Medieval and Humanistic Philology

Prof. Carla Maria Monti

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

Module 1

The course aims to introduce students to the knowledge of Humanism through the tools of literature, philology, and history of culture, by specifically focussing on the preponderant production in Latin language (the texts will always be provided with a translation or will be translated). The course will also cover the essential contribution of classical and Patristic sources, whose knowledge is renewed by Humanism through the development of new literary genres, and the contribution of the philological method in the way texts are approached. By the end of the course, students will be able to recognize Petrarch and Boccaccio as initiators of the humanistic movement through the examination of their remarkable works in Latin, and recognise Dante’s different approach to classical heritage. They will also be aware of the revival of the Latin and Greek classics and the renewal of literary genres during this period, and of the cultural profile of the main literary men of the 15th century, as promoters of a movement that has permanently shaped Western culture.

Module A

In December 1350 Petrarch received a gift from Lapo da Castiglionchio: a codex containing Quintilian's *Institutio oratoria*. The work was new to Petrarch, who immediately addressed a letter to the great orator and ancient master (*Fam.* XXIV 7). In 1416 in the Abbey of Saint Gall, Poggio found, among other codices containing unknown ancient works, an intact Quintilian, and he also wrote a famous letter in which he chronicled this discovery in an epic manner. The same expedition to the Abbey of Saint Gall was also recounted in one of his few letters from Cencio Rustici, Poggio's companion in the enterprise, who however made no mention of Quintilian, but exalted, from a marked antiquarian perspective, the recovery of other works that were completely unknown. During the course we will examine the three letters by Petrarch, Poggio Bracciolini and Cencio Rustici in order to illustrate the development of the discovery epic and the role of Quintilian's teachings in the development of humanism.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module 1

Dante and the classics. The recovery of the classics and their echoes in Humanistic literature. Petrarch’s and Humanistic collections of works. The birth of philological awareness and terminology. Theory and practice of imitation. A brief overview of ecdotics applied to Latin medieval and humanistic texts. In particular, students will analyse some passages from works by Petrarch, Boccaccio, Bruni, Bracciolini, and Valla on the recovery of the classics and fathers, on the damage caused by copyists, and the relationship with books and imitation.

Module A

The ‘discovery’ of Quintilian: Petrarch, Poggio Bracciolini and Cencio De’ Rustici.

***READING LIST***

For Module 1

G. Billanovich, *Petrarca e il Ventoso*, “Italia medioevale e umanistica”, 9 (1966), pp. 389-401 (reprinted in idem, *Petrarca e il primo umanesimo*, Antenore, Padua, 1996, pp. 168-84).

L. Battaglia Ricci, *Giovanni Boccaccio*, in *Storia della letteratura italiana*, II. *Il Trecento*, Salerno Editrice, Rome 1995, p. 727-877, p. 733-742 (biography); 750-755 (the first works); 830-844 (the Latin production); 844-857 (last works and the Dantesque production); 857-868 (Boccaccio as a precursor to Humanism).

C.M. Monti, *Boccaccio e Petrarca,* in *Boccaccio autore e copista*, edited by T. De Robertis - C.M. Monti - M. Petoletti - G. Tanturli - S. Zamponi, Mandragora, Florence 2013, pp. 33-40.

G. Cappelli, *L’Umanesimo italiano da Petrarca a Valla*, Carocci, Rome, 2018 (“Aulamagna” series). Questioning will focus particularly on the figures of F. Petrarch, C. Salutati, L. Bruni, P. Bracciolini, Biondo Flavio, L.B. Alberti, L. Valla and on chapters: III *L’introduzione dello studio del greco* and IV *La nuova educazione*.

L.D. Reynolds - N.G.Wilson, *Copisti e filologi,* Antenore, Rome-Padua 2016 (Revised and extended 4th edition): chap. IV, Il Rinascimento, pp. 115-54.

M. Berté-M. Petoletti, *La filologia medievale e umanistica,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2017 (sections specifically dedicated to humanistic philology, and the Texts: 7-10 and 12).

\*The essays by Billanovich, Battaglia Ricci, Monti and Reynolds will also be made available as handouts.

For Module A

*Texts and transmission. A survey of the latin Classics*, edited by L.D. Reynolds, s.v. *Quintilian*, by M. Winterbottom, Clarendon Press, Oxford 1983, pp. 332-334.

R. Sabbadini, *Storia e critica dei testi latini*, seconda edizione, Antenore, Padova 1971, pp. 284-294.

A. Daneloni, *Poliziano e il testo dell’‘Institutio oratoria’*, Cisu, Messina 2001, pp. 21-23, 39-42,67-68.

F. Petrarca, *Le familiari*, a cura di V. Rossi, IV, Sansoni, Firenze 1942, pp. 240-243.

Poggio Bracciolini, *Lettere, ii. Epistolarum familiarium libri*, a cura di H. Harth, II, L.S. Olschki, Firenze 1984, pp. 153-156 e 444-447.

M. Berté-M. Petoletti, *La filologia medievale e umanistica,* il Mulino, Bologna 2017, pp. 226-232.

C.M. Monti, *«Opto te incolumem videre». Petrarca e la scoperta del Quintiliano integro*, «Studi petrarcheschi», n.s., 20 (2007), pp. 105-123.

C.M. Monti, *La lettera di Cencio Rustici a Francesco da Fiano sulle scoperte di San Gallo*, in *Ludus litterarum. Studi umanistici in onore di Angelo Brumana*, a cura di C. Bazzani-F. Pagnoni-S. Parola-E. Valseriati, B. Mondadori-Pearson, Milano-Torino 2020, pp. 50-65.

\*Most of the reading list will also be made available as handouts.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Module 1

Lectures and seminars for in-depth study.

Module A

Lectures, seminars for in-depth study and individual tasks.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Module 1

The exam will be entirely oral in format, and focus on assessing students’ knowledge of Italian humanism based on the reading list provided, lecture content and passages read in class.

Module A

The assessment is structured as follows: 1. A written assignment on a topic explained during the course, approved by the lecturer and to be completed before the oral assessment. 2. An oral assessment, in which students will be tested on their knowledge of the subject and use of the philological methodology, also through the translation and commentary of a text analysed during the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Module 1: knowledge of Latin is not a prerequisite for this course, since all the texts analysed in class will be supported by their Italian translation.

Module A: knowledge of Latin is a prerequisite for this course.

In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both in progress and final, will be provided also remotely through our University's BlackBoard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and notified at the beginning of the course, so as to ensure the full achievement of the formative objectives set out in the study plans and, at the same time, the safety of our students.

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.