# Italian Philology

Prof. Simona Brambilla

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

Module 1: *Dantean philology*

Students will learn about the manuscript and press tradition of Dante Alighieri's *Vita nova*, as well as the main challenges related to editing and publishing the text. They will read extracts from the work with philological commentary.

At the end of the course, students will be familiar with the manuscript and print tradition of *Vita nova*. They will understand the text and be able to explain the issues inherent to the task of critically reconstructing the text. They will also be able to read extracts commentating them on a philological level.

Module 2: *Italian Philology*

Students will acquire advanced knowledge of Italian philology by studying ecdotic techniques and particular challenges inherent to the publishing and exegesis of ancient Italian texts. They will examine various examples of critical editions. Time in lectures will be reserved to the guided realization of critical editions of short ancient texts. Before taking the exam, each student must also complete an individual edition of a text.

At the end of the course, students will have thorough knowledge of ecdotic techniques; they will be able to understand and evaluate problems associated with producing critical editions of ancient texts; they will be able to discuss the methodological foundations of a critical edition and recognise its constitutive elements; they will be able to produce the critical edition of an ancient text and explain the main challenges in terms of method and results.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module 1

The tradition and publishing challenges of Dante Alighieri’s *Vita nova*; reading with philological commentary of selected verses.

Module 2

Ecdotics: problems and methods. The philological interpretation of ancient Italian texts. Practising producing critical editions of old Italian texts.

***READING LIST***

Module 1

Dante Alighieri, *Vita nova*, edited by S. Carrai, BUR Rizzoli, Milano, 2009 (and subsequent reprints).

S. Bellomo, *Filologia e critica dantesca,* New revised and extended edition, La Scuola, Brescia, 2012 (pp. 55-89, 325-33).

C. Ciociola, *Dante,* in *Storia della letteratura italiana*, ed. by E. Malato, vol. X. *La tradizione dei testi*, ed. by C. Ciociola, Rome, Salerno Editrice, 2001 (pp. 144-57).

Students must read any unabridged, commentated academic edition of *Divina Commedia* (e.g. Bosco-Reggio Chiavacci, Leonardi, Inglese), which will constitute part of the exam.

Other specific material for the course will be distributed at the beginning of lectures.

Module 2

Thorough knowledge of F. Brambilla Ageno, *L’edizione critica dei testi volgari,* Antenore, Rome-Padua, 19842.

Reading and understanding of one of the following:

Other specific material for the course will be distributed at the beginning of lectures; additional information on the guided edition during lectures and individual exercise will be also provided.

G. Contini, *Breviario di ecdotica,* Einaudi, Turin, 19923.

*Filologia dei testi a stampa*,edited by P. Stoppelli, Il Mulino, Bologna, 1987.

*Fondamenti di critica testuale*, edited by A. Stussi, Il Mulino, Bologna, 1998.

*Storia della lingua italiana e filologia.* Atti del VII Convegno ASLI, Associazione per la Storia della lingua italiana (Pisa-Florence, 18-20 December 2008), edited by C. Ciociola, Cesati, Florence, 2010.

G. Pasquali, *Storia della tradizione e critica del testo,* Le Monnier, Florence, 1952 (and subsequent reprints).

*Studi e problemi di critica testuale*. Convegno di studi di filologia italiana nel centenario della Commissione per i testi di lingua, Commissione per i testi di lingua, Bologna, 1961.

*Studi e problemi di critica testuale: 1960-2010. Per i 150 anni della Commissione per i testi di lingua,* edited by E. Pasquini, Commissione per i testi di lingua, Bologna, 2012.

S. Timpanaro, *La genesi del metodo del Lachmann,* with a presentation and postscript by E. Montanari, Utet Libreria, Turin, 2003.

P. Trovato, *Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Lachmann’s Method. A Non-Standard Handbook of Genealogical Textual Criticism in the Age of Post-Structuralism,* Cladistics, and Copy-Text, Revised Edition, Foreword by Michael D. Reeve, Padua, Libreriauniversitaria.it Edizioni, 2017.

***TEACHING METHOD***

*Module 1*

Frontal lectures

*Module 2*

Frontal lectures and lecturer-led exercises. Individual assignments are to be agreed with the Professor and one of the lecturer’s colleagues, whose names and office hours will be communicated at the start of the lectures, and submitted sufficiently in advance of the exam date.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

*Module 1*

Students’ knowledge and skills will be assessed by means of an oral exam on the themes addressed during lectures, the course reading list - which must be prepared in full, except where otherwise indicated - and any additional learning materials made available during the course. The exam is designed to ascertain whether students have achieved the course learning objectives and will take the form of a series of verbal questions that will require students not only to present content, but also to explain and commentate verses of the *Divina Commedia* and analysis with philological commentary of verse from *Inferno*. Students will also be assessed on their critical understanding of course content; the relevance of their answers; their appropriate use of subject-specific terminology; and their ability to formulate well-structured arguments and coherent discourse.

*Module 2*

Students’ knowledge and skills will be assessed by means of an oral exam based on the individual written assignment; the themes covered in lectures, including guided exercises; the course reading list; and any additional learning materials made available during the course. The exam is designed to ascertain whether students have achieved the course learning objectives and will take the form of a series of verbal questions based on the individual assignment. The questions will also concern the guided exercises and elicit the presentation of content and the explanation and commentary of examples of the critical editions discussed in lectures. The following will also contribute to the final mark: the mark for the individual assignments, the critical understanding of content, the relevance of students’ answers, the appropriate use of subject-specific terminology and students’ ability to formulate well-structured arguments and coherent discourse.

NB: Students taking the exam for both semesters are exempt from the full reading of the *Divina Commedia*.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Module 1*

Students must read any unabridged, commentated academic edition of *Divina Commedia* (e.g. Bosco-Reggio Chiavacci, Leonardi, Inglese), which will constitute part of the exam.

*Module 2*

Since this is an advanced course, students are expected to have a good overview of the historical grammar of Italian and the main research tools, as well as those presented on the undergraduate Italian Philology course. Students who did not take a course in Italian philology as part of their undergraduate degree programme must notify the lecturer to arrange a supplementary syllabus.

Students who have not already taken the course in History of the Italian Language (and are not currently taking it) are heartily encouraged to read:

P. D’achille, *Breve grammatica storica dell’italiano,* Carocci, Rome, 2002, or

G. Patota, *Nuovi lineamenti di grammatica storica dell’italiano,* with exercises by G. Lauta, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2007.

Also useful:

C. Marazzini, *La storia della lingua italiana attraverso i testi,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2006.

Id., *La lingua italiana. Storia, testi, strumenti*, with the collaboratin of L. Maconi, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2010.

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.