**Italian Literature I**

Prof. Andrea Canova

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

The course aims to provide students with good knowledge of Italian literature, from its origins to the end of the 15th century. Whilst the course does explore key historical developments, it is also founded on the direct study of the texts, which will be read and analysed in terms of content and form. The course will focus in particular on the language and style of the authors in question.

By the end of the course, students will be able to analyse literary texts skilfully and independently, recognising their formal and thematic features, and to insert them within their appropriate historical and geographical contexts; they will also be able to critically approach the main developments in Italian literature from the Middle Ages to Humanism.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Semester 1 (Prof. Simona Brambilla)

An overview of the history of Italian literature from its origins to the 15th century, examined through reading and commenting on a large number of texts written by the most important authors, of which a detailed list can be found on the course website.

Home reading of the following cantos from *Divina Commedia*:

Inferno I, II, V, VI, X, XXVI, XXXIII.

Purgatorio I, III, VI, XXIII, XXVIII, XXIX.

Paradiso I, VI, X, XII, XXX, XXXIII.

Semester 2 (Prof. Andrea Canova)

From *Filostrato* to *Decameron*: Giovanni Boccaccio and the vernacular literature

Home reading of the following cantos from *Divina Commedia*:

Inferno III, IV, VII, XI, XIII, XV, XXI, XXIV, XXXII, XXXIV.

Purgatorio II, XI, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XXI, XXIV, XXVI, XXX, XXXI.

Paradiso III, IV, VIII, XI, XV, XVI, XVII, XXI, XXIII, XXVII.

***READING LIST***

For Semester 1

1) G. Ferroni, *Storia e testi della letteratura italiana,* I: Dalle origini al 1300; II: La crisi del mondo comunale (1300-1380); III: Il mondo umanistico e signorile (1380-1494), Milan, Mondadori Università, 2002 (and subsequent reprints): the chosen chapters are listed on the course website.

2) Any commentated academic edition of the *Divina Commedia* (e.g. Bosco-Reggio, Chiavacci Leonardi, Inglese).

3) (strongly recommended) E. Bertin-S. Motta, *Poesia italiana delle Origini. Studio e didattica dei testi dal Notaro a Petrarca,* Loescher, Turin, 2013.

For Semester 2

Poesia comica del medioevo italiano, edited by di Marco Berisso, Milano, BUR, 2011 (or later reprinted).

Further reading will be communicated during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures.

Group seminars.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Assessment will take place by means of two separate tests, both of which are mandatory:

1. a preliminary oral assessment on the contents of the first semester, to be taken on a separate date from that of the final oral exam. The date of this initial assessment will be published on the department noticeboard on the lecturer's webpage and the course webpage. The outcome of the initial assessment remains valid until students pass the final exam.

2. an exam on the single-subject course delivered in semester 2.

The preliminary assessment is designed to verify the skills students acquired on the general part of the course. It is based on questions related to the texts on the reading list for semester 1, and involves reading and paraphrasing texts, discussing their main linguistic, metric and rhetorical features, contextualising extracts historically, and presenting an essential overview of the period in question and the lives of the authors. Students who pass this assessment will receive a provisional mark which enables them to sit the exam on the contents of the second part of the course, during which they must demonstrate specific knowledge of the texts in question and the issues covered in semester 2. Students who pass the exam will be awarded a final mark based on both the provisional mark and the final exam.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Because the first semester of the course is general and introductory in nature, there are no prerequisites. However, students will benefit from a basic (if only textbook-level) overview of Italian literature from the 13th to the 15th century.

Those who wish to take the exam for 6 ECTS points only must attend the course in the first semester; those who wish to take the 12 ECTS credit exam must attend both semesters.

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.