**Comparative Literature**

## Prof. Federico Bellini

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

The course is divided into two parts. The first part is general in nature and aims to introduce students to the study of comparative literature, defining the areas of investigation and the conceptual tools of the discipline, covering its history up to the most recent developments. The second section focuses on a single topic: literary representations of work and of its rejection in literature from the mid-19th century to the contemporary age. By the end of the course, students will be able to apply the acquired conceptual tools to undertake independent research in the field of comparative literature and to support their own interpretations appropriately.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The general section of the course will introduce some of the fundamental tools of the comparative study of literature – topic, gender, intertextuality and canon – and some of the liveliest research areas – the relationship between arts and interdisciplinary dialogue –, offering a description of the field of investigation and of the epistemology of the discipline in light of its historical evolution and relationship with associated disciplines. The discussion will be accompanied by the presentation of numerous examples aimed at testing the effectiveness and limits of the individual instruments and of the various theories. The single-subject section will explore the theme of work and its rejection in modern literature, based on a number of texts that focus on this theme. The close reading of each of these texts will be accompanied by the reconstruction of the relative historical context and a wider reflection on the theoretical relevance of the concepts covered.

***READING LIST***

NB: The course will be conducted in Italian, but those with the relative language skills are encouraged to read the texts in the original language. We recommend using the above editions: alternative choices may be approved with the lecturer.

*General part*

F. De Cristofaro, *Letterature Comparate*, (second edition), Carocci 2020 .

*Single-subject course*

S. Beckett, (2009) *Murphy*. London: Faber and Faber. (trad. it. *Murphy*, Torino: Einaudi 2003)

F. Bellini*,* (2017) *La saggezza dei pigri. Figure di rifiuto del lavoro in Melville, Conrad e Beckett*. Milano: Mimesis*.*

J. Conrad, (2014) *The Secret Sharer, and Other Stories* New York, Norton.

P. Levi, (2014) *La chiave a stella* Torino, Einaudi.

C. Mccarthy, (1994) *The Stonemason* New York, Vintage International.

H. Melville, (2002) *Moby-Dick*, (2nd ed.) New York, Norton.

H. Melville, (2002) *Melville's Short Novels* New York, Norton.

In addition to the reading list, students will receive a digital course pack, both for the general and single-subject parts, with extracts from critical essays, literary texts and iconographic material.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course lasts one year (three hours of lessons per week). The teaching method alternates between frontal lectures and seminar-type activities. Students are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in the course. Non-attending students are required to contact the lecturer in order to define a suitable syllabus for self-study.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

During the oral examination, students will be invited to demonstrate their theoretical knowledge of the discipline and the authors on the syllabus, as well as the ability to critically analyse the texts and establish meaningful connections among them. Students will be given the opportunity to propose a critical and creative use of the skills acquired in relation to their own course of study and reading experiences by producing short written papers or by means of classroom presentations. These are worth 20% of the final mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is aimed at students from the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literature, Arts and Philosophy or whoever who wish to consider literature outside of national perspectives. The course does not require specific prior knowledge except for basic notions of history and literary analysis but aims to inspire curiosity in the students and a willingness to approach the content according to their own inclinations and reading interests.

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.