**English Literature (Master’s Degree)**

## Prof. Enrico Reggiani

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

This course aims to help students to consolidate their “specialised” textual skills, also known as literary competence. The key historical-literary coordinates, theoretical foundations, compositional practices, and cultural models of the texts will be examined in order to produce increasingly interdisciplinary interpretations according to methodological principles summarized in the “context in the text” concept. In particular, the course will focus on the analysis of the communicative dynamics of different text types from the point of view of specific and up-to-date theoretical perspectives (literary culturalism, textual politics, etc.).

At the end of the course, students will be able to get a deeper understanding of the textualisation/literalisation process, interpret its most important features (e.g. from a linguistic-translational, literary, cultural, analytical-hermeneutic, theoretical, historical, social, political, and institutional point of view), give their opinion in specific communicative situations, and improve their self-learning and meta-learning skills.

***COURSE CONTENT***

*Irish poetry in English, 1800-2000.*

1st semester: Irish poetry in English 1800-2000: from texts to cultures via poetic theories and practices.

Sessions in the first semester will have the characteristics of an analytical and hermeneutic workshop. The nineteenth and twentieth century Irish poetic and cultural scene will be reconstructed by analysing a number of notable poetic texts selected from those most widely cited and commented on in Justin Quinn's work (indicated in the reading list).

2nd semester: *Irish poetry in English.* A case study: Derek Mahon (1941-2020)

The course will examine Derek Mahon's poetry and, more specifically, his first collection, *Night-Crossing* (1968), using the “cumulative analysis” method.

Sessions in the second semester will have the characteristics of a single-subject course, that is, a course “focusing on a single issue and/or writer”, “examining a particular period in some depth”; it is conceived as a “problem course” during which “students are taught ‘how to think’ rather than ‘what happens’” and whose “contents are usually determined by the scholarly interest of the staff”.

***READING LIST***

M. Pagnini, *Pragmatica della letteratura*, Palermo, Sellerio, 1999.

Semester 1

J. Quinn, *The Cambridge Introduction to Modern Irish Poetry, 1800-2000*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2008.

E. Reggiani (edited by), *Anthology of full texts of poems mentioned in Quinn’s Cambridge Introduction to Modern Irish Poetry, 1800-2000* (PDF available from the MATERIALI section of the course Blackboard page)

Semester 2

E. Reggiani, *In attesa della vita. Introduzione alla poetica di Derek Mahon*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 1996 (last reprint).

E. Reggiani, *Mahon's Islands* in G. Serpillo-D. Badin (eds.), *Insulae/Islands/Ireland. The Classical World and the Mediterranean*, Cagliari, Tema - Università di Sassari, 1996, pp. 201-207 (PDF available from the MATERIALI section of the course Blackboard page)

B. Vincent, “Object Lessons: Derek Mahon's Material Ekphrasis”, *Interdisciplinary Literary Studies*, 20 (2018), pp. 371-384 (PDF available from the MATERIALI section of the course Blackboard page)

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course has a duration of one academic year. Lectures will be preferably (where appropriate to the learning objectives and outcomes) held in English and focused on the key concepts and methodologies that are necessary to carry out an accurate analysis of the texts examined in class, also from the point of view of their historical, social, cultural, institutional, etc. context. They will be mainly frontal, but focused on the interaction with students and based on an interdisciplinary approach. Each text will be analysed in detail, especially from the point of view of its inter-literary and extra-literary elements, its importance, its function within the literalisation framework, and its contribution to the whole literary work under analysis. Further material will be made available in class and on Blackboard.

In addition, students will be invited to participate in seminars/workshops on specific topics to write assignments on specific texts (using an interdisciplinary approach) and present them to the class and/or to external auditors in collaboration with the lecturer; then these assignments will be published on Prof. Enrico Reggiani’s blog (*enricoreggianiblog. A blog on literature, music and other crossings*, <https://enricoreggiani.wordpress.com/>).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final assessment will be an oral exam, (preferably) held in English (where appropriate to the learning objectives and outcomes), on the topics indicated in the reading list. Students will be tested on their skills in three different fields: the linguistic-translational, the analytical-hermeneutic, and the literary-cultural (75% of the overall assessment). Furthermore, they will be asked to identify, evaluate, and interpret in an autonomous way the interdisciplinary elements of the texts under analysis (25% of the overall assessment).

Any extra activity taking place during the course (as the ones mentioned above in the *TEACHING METHOD* section) will be taken into account to determine the final mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In terms of content, students attending this course are supposed to have an adequate knowledge of English literature explained during the previous three years; in terms of method, instead, students should be eager to experience new ways to acquire and strengthen their critical autonomy, with a strong interdisciplinary approach, in order to seek for a more mature interpretation and a proper historical, sociocultural, and institutional contextualisation of the texts under analysis.

Course content might be subject to changes during the didactic activity. The final version of the course syllabus will be made available on the lecturer’s webpage and on Blackboard before the end of the course, so students are invited to regularly check them. Furthermore, students are supposed to follow the Code of Ethics issued by the Catholic University and accepted during their enrolment.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to 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.