# Institutions of European and Classic Culture

## Prof. Guido Milanese

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

The course aims to introduce students to the structures and themes of European literature and culture, with a focus on a specific topic.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. orient themselves among the different historical periods of European culture, with a focus on the history of the structures and themes of European literature;
2. understand the meaning of a thematic research covering the whole literary and linguistic tradition of Western Europe.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. General course (part 1): For a mindful approach towards European literature and culture.

2. Single-subject course (part 2): *Errare, errori, erranti (con qualche rimedio)* (“Erring, errors, the errant (with some remedies)”)

***READING LIST***

1. Cultural orientation readings

E. Curtius, *Europäische Literatur und lateinisches Mittelalter,* A. Francke, 1948, also translated into any other language. Italian translation: Letteratura europea e Medio Evo latino, edited by Roberto Antonelli, Florence, La Nuova Italia, 2002. Chapters 1-18 (except for the appendixes and the excursus).

Alternatively, students are allowed to study the texts listed below:

* one of the works indicated on the lecturer's Blackboard page, under: *Letture per l'esame di Cultura Classica ed Europea*;
* and one of the “classics”, in the original language or Italian translation, listed here: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Books_of_the_Western_World>, volumes 2-18. You need one or two texts, not the complete works of an author.

Students must be able to provide basic but clear chronological and cultural context for all the authors read.

2. *Formation of European Civilisation and Literature (Part I of the course)*

Lecture notes from the first part of the course. Suggested reading: R. Brague, *Il futuro dell’Occidente, Bompiani*, Milano 2005 (= *Europe, la voie romaine*,Groupe Fleurus, Paris 2005².

3. *Single-subject part (second part of course)*

Lecture notes and the texts provided in class. Suggested reading: Lucrezio, *La natura delle cose*, cur. G. Milanese, Milano, Mondadori 2007².

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures will be focused on the presentation and analysis of the texts for this course. During the second part of the course, some of the lectures will be held by experts.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral assessment, divided into two parts, during the same exam session:

* general course: students will be tested on their knowledge of the different periods of European culture presented in class; in addition, students will be asked to discuss the texts they have read;
* single-subject course: students will be invited to discuss the texts analysed in class and listed in the course pack at the end of semester 1.

The first part represents 60% of the final mark, while the second one 40%.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

This is an introductory course, so there are no prerequisites for attending it. However, students should ideally have a basic knowledge of the general history of Europe and America.

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.