# Italian Literature

## Prof. Roberta Ferro

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

With reference to the encounter between tradition and modernity as a generator of semantic invention and stylistic expression, the course aims primarily to introduce students to the literary text, understood as both an ancient and current means of reflection, expression and communication. The skills acquired in semester 1, by studying the works of Dante, Petrarch and Boccaccio, will be reinforced during the single-subject part of the course, which focuses on 20th century literature.

Working on texts by the great Italian authors, by the end of the course, students will be able to appreciate the formal specificity and conceptual relevance of literary works. They will be able to recognise and examine the distinctive characteristics of poetry and prose writings and analyse texts.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is structured into two parts, one for each semester:

1) The first part - with a general approach - covers the reading and commentary of key sections of fundamental texts in Italian literature, with special focus both on the typical elements and forms of literary communication, and on the historical contextualisation of the texts.

a) *From* *paraphrasis to commentary* (6 hours)

*b*) *The topicality of Dante* (9 hours)

*c) The foundation of Italian lyric poetry: Petrarch* (9 hours)

*d)* *The invention of narrative: Boccaccio's “Decameron”* (6 hours)

2) The second, single-subject part will study the literature of the 1950s. In the aftermath of the tragedy of World War II, Italian literature could truly reflect the drama and hopes associated with the great social and historical transformations of that crucial decade. This module aims to map out the main authors and their works: from Calvino’s *I nostri* *antenati* trilogy, to Montale’s *La bufera e altro* and Caproni’s *Il passaggio di Enea* and *Il seme del piangere.*

***READING LIST***

For the first part:

* The sections concerning Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio in G. Langella-P. Frare-P. Gresti-U. Motta, *Letteratura.it*, I, Ed. Scolastiche Bruno Mondadori, Milan, 2012 (and subsequent reprints).
* D. Alighieri, *Commedia*: *Inferno*: I, V, X, XXVI; *Purgatorio*: I, III; *Paradiso*: XVII, XXXIII. Suggested ed.: *La Divina Commedia*, edited by U. Bosco-G. Reggio,Le Monnier, Florence, 1979 (and subsequent reprints); *La Divina Commedia*, *Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso*,commentary by A.M. Chiavacci Leonardi, Oscar Classici Mondadori, Milan, 2005 (and subsequent reprints). Students may also use a modern and complete school edition with commentary.
* L. Chines-C. Varotti, *Che cos’è un testo letterario*, Carocci Editore, Rome, 2001 (and subsequent reprints).

1. For the second part:

At the beginning of the course, students will also be provided with a course pack of essays and texts, as well as details of further reading material.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures. The course includes seminar-like discussions. During the academic year, a cycle of practical classes will be held to prepare students for the first part of the syllabus.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The first part of the syllabus will be assessed based on mandatory preliminary written test (including open-ended and closed questions). The written assessment is provisionally scheduled for March, May, July, September, December (five assessments throughout the academic year) on the dates published in good time in the lecturer's virtual classroom. Students who pass it may access the final oral exam on the second part of the syllabus. The final mark will consist of both the oral interview and the results of the preliminary written test; both exams aim to assess accuracy of answers (70%) and communication and argumentation skills (30%).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students require essential knowledge of the characterising features of the periods and the authors covered by the course, as well as general skills in reading and analysing literary texts.

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.