella storiografia letteraria)*, Padua, Libreriauniversitaria.it Edizioni, 2021 («Storie e linguaggi», 40).

– Carlo Collodi, *Le avventure di Pinocchio. Storia di un burattino*, edited by Giancarlo Alfano, Milan, BUR-Rizzoli, 2022 («Classici moderni», in collaborazione con l’Associazione degli Italianisti).

The graduate students who wish to transform the History of the Italian language course into a two-year course through the repetition of Module A, will have to define during office hours a *customised* programme and a historical-linguistic topic on which they will have to hold a lecture in class and focus the final oral exam (please see *Assessment method and criteria* below).

**Writing workshop**

*Dispensa per il Laboratorio di scrittura (A.A. 2023/2024)*, edited by Anna Campanardi and Silvia Cerotti, Coursepack available at the UCSC Reprographic Service.

Michele Colombo, *Scrivere la tesi di laurea e altri testi*, Milan, Mondadori Università, 2006.

Teaching material provided by the Lecturer during classes and made available on BlackBoard.

**Disciplinary didactics workshop**

Lecture notes.

Luca Serianni - Giuseppe Benedetti, *Scritti sui banchi. L’italiano a scuola tra alunni e insegnanti,* Rome, Carocci, 2015 («Quality Paperbacks», 453).

The students taking the *Replacement test* of the Disciplinary didactics workshop (please see *Assessment method and criteria* below) will have to add also: Luca Serianni, *L’ora d’italiano. Scuola e materie umanistiche*, Roma-Bari, Laterza, 2012 («Economica Laterza», 618).

For all the textbooks of the *Reading list*, students are allowed to choose any subsequent reprint.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures.

During Semester 2 the course will include, in addition to the lectures of Module A:

(*a*) a Writing workshop, aimed to help students acquire academic writing skills, which can be associated exclusively to Module A and that will be divided between two lecturers, according to the identification number (even/odd) of attending students;

(*b*) a Disciplinary didactics workshop (which can be associated to Module 1 or Module A, without dividing the class) aimed to help students get familiar with some significant aspects of the teaching of Italian in secondary schools.

The Writing workshop and the Disciplinary didactics workshop are based on frontal lectures and progressive guided practical activities (*in itinere*).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Module 1

Oral exam. The assessment will be based on one or more questions for each textbook specified in the *Reading list*. The knowledge of historical grammar is a prerequisite to pass the final exam; in order to assess this skill, students are often given an etymon in Latin with its derivation in Italian and asked to transcribe the latter using the International Phonetic Alphabet and explain the reason at the basis of its linguistic transformation.

Module A

(*a*) *Undergraduate students*: oral exam, preceded by a positive mark in the Writing workshop and, if this is the case, the mark «Passed» in the Disciplinary didactics workshop.

(*b*) *Graduate students*: oral presentation, to be held during Semester 2 classes, based on a specialised topic related to the history of the Italian language and previously approved by the Lecturer; oral exam based on the reading list defined with the Lecturer and related to the subject of the lecture. The reading list and the subject of the lecture must be requested to Prof. Pregnolato well in advance, around the end of Semester 1, during office hours.

Workshops

(*a*) The assessment of the Writing workshop (Prof. Anna Campanardi for even identification numbers; Prof. Silvia Cerotti for odd identification numbers) is based on a written paper assigned during Semester 2 classes (*Prova Frequentanti*, that is to say *Test for Attending Students*) or at the beginning of each official exam session (*Prova non frequentanti or PNF*, that is to say *Test for Non-Attending Students*): this means that three *PNFs* will be held during the academic year(please see also *infra*, in the section *Notes and prerequisites*). The mark obtained in the Writing workshop (expressed in thirtieths) is the starting point for the assessment of the oral exam.

(*b*) The assessment of the Disciplinary didactics workshop (Prof. Daniele Gomarasca) takes place *in itinere*, during the last lecture held in class, and is based on a written assignment aimed to test the knowledge acquired; those who do not pass/who cannot take the written test will have the possibility to take a *Prova di recupero* (*Replacement test*) for the Disciplinary didactics workshop during the month of May of the year in which they have enrolled in the Workshop.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

For further information on the course and the Workshops, as well as the organisation and the groups for the History of the Italian language exam, students are strongly invited to read the *Avvertenze sul corso e sull’esame di Storia della lingua italiana* Brescia available on the *Avvisi* (Communications) section of Prof. Pregnolato’s webpage (<https://docenti.unicatt.it/ppd2/it/docenti/55967/simone-pregnolato/avvisi>).

Further relevant information can be found below.

(*a*) The Writing workshop is addressed to those students who have not attended it yet and who have included in their Degree Curriculum the Module A of *History of the Italian language* course, considered either as a single Module or as part of the annual teaching (12 ECTS credits). Those who cannot attend the Writing workshop will have to take a written replacement test, the *PNF*; the dates for the *PNFs* (one for each official exam session, so presumably in September, January, and May) will be made available online (in the section *Avvisi*) of Prof. Pregnolato’s webpage, where they can find also useful information on who can be admitted to the test (please see the communication *Laboratorio di scrittura: PNF*, or *Writing workshop: PNF*).

(*b*) The Disciplinary didactics workshop is necessary to obtain the 6 ECTS credits required for the FIT course of the Scientific-Disciplinary Sector L-FIL-LET/12 - *Italian linguistics*. The Disciplinary didactics workshop is addressed to all the students who have in their Degree Curriculum a History of the Italian language course, corresponding to 12 or 6 ECTS credits and containing in the title the sentence *con elementi di didattica disciplinare* (*with elements of disciplinary didactics*). Those who, instead, have in their Degree Curriculum a History of the Italian language course whose title does not contain the sentence *con elementi di didattica disciplinare* (*with elements of disciplinary didactics*), will not have to attend the Disciplinary didactics workshop and, therefore, will not get the 6 ECTS credits for the FIT course in the S.D.S. L-FIL-LET/12.

(*c*) *Prerequisite*s: in order to be able to study the history of the Italian grammar, students should have at least a basic knowledge of the Latin language, which can be acquired during five years of high school or, at least, by passing the final exam of the Latin language A course.

(*d*) Students must attend Module 1 before Module A; since it is a general course, it cannot be repeated more than once.

(*e*) Please note that the course content cannot be divided in smaller units for the students who intend to take the History of the Italian language annual exam (not even within the same exam session). Therefore, the first session available for those who have the annual course (12 ECTS) in their Degree Curriculum is the one taking place in summer.

(*f*) The marks obtained in the written assignments of the Workshops (the writing workshop and the disciplinary didactics workshop) are always valid. Furthermore, the mark obtained in the Writing workshop cannot be refused.

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.