# Classic and European Culture

**Comparative Literature**

## Prof. Guido Milanese

***COURSE AIMS***

The course intends to introduce the structures and topics of European culture and literature as well as explore in detail a specific topic.

***INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Independently navigate the different stages of European cultural history, with particular emphasis on structures and topics of literature;
2. Understand the meaning of topic-based research which touches the entire literary and linguistic tradition of Western Europe.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. General section (first part of the course): *For a conscious approach to European literature and culture.*
2. Single-subject section (second part of the course*Shadows, ghosts, simulacra. Between literature and philosophy*

***READING LIST***

1. Reading for cultural background

E. Curtius, *EuropäischeLiteratur und lateinischesMittelalter*, Bern, A. Francke, 1948, or translations in any language. Italiantranslation: *Letteratura europea e Medio Evo latino*, edited by Roberto Antonelli, Macerata, Quodlibet, 2022 Chapters 1-18 (appendices and *excursus* excluded).

As an alternative to Curtius’ text, students may study the texts listed in *both* of the following paragraphs:

1. one of the works listed on the lecturer’s Blackboard webpage, under *Letture per l'esame di Cultura Classica ed Europea*;
2. and one of the “classics”, in the original language or translated into Italian, listed here: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Books_of_the_Western_World>, volumes 2-18. Only one or two texts are required, rather than an author’s entire oeuvre.

Students must have developed a clear chronological and cultural framework for each of the authors read.

2. European civilisation and literature (first part of the course)

Lecture notes from the first part of the course. Recommended reading: R. Brague, *Il futuro dell'Occidente,*  Bompiani, Milano 2005 (= *Europe, la voie romaine*,Groupe Fleurus, Paris 2005². For any non-attending students, we suggest G. Milanese, *Le ragioni del latino*, Morcelliana, Brescia 2023.

3. Single-subject section (second part of the course)

Lecture notes and texts indicated during lectures. Recommended reading: Lucrezio, *La natura delle cose*, ed. by G. Milanese, Milano, Mondadori 2007².

***TEACHING METHOD***

During lectures, the texts to be studied will be presented. Seminars and lectures from visiting lecturers will be held primarily in the second part of the course.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The examination consists of two parts, both of which are oral:

1. General section: ability to navigate the Seasons of European culture presented during lectures. Discussion of material read by students.
2. Single-subject section: discussion of the material examined during the course and presented in the course pack at the end of the semester.

The first part accounts for 60% of the final mark, the second part accounts for 40%.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

L’insegnamento non necessita di prerequisiti relativi ai contenuti. Sono richieste tuttavia curiosità e interesse personale verso la materia e soprattutto desiderio di approfondire anche autonomamente le tematiche proposte nel corso delle lezioni.

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.