# History of Criticism and Literary Historiography

## Prof. Silvia Apollonio

[Course from the Department of Linguistic Sciences and Foreign Literatures under the name “*History of Criticism*”]

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

The course aims to provide students with disciplinary knowledge and criticism-related competences. Taking the critical assessment of Baroque works as a privileged perspective (in the fourth centenary of the publication of the Assayer of Galileo and the Adonis of Marino), the course intends to offer a generous review of the key figures of literary historiography and of criticism, from the beginnings during the 18th and 19th centuries to the most recent proposals, with a special focus on the Italian panorama and on the study of the masterpieces of our literary tradition. The course will combine the main historical perspective with methodological exercises aimed at the exemplification of the different interpretative models. Moreover, the key tools for understanding the rich panorama of literary theory will be provided, available in particular for students who repeat the course for a second semester.

At the end of the course, students will be able to recognise the main movements in literary criticism (in particular, the approaches developed in the 20th century); to analyse critical texts and develop independent interpretations on the main theoretical and methodological issues, focusing on the significance of certain interpretative issues related to the reception of the masterpieces of our literary tradition.

***COURSE CONTENT***

*Luck and critical misfortune of the Baroque.*

The course consists of four modules:

1. *Introduction to the discipline and to the main methodological issues* (4 hours).

2. *the Baroque, from Arcadia to Croce (12 hours)*

3. *The second half of the Twentieth century and the most recent critical approaches (10 hours)*

4. *The theory of literature* (4 hours)

Master’s degree students who repeat the course will be expected to attend an in-depth Seminar, on which more details will be provided at the beginning of the course.

***READING LIST***

1. G. Tellini, *Metodi e protagonisti della critica letteraria*, Le Monnier, Florence, 2010 or 2019 (second edition).

2. A. Compagnon, *Il demone della teoria.* *Letteratura e senso comune*, Einaudi, Turin, 2000.

3. A course pack of critical essays (compiled by the lecturer and made available to students)

4. Any further materials indicated and/or provided during the course.

Master’s degree students who repeat the course will replace the study of point 1 with the material indicated during a specific seminar, while point 2 is replaced by

G. Bottiroli, *Che cos'è la teoria della letteratura. Fondamenti e problemi*, Einaudi, Torino, 2006.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course consists of frontal lectures in-person or with mixed modalities (in presence and remotely). The course includes seminar-like discussions for individuals or groups, which will award students ECTS for the final assessment. Repeating students will be invited to participate actively in the course, carrying out brief further study on optional reading that they will present to the rest of the class.

The course also includes a Seminar, which is compulsory for Master’s degree students who repeat the semester. Calendar and timetable of meetings will be indicated during classes and posted on Blackboard.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final oral exam will assess students’ knowledge of course contents (60%), critical understanding (20%) and communication and argumentation skills (20%). Master’s degree students who repeat the course shall take an interim exam on the Seminar before the final interview, writing a short paper or by taking an oral test.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoringwill 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.

The student will have a basic knowledge of the main authors and major works of the Baroque period, also in relation to their historical context.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.