# Modern and Contemporary Italian Literature

## Prof. Davide Savio

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

The aim of the course is to provide students with a general introduction to Italian literature from the last two centuries, as well as an essential overview of the main trends in modern literature. It also aims to provide a concrete example of these trends through thematic paths, carried out in class, dedicated to specific aspects characterising literary modernity.

By the end of the course, students must be able to demonstrate that they have assimilated the literary, historic and cultural content presented in lectures. They must also be able to demonstrate a sufficient level of independence in terms of the critical analysis of the texts presented on the course and those on the exam reading list; students must also be able to contextualise them within their broad historical-literary background.

***COURSE CONTENT***

First semester:

Literary modernity: city, progress, utopia.

The course aims to present the trends of literary modernity from a general point of view, by combining theoretical perspectives with some case studies that exemplify its key concepts.

Second semester:

The crisis of modernity: the province and the myth of the roots.

The course will focus on the myth of roots, and particularly, on how it developed in the literary contexts of provincial cities, where the arrival of modernity created the deepest imbalances, at a cultural, anthropological, and identity level.

***READING LIST***

First semester

G. Langella, La modernità letteraria. Manuale di letteratura italiana moderna e contemporanea, Pearson 2021, sezioni 1-4.

Reinhart Koselleck, Il vocabolario della modernità. Progresso, crisi, utopia e altre storie di concetti, Il Mulino 2009.

A novel to be chosen from the following:

Italo Calvino, Le città invisibili

Dino Buzzati, Il grande ritratto

Luciano Bianciardi, La vita agra

Ulteriori alternative verranno fornite durante lo svolgimento del corso.

Second semester

G. Langella, La modernità letteraria. Manuale di letteratura italiana moderna e contemporanea, Pearson 2021, sezioni 5-8.

Maurizio Bettini, Radici. Tradizione, identità, memoria, Il Mulino 2011.

Un romanzo a scelta tra i seguenti:

Cesare Pavese, La luna e i falò

Luigi Meneghello, Libera nos a Malo

Gianni Celati, Fata Morgana

Further alternatives will be provided during the course.

Details of any further reading material will be highlighted and provided on the lecturer’s webpage. Lecture notes are a fundamental part of the exam material. The lecturer will share lecture slides on Blackboard as the course progresses.

Students who are unable to attend all lectures must contact the lecturer to agree on an extended syllabus. Should Dual-Mode continue, the recording of all the lessons will be made available on Blackboard, hence there is no attendance issue.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures primarily dedicated to reading and contextualising literary texts with the use of digital resources.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

There will be an oral exam. It will normally start with one of the lecture topics, on which acquired knowledge and skills will be tested. As regards the literature reference manual, students will have to prove that they are able to master any subject presented in the volume from a critical and historiographical point of view, not limited to the simple reporting of memorised concepts.

Coherence and soundness of the critical skills demonstrated by students in structuring and supporting their arguments, as well as advanced use of specialist language will count heavily towards their exam result. The ability to make connections between the various texts, authors and literary and cultural phenomena, and to explain them within the relevant historical and geographic context is also an important assessment criterion.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As an introductory course on the study of modern and contemporary Italian literature, there are no particular prerequisites, apart from those developed during prior study. Any gaps in their knowledge will be verified and remedied by means of specific interventions.

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.