# History of the Italian Language (with Writing Workshop)

## Prof. Simone Pregnolato; Prof. Michele Colombo

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

Module 1 (non-repeatable)

Aim: For students to develop critical awareness of Italian in terms of its diachronic development, considering the language from both an internal and external perspective.

Advanced Module (= Module A, repeatable)

Aim: Introduction to perspectives on and tools for analysing aspects or particular texts relevant to the history of the Italian language.

By the end of the course, students will have developed:

* *knowledge and ability to understand:* *(a)* knowledge of the distribution – in geography and history – of old Italian and its varieties; (*b*) in-depth knowledge of the graphic, phonetic, morphological and syntactic structures of old and modern Italian; (*c*) a general overview of the history of Italian, from vulgar Latin to the language of today, its spatial diffusion and its idiomatic varieties;
* *applied knowledge and ability to understand:* the ability to problematise labels and categories characterising the linguistic analysis of old and modern Italian through examples from original texts;
* *independence of judgement:* *(a)* the ability to problematise labels and categories characterising the linguistic analysis of old and modern Italian; *(b)* the ability to identify and problematise themes and problems related to historical linguistics; *(c)* the ability to critically approach the linguistic and stylistic analysis of ancient and modern texts, with skills in recognising geographical locations and in the main historical-grammatical phenomena;
* *communication skills:* the ability to analyse and present in an original way the fundamental structures of old and modern Italian linguistics, demonstrating full mastery of the technical lexicon of the philological-linguistic sciences.
* *ability to understand:* *(a)* the ability to use the tools of Italian linguistics from both a synchronic and diachronic perspective; *(b)* the ability, through practice and textual analysis, to adapt the general concept to equivalent examples; (c) an improvement in the ability to reflect independently on one’s learning objects.

By the end of the writing workshop, students will be able to identify the characteristics of an academic text and the relative writing tools, find and organise materials and sources, write notes and citations, structure the bibliography, apply these skills in written tests and finally produce texts that are appropriate from a linguistic and editorial point of view, as well as in terms of conceptual organisation.

By the end of the subject-teaching workshop, students will be able to handle the complexity of Italian teaching, recognise the different components (listening/speaking, writing, reading, grammar, vocabulary) and use activities, schemes of work and corrections to encourage linguistic improvement in secondary school students.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module 1 (*General part* - Prof. Simone Pregnolato)

Foundations of historical grammar and the linguistic history of Italian.

Advanced module (*Single-subject course* - Prof. Michele Colombo)

Language of the Italian novel in the late 19th century.

***READING LIST***

Module 1 (Semester 1)

Lecture notes and any material provided by the lecturer.

Michele Colombo - Simone Pregnolato, *Elementi di grammatica storica dell’italiano (A.A. 2022/2023)*, course pack available from the University photocopy office.

Giuseppe Patota, *Nuovi lineamenti di grammatica storica dell’italiano*, with exercises by Gianluca Lauta, Bologna, il Mulino, 2007 («Itinerari - Linguistica»).

Claudio Marazzini, *La lingua italiana. Storia, testi, strumenti*,second edition, with the collaboration of Ludovica Maconi, Bologna, il Mulino, 2015 («Manuali - Linguistica»).

Advanced Module (= Module A, Semester 2)

Lecture notes and any material provided by the lecturer.

Michele Colombo, *Il romanzo dell’Ottocento*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2011 («L’italiano: testi e generi») [including *Antologia di testi commentati*].

Master's degree students must also study:

Luigi Matt, *La narrativa del Novecento*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2011 («L’italiano: testi e generi») [including *Antologia di testi commentati*].

Giovanni Verga, *I Malavoglia*, any edition [with the option of studying *Mastro-don Gesualdo* as an alternative].

Antonio Fogazzaro, *Piccolo mondo antico*, any edition.

Writing workshop

Michele Colombo, *Scrivere la tesi di laurea e altri testi*, Milan, Mondadori Università, 2006.

Subject-Teaching Workshop

Luca Serianni - Giuseppe Benedetti, *Scritti sui banchi. L’italiano a scuola tra alunni e insegnanti,* Rom, Carocci, 2015 («Quality Paperbacks», 453).

Students can meet with the relevant lecturer during their office hours to arrange an alternate reading list to replace the lecture notes (both for Module 1 and Module 2).

For all texts on the *Reading List*, students can also choose later editions than those indicated.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures.

Module 1 is associated with a seminar which introduces the main developments in Italian linguistic history, held in semester 1 in parallel with the lectures on historical grammar.

Semester 2 includes, in parallel with the lectures for Module A:

*(a)* a writing workshop, to be associated with module A only, aimed at the acquisition of skills for academic writing (with guided practical classes);

*(b)* a subject-teaching workshop which can be associated both with Module 1 and Module A, aimed at familiarizing students with some significant aspects of the teaching of Italian in secondary schools.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Module 1

Oral exam. Assessment is based on one or more questions on each of the texts on the *Reading List*; all questions are worth the same proportion of the final mark. Knowledge of historical grammar, required in order to pass the whole exam, is often assessed by presenting students with a Latin etymon and its form in Italian – to be phonetically transcribed – and asking them to explain the reason for the linguistic change. Students are usually assessed on their knowledge of the history of the Italian language through the analysis of the texts compiled in the course textbook or covered during the seminar.

Module A

Oral examination for students who pass the Writing Workshop and, where appropriate, successfully complete the Subject-Teaching Workshop (being awarded ‘*Approvato*’/‘Approved’ status).

The Writing Workshop will be assessed based on a written task assigned during lectures (*Prova frequentanti*/‘Test for attending students’) or the so-called *Prova non-frequentanti*/‘Test for non-attending students’ (PNF) set at the beginning of every exam session (there will therefore be three PNFs per academic year, usually in September, January and June; see also point a) under ‘Notes and Prerequisites’ below). The mark for the Writing Workshop is the starting point for the assessment of the oral examination, which is based on one or more questions for each item on the *Reading List*; all questions are worth the same proportion of the final mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

For all information relating both to the course and the workshops, and to the procedure and subdivisions of the History of the Italian language exam, students are strongly encouraged to read the *History of the Italian Language course and exam FAQ* (‘*Avvertenze sul corso e sull’esame di Storia della lingua italiana*’) published on Prof. Pregnolato's electronic noticeboard (<https://docenti.unicatt.it/ppd2/it/docenti/55967/simone-pregnolato/profilo>).

Just some particularly important points are specified below:

*(a)* The writing workshop is mandatory for all students who have not already taken it and who have module A of the *History of the Italian Language* course on their study plan, either as a stand-alone module or as part of the year-long course worth 12 ECTS credits. Students who cannot attend the Writing Workshop must sit a written assessment: the ‘*PNF*’. The *PNF* dates (one per exam session) are published on the online noticeboards under *Avvisi*, on the lecturer webpages of Prof. Pregnolato and Prof. Colombo; both noticeboards also contain useful information for those who have to take the assessment.

*(b)* The Subject-Teaching Workshop is worth 6 ECTS credits towards the FIT (Initial Training and Internship) course in the L-FIL-LET/12 - *Linguistica italiana* Scientific-Disciplinary Sector. The Subject-Teaching Workshop must be taken by all students who have a History of the Italian Language course in their degree curriculum (*Piano di Studi*), whether for 6 or 12 ECTS credits, which contains ‘*con elementi di didattica disciplinare*’ (‘with elements of subject teaching’) in its title. Students whose degree curriculum contains a History of the Italian Language course that lacks this additional phase will not attend the Subject-Teaching Workshop and will not gain recognition for the 6-ECTS FIT course in the L-FIL-LET/12 Scientific-Disciplinary Sector.

*(c)* For students attending Module A and for students with the 12-ECTS-credit course on their study plan, the first session to take the oral examination is the summer session; this means that there are no syllabus subdivisions for those taking the exam on the whole year-long History of the Italian Language course.

*(d)* The marks awarded for the written tasks in the Workshops (writing and subject teaching) do not expire. Furthermore, the mark for the Writing Workshop cannot be rejected.

(*e*) Module 1 must be taken before Module A and, due to its general nature, cannot be repeated.

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.