**English Language and Literature (Year 3, First-level Degree) – English Literature (Second-level Degree)**

Proff. Valentina Varinelli, Francesco Rognoni

***First Module: Prof Valentina Varinelli***

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

The course aims to study a text at the very centre of the English canon, i.e. *Paradise Lost*. The close reading approach will be applied to this work, which will be further placed within its political, religious and literary context to highlight its revolutionary force and foreground its rich intertextuality as well as its influence on later English poetry.

At the end of the course, students will have enriched their knowledge of the subject and developed their communication and argumentation skills as well as their ability to use the appropriate, discipline-specific terminology and carry out an independent critical analysis of literary works. They will also have learned to identify and appreciate the intertextual dialogue between works of different epochs and traditions.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Milton’s *Paradise Lost*

The course will focus on John Milton’s masterpiece, *Paradise Lost*, which will be read in its entirety. The course will begin with the historical contextualisation of the author and his works. A guided, critical analysis of *Paradise Lost* will follow, in which attention will be paid to the poem’s dialogue with the entire European literary tradition, especially the Classical and Italian traditions, as well as to its relation with its biblical model and its modern reception.

***READING LIST***

For all students:

John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Edited by Stephen Orgel and Jonathan Goldberg, Oxford World’s Classics, 2008 (complete reading).

Additionally, only for students of the *laurea magistrale*:

1) Complete reading of the secondary material uploaded on Blackboard.

2) Complete reading of the following article (uploaded on Blackboard) in preparation for the teaching unit plan required in the second semester (see below).

Paola Della Valle, *Riflessioni su una didattica della letteratura inglese per la scuola secondaria superiore*, «RiCOGNIZIONI. Rivista di Lingue, Letterature e Culture Moderne», 1 (2014), pp. 107-116.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures held in English.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam in English aimed to assess the students’ knowledge of the topics treated during the course and their critical and language skills. Assessment criteria: relevance and accuracy of the answers, ability to present an argument in a structured and coherent way, clarity of expression, use of the appropriate, discipline-specific terminology, ability to carry out an independent critical analysis of the poem, ability to identify links between literary works.

Students of the *laurea magistrale* will also be asked to discuss the main critical interpretations of *Paradise Lost*.

Only for third-year students: the final mark will result from the weighted average between the interim oral and written tests.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Non-attending students are invited to contact the lecturer to define a reading list for the exam.

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, students should show interest in the subject and have an advanced level of English (≥ B2+).

Only for students of the curriculum in *Lingue per la traduzione specialistica ed editoriale* (*laurea magistrale*): during the year you will attend 10 practice-based seminar hours led by Dr Francesca Pè that aim to introduce you to English to Italian literary translation strategies and methods. Seminar attendance counts towards the final mark, which results from the average of the marks of the first and second module. Students who will not be able to attend the seminars must contact Dr Pè to make alternative arrangements.

*Consultation hours*

Professor Varinelli meets with students by appointment.

***Second Module: Prof Francesco Rognoni***

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

The course aims to study three works that exemplify and illustrate the moment of transition between nineteenth- and twentieth-century poetic and narrative modes. It further aims to provide students with a complete picture of the development of English literature up to the beginning of the twentieth century and to introduce them to American literature.

At the end of the course, students will have acquired a deeper knowledge of the subject and complemented it with an understanding of twentieth-century English and American literature. They will have developed their communication and argumentation skills as well as their ability to use the appropriate, discipline-specific terminology and carry out an independent critical analysis of literary works. They will also be able to identify intertextual references between texts belonging to different periods and translate poetry and prose excerpts into Italian.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will focus on three works of English and American literature of the period between the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century, i.e. Joseph Conrad’s *novella*, *Heart of Darkness*, T. S. Eliot’s poem *The Waste Land*, and F. Scott Fitzgerald legendary novel, *The Great Gatsby*. These texts will be analysed both from the point of view of language and structure and in light of modern postcolonial theories. The analysis will be complemented by the literary and historical contextualisation of each work and a comparison between the texts and their major film adaptations.

***READING LIST***

J. Conrad, *Heart of Darkness and Other Tales*, Edited by Cedric Watts, Oxford World’s Classics, 2008 (complete reading of *Heart of Darkness*).

T. S. Eliot, *La terra desolata*, A cura di Alessandro Serpieri, Testo inglese a fronte, BUR Classici moderni, 2013 (complete reading).

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*, Edited by Ruth Prigozy, Oxford World’s Classics, 2008 (complete reading).

Details of secondary reading will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures held in English and in Italian.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam in English and in Italian. Students will first be asked to read out, identify and translate a passage from one of the works studied in the module. Then they will be asked questions aimed to assess their ability to situate its author in his historical and literary context and to draw connections between the three texts. Assessment criteria: thoroughness and relevance of the answers, communication and argumentation skills, use of the appropriate, discipline-specific terminology, clarity of expression, ability to carry out an independent critical analysis of literary works, ability to translate them into Italian, and intellectual curiosity.

Students of the *laurea magistrale* will also be asked to develop a teaching unit plan on one of the authors or periods studied in either the first or the second module. The assessment of the project will contribute to the final mark.

Only for third-year students: the final mark will result from the weighted average between the interim oral and written tests.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The syllabus is the same also for non-attending students.

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, students should show interest in the subject and have an advanced level of English (≥ B2+).

*Consultation hours*

Professor Rognoni meets with students by appointment.